

## AKRE FOCUS FUND

(the "Fund")

Retail Class Shares (AKREX)
Institutional Class Shares (AKRIX)
Supra Institutional Class Shares (AKRSX)
a series of Professionally Managed Portfolios (the "Trust")

# Supplement dated February 19, 2025 to the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") dated November 28, 2024

Effective February 19, 2025, the following sections of the Fund's SAI have been revised to include updated information.

The section entitled "How to Sell Shares and Delivery of Redemption Proceeds" on page B-43 of the Fund's SAI is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

## How to Sell Shares and Delivery of Redemption Proceeds

You can sell your Fund shares any day the NYSE is open for regular trading, either directly to the Fund or through your Financial Intermediary.

The Fund typically sends redemption proceeds on the next business day (a day when the NYSE is open for normal business) after a redemption request is received in good order and prior to market close, regardless of whether the redemption proceeds are sent via check, wire, or automated clearing house (ACH) transfer. Under unusual circumstances, the Fund may suspend redemptions or postpone payment for up to seven days, as permitted by federal securities law.

The Fund typically expects that it will use cash or cash equivalents to meet redemption requests. The Fund may also use the proceeds from the sale of portfolio securities to meet redemption requests if consistent with the management of the Fund. In situations in which investment holdings in cash or cash equivalents are not sufficient to meet redemption requests, the proceeds from the sale of portfolio securities is not sufficient to meet redemption requests, or when shareholders may be adversely impacted by short-term timing issues associated with the conversion of cash equivalents or securities into cash, the Fund will typically borrow money through its line of credit to meet redemption requests. These redemption methods will be used regularly and may also be used in stressed market conditions. The Fund could pay redemption proceeds to you in whole or in part through a redemption in-kind as described under "Redemptions In-Kind" below. Redemptions in-kind are typically used in order to minimize the effect of redemptions on the Fund and its remaining shareholders. Redemptions in-kind may be used regularly and may also be used in stressed market conditions.

The Fund may suspend the right of redemption or postpone the date of payment during any period when: (1) trading on the NYSE is restricted as determined by the SEC or the NYSE is closed for other than weekends and holidays; (2) an emergency exists as determined by the SEC making disposal of portfolio

securities or valuation of net assets of the Fund not reasonably practicable; or (3) for such other period as the SEC may permit for the protection of the Fund's shareholders.

The value of shares on redemption may be more or less than the investor's cost, depending upon the market value of the Fund's portfolio securities at the time of redemption or repurchase.

The section entitled "Redemptions In-Kind" on page B-44 of the Fund's SAI is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

## **Redemptions In-Kind**

The Trust has elected to be governed by Rule 18f-1 under the 1940 Act so that the Fund is obligated to redeem its shares solely in cash up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of its net asset value during any 90-day period for any shareholder of the Fund. The Fund could pay the redemption price of its shares in excess of \$250,000 or 1% of its net asset value, either totally or partially, by a distribution in-kind of portfolio securities (instead of cash). The securities so distributed would be valued at the same amount as that assigned to them in calculating the NAV for the shares being sold. If a shareholder receives a distribution in-kind, the shareholder could incur brokerage or other charges in converting the securities to cash and will bear any market risks associated with such securities until they are converted into cash. A redemption in-kind is treated as a taxable transaction and a sale of the redeemed shares, generally resulting in capital gain or loss to you, subject to certain loss limitation rules.

The Fund does not intend to hold any significant percentage of its portfolio in illiquid securities, although the Fund, like virtually all mutual funds, may from time to time hold a small percentage of securities that are illiquid. When the Fund makes an in-kind redemption, the Fund follows the Trust protocol of making such distribution by way of (a) a pro rata distribution of securities or (b) a non-pro rata distribution of securities that is in the best interest of all Fund shareholders. If the securities provided to investors in an in-kind redemption are a non-pro rata portion of the Fund's portfolio, it will only include securities that have been disclosed in the Fund's most recent public portfolio holdings disclosure. The portfolio securities distributed in an in-kind redemption would be those traded on a public securities market or be otherwise considered liquid pursuant to the Fund's liquidity policies and procedures. Except as otherwise may be approved by the Trustees, the securities that would not be included in an in-kind distribution include: (1) unregistered securities which, if distributed, would be required to be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended; (2) securities issued by entities in countries which (a) restrict or prohibit the holding of securities by non-nationals other than through qualified investment vehicles, such as a fund, or (b) permit transfers of ownership of securities to be effected only by transactions conducted on a local stock exchange; and (3) certain Fund assets that, although they may be liquid and marketable, must be traded through the marketplace or with the counterparty to the transaction in order to effect a change in beneficial ownership.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please retain this Supplement with your SAI.



## STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**November 28, 2024** 

## **AKRE FOCUS FUND**

Retail Class Shares (AKREX)
Institutional Class Shares (AKRIX)
Supra Institutional Class Shares (AKRSX)

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This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus and it should be read in conjunction with the prospectus dated November 28, 2024, as may be revised (the "Prospectus"), for the Retail, Institutional, and Supra Institutional Class shares of the Akre Focus Fund (the "Fund"), a series of Professionally Managed Portfolios (the "Trust"). The Fund is advised by Akre Capital Management, LLC (the "Adviser"). A copy of the Prospectus is available by calling the number listed above.

The Fund's most recent Annual Report to shareholders is available, without charge, upon request by calling the number listed above. The financial statements, accompanying notes, and report of independent registered public accounting firm appearing in the Annual Report are incorporated into this SAI by reference to the Fund's <u>Annual Certified Shareholder Report on Form N-CSR dated July 31, 2024</u>, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

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#### THE TRUST

The Trust is a Massachusetts business trust organized on February 24, 1987, and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as an open-end management investment company. Prior to May 1991, the Trust was known as the Avondale Investment Trust. The Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Declaration of Trust") permits the Trust's Board of Trustees (the "Board") to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest, without par value, which may be issued in any number of series. The Trust consists of various series that represent separate investment portfolios. The Board may from time-to-time issue other series, the assets and liabilities of which will be separate and distinct from any other series. This SAI relates only to the Fund.

The shareholders of a Massachusetts business trust could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable as partners for its obligations. However, the Declaration of Trust contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust.

The Declaration of Trust also provides for indemnification and reimbursement of expenses out of the Fund's assets for any shareholder held personally liable for obligations of the Fund or the Trust. The Declaration of Trust provides that the Trust shall, upon request, assume the defense of any claim made against any shareholder for any act or obligation of the Fund or the Trust and satisfy any judgment thereon. All such rights are limited to the assets of the Fund. The Declaration of Trust further provides that the Trust may maintain appropriate insurance (for example, fidelity bonding and errors and omissions insurance) for the protection of the Trust, its shareholders, trustees, officers, employees, and agents to cover possible tort and other liabilities. However, the activities of the Trust as an investment company would not likely give rise to liabilities in excess of the Trust's total assets. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which both inadequate insurance exists and the Fund itself is unable to meet its obligations.

The Prospectus and this SAI are a part of the Trust's registration statement filed with the SEC. Copies of the Trust's complete registration statement may be obtained from the SEC upon payment of the prescribed fee or may be accessed free of charge at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

The Fund is a series of the Trust. The Fund does not hold itself out as related to any other series of the Trust for purposes of investment and investor services, nor does it share the same investment adviser with any other series of the Trust. The Fund's Retail Class and Institutional Class both commenced operations on August 31, 2009. The Fund's Supra Institutional Class commenced operations on August 31, 2015.

## **INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RISKS**

The following information supplements the discussion of the Fund's principal investment strategies and risks as set forth in its Prospectus. Although not exhaustive, the following paragraphs detail other investment strategies that the Fund may pursue and the risks associated therewith. The Fund has the right to invest in types of securities not described below.

## Market and Regulatory Risk.

Events in the financial markets and economy may cause volatility and uncertainty and affect performance. Such adverse effect on performance could include a decline in the value and liquidity of securities held by the Fund, unusually high and unanticipated levels of redemptions, an increase in portfolio turnover, a decrease in net asset value ("NAV"), and an increase in Fund expenses. It may also be unusually difficult to identify both investment risks and opportunities, in which case investment objectives may not be met. Market events may affect a single issuer, industry, sector, or the market as a whole. Traditionally liquid investments may experience periods of diminished liquidity. During a general downturn in the financial markets, multiple asset classes may decline in value and the Fund may lose value, regardless of the individual results of the securities and other instruments in which the Fund invests. It is impossible to predict whether or for how long such market events will continue,

particularly if they are unprecedented, unforeseen, or widespread events or conditions; pandemics; epidemics; and other similar circumstances in one or more countries or regions. Therefore, it is important to understand that the value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply and for extended periods, and you could lose money.

Governmental and regulatory actions, including tax law changes, may also impair portfolio management and have unexpected or adverse consequences on particular markets, strategies, or investments. Policy and legislative changes in the United States and in other countries are affecting many aspects of financial regulation and may in some instances contribute to decreased liquidity and increased volatility in the financial markets. The impact of these changes on the markets and the practical implications for market participants may not be fully known for some time. In addition, economies and financial markets throughout the world are becoming increasingly interconnected. As a result, whether or not the Fund invests in securities of issuers located in or with significant exposure to countries experiencing economic and financial difficulties, the value and liquidity of the Fund's investments may be negatively affected.

#### Non-Diversification.

The Fund is a non-diversified mutual fund and, as such, its investments are not required to meet certain diversification requirements under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Fund is permitted to invest a greater percentage of its assets in the securities of a single issuer than a diversified fund. Thus, the Fund may have fewer holdings than diversified funds. As a result, a decline in the value of those holdings would cause the Fund's overall value to decline to a greater degree than if the Fund held a more diversified portfolio.

Although the Fund is a non-diversified investment company, and consequently is not limited in the proportion of its assets that may be invested in the securities of a single issuer, the Fund intends to conduct its operations so as to qualify to be taxed as a "regulated investment company" for federal income tax purposes, which will relieve the Fund of any liability for federal income tax to the extent its income and capital gains are distributed to shareholders. To so qualify, among other requirements, the Fund will limit its investment so that, at the close of each quarter of the taxable year: (1) not more than 25% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in the securities of a single issuer, and (2) with respect to 50% of its total assets, not more than 5% of its total assets will be invested in the securities of a single issuer and the Fund will not own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of a single issuer. The Fund's investments in U.S. government securities are not subject to these limitations.

## **Equity Securities.**

Common stocks, preferred stocks, and convertible securities are examples of equity securities in which the Fund may invest. All investments in equity securities are subject to market risks that may cause their prices to fluctuate over time. Historically, the equity markets have moved in cycles and the value of the securities in the Fund's portfolio may fluctuate substantially from day to day. Owning an equity security can also subject the Fund to the risk that the issuer may discontinue paying dividends.

Common Stocks. A share of common stock represents a proportionate share of the ownership of a company and its value is based on the success of the company's business, any income paid to stockholders, the value of its assets, and general market conditions. In addition to the general risks set forth above, investments in common stocks are subject to the risk that in the event a company in which the Fund invests is liquidated, the holders of preferred stock and creditors of that company will be paid in full before any payments are made to the Fund as a holder of common stock. It is possible that all assets of that company will be exhausted before any payments are made to the Fund.

#### Other Investment Companies.

The Fund may invest in the securities of other registered investment companies, including money market mutual funds, subject to the limitations set forth in the 1940 Act. Investments in the securities of other investment companies will likely result in the duplication of advisory fees and certain other expenses. By investing in another investment company, the Fund becomes a shareholder of that investment company. As a

result, Fund shareholders indirectly will bear the Fund's proportionate share of the fees and expenses paid by shareholders of the other investment company, in addition to the fees and expenses Fund shareholders directly bear in connection with the Fund's own operations.

Section 12(d)(1)(A) of the 1940 Act generally prohibits a fund from purchasing: (1) more than 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of another fund; (2) securities of another fund having an aggregate value in excess of 5% of the value of the acquiring fund; and (3) securities of the other fund and all other funds having an aggregate value in excess of 10% of the value of the total assets of the acquiring fund. There are some exceptions, however, to these limitations pursuant to various rules promulgated by the SEC.

In accordance with Section 12(d)(1)(F) and Rule 12d1-3 of the 1940 Act, the provisions of Section 12(d)(1) shall not apply to securities purchased or otherwise acquired by the Fund if: (1) immediately after such purchase or acquisition not more than 3% of the total outstanding stock of such registered investment company (other than money market funds) is owned by the Fund and all affiliated persons of the Fund; and (2) the Fund is not proposing to offer or sell any security issued by it through a principal underwriter or otherwise at a public or offering price including a sales load or service fee that exceeds the limits set forth in Rule 2341 of the Conduct Rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") applicable to a fund of funds (e.g., 8.5%).

Rule 12d1-4 permits funds to invest in other investment companies without an exemptive order, subject to certain conditions, including limits on control and voting of acquired funds' shares, evaluations, and findings by investment advisers, fund investment agreements, and limits on most three-tier fund structures.

## Exchange-Traded Funds.

The Fund may also invest in shares of exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). ETFs are investment companies which in many instances seek to replicate the performance, before fees and expenses, of an underlying index of securities. An ETF is similar to a traditional mutual fund but trades at different prices during the day on a securities exchange like a stock. Similar to investments in other investment companies discussed above, the Fund's investments in ETFs will involve duplication of advisory fees and other expenses since the Fund will be investing in another investment company. In addition, the Fund's investment in ETFs is also subject to the limitations on investments in investment companies discussed above. To the extent the Fund invests in ETFs which focus on a particular market segment or industry, the Fund will also be subject to the risks associated with investing in those sectors or industries. The shares of the ETFs in which the Fund will invest will be listed on a national securities exchange and the Fund will purchase and sell these shares on the secondary market at their current market price, which may be more or less than their NAV. Investors in the Fund should be aware that index-based ETFs are subject to "tracking risk," which is the risk that an ETF will not be able to replicate exactly the performance of the index it tracks.

As a purchaser of ETF shares on the secondary market, the Fund will be subject to the market risk associated with owning any security whose value is based on market price. ETF shares historically have tended to trade at or near their NAV, but there is no guarantee that they will continue to do so. Unlike traditional mutual funds, shares of an ETF may be purchased and redeemed directly from the ETF only in large blocks and only through participating organizations that have entered into contractual agreements with the ETF. The Fund does not expect to enter into such agreements and therefore will not be able to purchase and redeem its ETF shares directly from the ETF, but will instead purchase and sell shares on the secondary market.

### Foreign Securities.

The Fund may invest up to 35% of its total assets in securities issued by foreign issuers, including in American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), European Depositary Receipts ("EDRs"), Global Depositary Receipts ("GDRs"), and directly in foreign equity securities. In determining whether a company is foreign, the Adviser will consider various factors including where the company is headquartered, where the company's principal operations are located, where the company's revenues are derived, where the principal trading market for the company's securities is located, and the country in which the company is legally organized. The weight given

to each of these factors will vary depending upon the circumstances. Investments in foreign securities may involve a greater degree of risk than those in domestic securities.

Depositary receipts are not usually denominated in the same currency as the securities into which they may be converted. Generally, ADRs, in registered form, are designed for use in U.S. securities markets and EDRs and GDRs, in bearer form, are designed for use in European and global securities markets. ADRs are receipts typically issued by a U.S. bank or trust company evidencing ownership of the underlying securities. EDRs and GDRs are European and global receipts, respectively, evidencing a similar arrangement.

ADRs are sponsored and issued by domestic banks, and they represent and may be converted into underlying foreign securities deposited with the domestic bank or a correspondent bank. ADRs do not eliminate the risks inherent in investing in the securities of foreign issuers. By investing in ADRs rather than directly in the foreign security, however, the Fund may avoid currency risks during the settlement period for either purchases or sales. There is a large, liquid market in the United States for most ADRs. GDRs are receipts representing an arrangement with a major foreign bank similar to that for ADRs. GDRs are not necessarily denominated in the currency of the underlying security.

Securities of foreign issuers may be subject to greater fluctuations in price than domestic securities. The price of foreign securities is affected by changes in the currency exchange rates. Potential political or economic instability of the country of the issuer, especially in emerging or developing countries, could cause rapid and extreme changes in the value of the Fund's assets to the extent it is invested in securities of foreign issuers. Foreign countries have different accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards, and foreign issuers may be subject to less governmental regulation and oversight and higher levels of taxation than U.S. issuers. Also, many countries where the Fund invests are not as politically or economically developed as the United States. Acts of foreign governments interfering in capital markets, such as capital or currency controls, nationalization of companies or industries, expropriation of assets, or imposition of punitive taxes would have an adverse effect on the Fund. In addition, additional costs may be incurred in connection with the Fund's foreign investments. Foreign brokerage commissions are generally higher than those in the United States. Expenses may also be incurred on currency conversions when the Fund moves investments from one country to another. Increased custodial costs, as well as administrative difficulties, may be experienced in connection with maintaining assets in foreign jurisdictions.

The Fund may also invest in developing or emerging market securities. The considerations noted above regarding the risk of investing in foreign securities are generally more significant for investments in emerging or developing countries, such as countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America, South America, or Southeast Asia. These countries may have relatively unstable governments and securities markets in which only a small number of securities trade. Markets of developing or emerging countries may generally be more volatile than markets of developed countries. Investment in these markets may involve significantly greater risks, as well as the potential for greater gains.

Sanctions imposed by the U.S. or a foreign country may restrict the Fund's ability to purchase or sell foreign securities or may require the Fund to divest its holdings in foreign securities, which could adversely affect the value or liquidity of such holdings. The imposition of sanctions could also adversely affect global sectors and economies and thereby negatively affect the value of the Fund's investments beyond any direct exposure to the countries or regions subject to the sanctions.

Brexit. Uncertainties surrounding the sovereign debt of a number of European Union ("EU") countries and the viability of the EU have disrupted and may in the future disrupt markets in the United States and around the world. If one or more countries leave the EU or the EU dissolves, the world's securities markets likely will be significantly disrupted. In January 2020, the United Kingdom ("UK") left the EU, commonly referred to as "Brexit," and the UK ceased to be a member of the EU. Following a transition period during which the EU and the UK Government engaged in a series of negotiations regarding the terms of the UK's future relationship with

the EU, the EU and the UK Government signed an agreement on December 30, 2020, regarding the economic relationship between the UK and the EU. This agreement became effective on May 1, 2021. The UK and the EU also negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding, which creates a framework for voluntary regulatory cooperation in financial services between the UK and the EU. There is significant market uncertainty regarding Brexit's ramifications, and the range and potential implications of possible political, regulatory, economic, and market outcomes are difficult to predict. This long-term uncertainty may affect other countries in the EU and elsewhere, and may cause volatility within the EU, triggering prolonged economic downturns in certain European countries. In addition, Brexit may create additional and substantial economic stresses for the UK, including a contraction of the UK economy and price volatility in UK stocks, decreased trade, capital outflows, devaluation of the British pound, wider corporate bond spreads due to uncertainty, and declines in business and consumer spending as well as foreign direct investment. Brexit may also adversely affect UK-based financial firms that have counterparties in the EU or participate in market infrastructure (trading venues, clearing houses, settlement facilities) based in the EU. These events and the resulting market volatility may have an adverse effect on the performance of the Fund.

## Illiquid Investments and Restricted Securities.

Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act, the Fund may not acquire any "illiquid investment" if, immediately after the acquisition, the Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments that are assets. An "illiquid investment" is any investment that the 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 Fund has implemented a liquidity risk management program and related procedures to identify illiquid investments pursuant to Rule 22e-4. The 15% limit is applied as of the date the Fund purchases an illiquid investment. It is possible that the Fund's holding of illiquid investments could exceed the 15% limit, for example as a result of market developments or redemptions.

The Fund may purchase certain restricted securities that can be resold to institutional investors and which may be determined not to be illiquid investments pursuant to the Fund's liquidity risk management program. In many cases, those securities are traded in the institutional market pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and are called Rule 144A securities.

Investments in illiquid investments involve more risks than investments in similar securities that are readily marketable. Illiquid investments may trade at a discount from comparable, more liquid investments. Investment of the Fund's assets in illiquid investments may restrict the ability of the Fund to dispose of its investments in a timely fashion and for a fair price as well as its ability to take advantage of market opportunities. The risks associated with illiquidity will be particularly acute where the Fund's operations require cash, such as when the Fund has net redemptions, and could result in the Fund borrowing to meet short-term cash requirements or incurring losses on the sale of illiquid investments.

Restricted securities sold in private placement transactions between issuers and their purchasers are neither listed on an exchange nor traded in other established markets and may be illiquid. In many cases, the privately placed securities may not be freely transferable under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction or due to contractual restrictions on resale. To the extent privately placed securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices realized from the sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund or less than the fair value of the securities. A restricted security may be determined to be liquid under the Fund's liquidity risk management program established pursuant to Rule 22e-4 depending on market, trading, or investment-specific considerations related to the restricted security. In addition, issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to the disclosure and other investor protection requirements that may be applicable if their securities were publicly traded. If any privately placed securities held by the Fund are required to be registered under the securities laws of one or more jurisdictions before being resold, the Fund may be required to bear the expenses of registration. Private placement investments may involve investments in smaller, less seasoned issuers, which may involve greater risks than investments in more established companies. These issuers may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or they may be dependent on a limited

management group. In making investments in private placement securities, the Fund may obtain access to material non-public information about an issuer of private placement securities, which may restrict the Fund's ability to conduct transactions in those securities.

## **Repurchase Agreements.**

The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. However, the Fund may not invest more than 15% of its net assets in repurchase agreements. For purposes of the 1940 Act, a repurchase agreement may be deemed to be a loan from the Fund to the seller of the security subject to the repurchase agreement. Under such agreements, the seller of the security agrees to repurchase it at a mutually agreed upon time and price. The repurchase price may be higher than the purchase price, the difference being income to the Fund, or the purchase and repurchase prices may be the same, with interest at a stated rate due to the Fund together with the repurchase price on repurchase. In either case, the income to the Fund is unrelated to the interest rate on the security itself. Such repurchase agreements will be made only with banks with assets of \$500 million or more that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or with government securities dealers recognized by the Federal Reserve Board and registered as broker-dealers with the SEC or exempt from such registration. The Fund will generally enter into repurchase agreements of short durations, from overnight to one week, although the underlying securities generally have longer maturities. The Fund may not enter into a repurchase agreement with more than seven days to maturity if, as a result, more than 15% of the value of its net assets would be invested in illiquid securities, including such repurchase agreements.

Because a repurchase agreement may be deemed to be a loan under the 1940 Act, it is not clear whether a court would consider the security acquired by the Fund subject to a repurchase agreement as being owned by the Fund or as being collateral for a loan by the Fund to the seller. In the event of the commencement of bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings with respect to the seller of the security before its repurchase under a repurchase agreement, the Fund may encounter delays and incur costs before being able to sell the security. Delays may involve loss of interest or a decline in price of the security. If a court characterizes the transaction as a loan, and the Fund has not perfected a security interest in the security, the Fund may be required to return the security to the seller's estate and be treated as an unsecured creditor of the seller. As an unsecured creditor, the Fund would be at risk of losing some or all of the principal and income involved in the transaction. As with any unsecured debt instrument purchased for the Fund, the Adviser seeks to minimize the risk of loss through repurchase agreements by analyzing the creditworthiness of the other party, in this case the seller of the security.

Apart from the risk of bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, there is also the risk that the seller may fail to repurchase the security. However, the Fund will always receive as collateral for any repurchase agreement to which it is a party securities acceptable to it, the market value of which is equal to at least 100% of the amount invested by the Fund plus accrued interest, and the Fund will make payment against such securities only upon physical delivery or evidence of book entry transfer to the account of its custodian. If the market value of the security subject to the repurchase agreement becomes less than the repurchase price (including interest), the Fund will direct the seller of the security to deliver additional securities so that the market value of all securities subject to the repurchase agreement will equal or exceed the repurchase price. It is possible that the Fund will be unsuccessful in seeking to impose on the seller a contractual obligation to deliver additional securities.

## **Reverse Repurchase Agreements.**

The Fund may borrow funds for temporary purposes by entering into reverse repurchase agreements in accordance with the Fund's investment restrictions. Pursuant to such agreements, the Fund would sell portfolio securities to financial institutions such as banks and broker-dealers and agree to repurchase the securities at the mutually agreed-upon date and price. The Fund would enter into reverse repurchase agreements only to avoid otherwise selling securities during unfavorable market conditions to meet redemptions. Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act permits the Fund to enter into reverse repurchase agreements, provided that the Fund treats the reverse repurchase agreements as either (1) borrowings subject to the asset coverage requirements under the 1940 Act (see "Borrowing and Leverage" below) or (2) derivatives transactions under Rule 18f-4 (see "Regulation of Derivatives and Certain Other Transactions" below).

The use of reverse repurchase agreements by the Fund creates leverage which increases the Fund's investment risk. If the income and gains on securities purchased with the proceeds of reverse repurchase agreements exceed the cost of the agreements, the Fund's earnings or NAV will increase faster than otherwise would be the case. Conversely, if the income and gains fail to exceed the costs, earnings or NAV would decline faster than otherwise would be the case. The Fund will seek to enter reverse repurchase agreements only when the interest income to be earned from the investment of the proceeds of the transaction is greater than the interest expense of the transaction. Reverse repurchase agreements involve the risk that the market value of the securities sold by the Fund may decline below the price at which the Fund is obligated to repurchase the securities.

## **Borrowing and Leverage.**

Currently, the 1940 Act permits the Fund to borrow money from banks in amounts of up to one-third of the Fund's total assets (including the amount borrowed). To the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, or the rules and regulations thereunder, the Fund may also borrow an additional 5% of its total assets without regard to the foregoing limitation for temporary purposes, such as the clearance of portfolio transactions. To limit the risks attendant to borrowing, the 1940 Act requires the Fund to maintain at all times an "asset coverage" of at least 300% of the amount of its borrowings. Asset coverage means the ratio that the value of the Fund's total assets, minus liabilities other than borrowings, bears to the aggregate amount of all borrowings. Borrowing money to increase the Fund's investment portfolio is known as "leveraging." Borrowing, especially when used for leverage, may cause the value of the Fund's shares to be more volatile than if the Fund did not borrow. This is because borrowing tends to magnify the effect of any increase or decrease in the value of the Fund's portfolio holdings. Borrowed money thus creates an opportunity for greater gains, but also greater losses. To repay borrowings, the Fund may have to sell securities at a time and at a price that is unfavorable to the Fund. There also are costs associated with borrowing money, and these costs would offset and could eliminate the net investment income of the Fund in any given period.

The use of borrowing by the Fund involves special risk considerations that may not be associated with other funds having similar objectives and policies. Since substantially all of the Fund's assets fluctuate in value, while the interest obligation resulting from a borrowing will be fixed by the terms of the Fund's agreement with its lender, the net asset value per share of the Fund will tend to increase more when its portfolio securities increase in value and to decrease more when its portfolio assets decrease in value than would otherwise be the case if the Fund did not borrow funds. In addition, interest costs on borrowings may fluctuate with changing market rates of interest and may partially offset or exceed the return earned on borrowed funds. Under adverse market conditions, the Fund might have to sell portfolio securities to meet interest or principal payments at a time when fundamental investment considerations would not favor such sales. The Fund will reduce its borrowing amount within three days, if the Fund's asset coverage falls below the amount required by the 1940 Act.

The Fund may engage in certain investment practices that involve a commitment by the Fund to deliver money or securities in the future, provided that the Fund complies with Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act. These investment practices include repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements, swaps, dollar rolls, options, futures, and forward contracts. The Fund's policy on borrowing will be interpreted not to prevent collateral arrangements with respect to swaps, options, forward, futures contracts, other derivatives, or the posting of initial or variation margin. See "Regulation of Derivatives and Certain Other Transactions" below.

## Securities Lending.

The Fund may lend up to 33-1/3% of its total asset value to brokers, dealers, and financial institutions (but not individuals) in order to increase the return on its portfolio. The SEC currently requires that the following conditions be met whenever the Fund's portfolio securities are loaned: (1) the Fund must receive at least 100% cash collateral (which may include cash, U.S. government, or agency securities, or irrevocable bank letters of credit) from the borrower; (2) the borrower must increase such collateral whenever the market value of the securities rises above the level of such collateral; (3) the Fund must be able to terminate the loan at any time; (4) the Fund must receive reasonable interest on the loan, as well as any dividends, interest, or other distributions on the loaned securities, and any increase in market value; (5) while voting rights on the loaned securities may pass to the borrower, the Board must terminate the loan and regain the right to vote the securities

if a material event adversely affecting the investment occurs; and (6) the Fund may not loan its portfolio securities so that the value of the loaned securities is more than one-third of its total asset value, including collateral received from such loans

In the case of the Fund, loans must be secured by collateral consisting of: (1) cash or cash equivalents; (2) securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or one of its agencies or instrumentalities; (3) an irrevocable bank letter of credit; or (4) any combination thereof, equal to not less than (a) 102% of the market value of the securities loaned that are principally settled in the United States at the inception of the loan and (b) 105% of the market value for securities that are cleared and principally settled outside the United States at the inception of the loan.

These conditions may be subject to future modification. Such loans will be terminable at any time upon specified notice. The Fund might experience the risk of loss if the institution with which it has engaged in a portfolio loan transaction breaches its agreement with the Fund. In addition, the Fund will not enter into any portfolio security lending arrangement having a duration of longer than one year. The principal risk of portfolio lending is potential default or insolvency of the borrower. In either of these cases, the Fund could experience delays in recovering securities or collateral or could lose all or part of the value of the loaned securities. As part of participating in a lending program, the Fund may be required to invest in collateralized debt or other securities that bear the risk of loss of principal. In addition, all investments made with the collateral received are subject to the risks associated with such investments. If such investments lose value, the Fund will have to cover the loss when repaying the collateral.

Any loans of portfolio securities are fully collateralized based on values that are marked-to-market daily. Any securities that the Fund may receive as collateral will not become part of the Fund's investment portfolio at the time of the loan and, in the event of a default by the borrower, the Fund will, if permitted by law, dispose of such collateral except for such part thereof that is a security in which the Fund is permitted to invest. During the time securities are on loan, the borrower will pay the Fund any accrued income on those securities, and the Fund may invest the cash collateral and earn income or receive an agreed-upon fee from a borrower that has delivered cash-equivalent collateral.

#### Special Risks Related to Cyber Security.

The Fund and its service providers, including the Adviser, are susceptible to cyber security risks that include, among other things, theft, unauthorized monitoring, release, misuse, loss, destruction, or corruption of confidential and highly restricted data; denial of service attacks; unauthorized access to relevant systems; compromises to networks or devices that the Fund and its service providers use to service the Fund's operations; or operational disruption or failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support the Fund and its service providers. Cyber attacks against or security breakdowns of the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund and its shareholders, potentially resulting in, among other things, financial losses; the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions; inability to calculate the Fund's NAV; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement, or other compensation costs; and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund may incur additional costs for cyber security risk management and remediation purposes. In addition, cyber security risks may also impact issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which may cause the Fund's investment in such issuers to lose value. While measures have been developed which are designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security incidents, there can be no assurance that those measures will be effective, particularly since the Fund does not control the cyber security defenses or plans of its service providers, financial intermediaries and companies with which those entities do business.

Cyber security incidents, both intentional and unintentional, may allow an unauthorized party to gain access to Fund or shareholder assets, Fund or customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or cause the Fund, the Adviser and/or other service providers (including, but not limited to, the fund administrator, fund accountant, custodian, transfer agent, auditors and financial intermediaries) to suffer data breaches or data corruption, lose operational functionality, or prevent Fund shareholders from purchasing,

redeeming or exchanging shares or receiving distributions. The Fund and the Adviser have limited ability to prevent or mitigate cyber security incidents affecting third-party service providers. Cyber security incidents may result in financial losses to the Fund and its shareholders, and substantial costs may be incurred in seeking to prevent or minimize future cyber security incidents.

## When-Issued Securities and Forward Commitments.

The Fund may purchase securities offered on a "when-issued" basis and may purchase or sell securities on a "forward commitment" basis. When these transactions are negotiated, the price, which is generally expressed in yield terms, is fixed at the time the commitment is made, but delivery and payment for the securities take place at a later date. Normally, the settlement date occurs within two months after the transaction, but delayed settlements beyond two months may be negotiated. During the period between a commitment and settlement, no payment is made for the securities purchased by the purchaser and thus, no interest accrues to the purchaser from the transaction. At the time the Fund makes the commitment to purchase securities on a when issued or delayed delivery basis, the Fund will record the transaction as a purchase and thereafter reflect the value each day of such securities in determining its NAV.

Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act permits the Fund to invest in securities on a when-issued or forward-settling basis, or with a non-standard settlement cycle, notwithstanding the limitation on the issuance of senior securities in Section 18 of the 1940 Act, provided that the Fund intends to physically settle the transaction and the transaction will settle within 35 days of its trade date (the "Delayed-Settlement Securities Provision"). A when-issued, forward-settling, or non-standard settlement cycle security that does not satisfy the Delayed-Settlement Securities Provision is treated as a derivatives transaction under Rule 18f-4. See "Regulation of Derivatives and Certain Other Transactions" below.

#### Short Sales.

Although not a principal strategy of the Fund, the Fund may seek to hedge investments or realize additional gains through the use of short sales with respect to 10% of its net assets. Short sales are transactions in which the Fund sells a security it does not own, in anticipation of a decline in the market value of that security. To complete such a transaction, the Fund must borrow the security to make delivery to the buyer. The Fund then is obligated to replace the security borrowed by purchasing it at the market price at or prior to the time of replacement. The price at such time may be more or less than the price at which the security was sold by the Fund. Until the security is replaced, the Fund is required to repay the lender any dividends or interest that accrues during the period of the loan. To borrow the security, the Fund also may be required to pay a premium, which would increase the cost of the security sold. The net proceeds of the short sale will be retained by the broker (or by the Fund's custodian in a special custody account), to the extent necessary to meet margin requirements, until the short position is closed out. The Fund also will incur transaction costs in effecting short sales.

The Fund will incur a loss as a result of the short sale if the price of the security increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the Fund replaces the borrowed security. The Fund will realize a gain if the security declines in price between those dates. The amount of any gain will be decreased and the amount of any loss increased by the amount of the premium, dividends, interest, or expenses the Fund may be required to pay in connection with a short sale.

The Fund is required to comply with Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act with respect to its short sale borrowings, which are considered derivatives transactions under Rule 18f-4. See "Regulation of Derivatives and Certain Other Transactions" below.

#### **Fixed Income Securities.**

General. The Fund may invest a portion of its assets in fixed income securities. Examples of such securities are described below.

Commercial Paper and Short-Term Notes. The Fund may invest a portion of its assets in commercial paper and short-term notes. Commercial paper consists of unsecured promissory notes issued by companies. Issues of commercial paper will normally have maturities of less than nine (9) months and fixed rates of return, although such instruments may have maturities of up to one year. Short-term notes will normally have maturities of less than twelve (12) months.

Commercial paper and short-term notes will consist of issues rated at the time of purchase "A-2" or higher by S&P Global Ratings or "Prime-1" or "Prime-2" by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., similarly rated by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization or, if unrated, will be determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality. These rating symbols are described in Appendix A.

Bank Money Market Instruments. The Fund may invest in Bank money market instruments, which are short-term obligations of depository institutions that provide high liquidity and a relatively risk-free way to earn interest on cash reserves. Bank deposits and CDs are insured up to specified limits per depositor by the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund, units of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), and by the National Credit Union Administration ("NCUA"). The FDIC and NCUA are federally sponsored agencies.

U.S. Treasury Securities. The Fund may invest in U.S. Treasuries. U.S. Treasury securities are direct obligations of the U.S. government and are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury. U.S. Treasury securities differ only in their interest rates, maturities, and dates of issuance. Treasury Bills have maturities of one year or less. Treasury Notes have maturities of one to ten years, and Treasury Bonds generally have maturities of greater than ten years at the date of issuance. Yields on short-, intermediate-, and long-term U.S. Treasury securities are dependent on a variety of factors, including the general conditions of the money and bond markets, the size of a particular offering, and the maturity of the obligation.

Government Agency Securities. Government agency securities, often called agencies, are indirect obligations of the U.S. Government, and are issued by federal agencies and government-sponsored corporations under authority from Congress. Government agency securities may be backed by the full faith and credit of the federal government, which is the case with Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae") and Small Business Administration certificates, but are more often issued or guaranteed by the sponsoring agency. Examples of government agency securities include Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Federal Home Loan Banks, and the Federal Farm Credit System Banks.

Government-Sponsored Enterprises. Government-sponsored enterprises are characterized as being privately owned and publicly chartered. These enterprises were created by the U.S. Government to help certain important sectors of the economy reduce their borrowing costs. The U.S. Government does not directly back government sponsored enterprise securities, although in some instances, government-sponsored enterprise securities may benefit from indirect support. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are examples of government-sponsored enterprise securities. On September 6, 2008, the Federal Housing Finance Authority ("FHFA"), an agency of the U.S. Government, placed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into conservatorship under its authority with the stated purpose to preserve and conserve each entity's assets and property, and to put each entity in a sound and solvent condition. The effect that this conservatorship will have on these entities' debt and equities is unclear and no assurance can be given that any steps taken by the FHFA or the U.S. Treasury or any other agency of the U.S. Government with respect to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac will succeed.

Risks Associated with Investing in U.S. Government Securities. The U.S. Government is considered to be among the best credit-rated issuers in the debt markets. Since Treasury securities are direct obligations of the U.S. government, there is minimal credit risk. While most other government-sponsored securities are not direct obligations of the U.S. Government (although some are guaranteed by the U.S. Government), they also offer little credit risk.

However, another type of risk that may affect the Fund is market and/or interest rate risk. For example, debt securities with longer maturities tend to produce higher yields and are generally subject to potentially greater capital appreciation and depreciation than obligations with shorter maturities and lower yields. The market value of U.S. government securities generally varies inversely with changes in market interest rates. An increase in interest rates, therefore, would generally reduce the market value of any U.S. government security held by the Fund, while a decline in interest rates would generally increase the market value of such investment.

Convertible Securities. The Fund may invest in all types of common stocks and equivalents (such as convertible debt securities and warrants) and preferred stocks. The Fund may invest in convertible securities which may offer higher income than the common stocks into which they are convertible. The convertible securities in which the Fund may invest consist of bonds, notes, debentures, and preferred stocks which may be converted or exchanged at a stated or determinable exchange ratio into underlying shares of common stock. The Fund may be required to permit the issuer of a convertible security to redeem the security, convert it into the underlying common stock, or sell it to a third party. Thus, the Fund may not be able to control whether the issuer of a convertible security chooses to convert that security. If the issuer chooses to do so, this action could have an adverse effect on the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objectives.

Asset-Backed Securities. Asset-backed securities are securities backed by home equity loans, installment sale contracts, credit card receivables, or other assets. Asset-backed securities are "pass-through" securities, meaning that principal and interest payments—net of expenses—made by the borrower on the underlying assets (such as credit card receivables) are passed through to the Fund. The value of asset-backed securities, like that of traditional fixed-income securities, typically increases when interest rates fall and decreases when interest rates rise. However, asset-backed securities differ from traditional fixed-income securities because of their potential for prepayment. The price paid by the Fund for its asset-backed securities, the yield the Fund expects to receive from such securities and the average life of the securities are based on a number of factors, including the anticipated rate of prepayment of the underlying assets. In a period of declining interest rates, borrowers may prepay the underlying assets more quickly than anticipated, thereby reducing the yield to maturity and the average life of the asset-backed securities. Moreover, when the Fund reinvests the proceeds of a prepayment in these circumstances, it will likely receive a rate of interest that is lower than the rate on the security that was prepaid. To the extent that the Fund purchases asset-backed securities at a premium, prepayments may result in a loss to the extent of the premium paid. If the Fund buys such securities at a discount, both scheduled payments and unscheduled prepayments will increase current and total returns and unscheduled prepayments will also accelerate the recognition of income which, when distributed to shareholders, will be taxable as ordinary income. In a period of rising interest rates, prepayments of the underlying assets may occur at a slower than expected rate, creating maturity extension risk. This particular risk may effectively change a security that was considered short- or intermediate-term at the time of purchase into a longer-term security. Since the value of longer-term securities generally fluctuates more widely in response to changes in interest rates than does the value of shorter-term securities, maturity extension risk could increase the volatility of the Fund. When interest rates decline, the value of an asset-backed security with prepayment features may not increase as much as that of other fixed-income securities, and, as noted above, changes in market rates of interest may accelerate or retard prepayments and thus affect maturities.

Mortgage-Backed Securities. The Fund may invest in securities that directly or indirectly represent participations in, are collateralized by, or payable from mortgage loans secured by real property ("Mortgage-Backed Securities").

Mortgage-Backed Securities represent pools of mortgage loans assembled for sale to investors by various governmental agencies such as the Ginnie Mae and government-related organizations such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as well as by nongovernmental issuers such as commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, mortgage bankers, and private mortgage insurance companies. Although certain Mortgage-Backed Securities are guaranteed by a third party or otherwise similarly secured, the market value of the security, which may fluctuate, is not so secured. If the Adviser purchases a Mortgage-Backed Security at a premium, that portion may be lost if there is a decline in the market value of the security whether resulting from changes in interest

rates or prepayments in the underlying mortgage collateral. As with other interest-bearing securities, the prices of such securities are inversely affected by changes in interest rates. However, though the value of a Mortgage-Backed Security may decline when interest rates rise, the converse is not necessarily true since in periods of declining interest rates the mortgages underlying the securities are prone to prepayment. For this and other reasons, a Mortgage-Backed Security's stated maturity may be shortened by unscheduled prepayments on the underlying mortgages and, therefore, it is not possible to predict accurately the securities' return to the Fund. In addition, regular payments received in respect of Mortgage-Backed Securities include both interest and principal. No assurance can be given as to the return the Fund will receive when these amounts are reinvested.

There are a number of important differences among the agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. Government that issue Mortgage-Backed Securities and among the securities that they issue. Mortgage-Backed Securities issued by Ginnie Mae include Ginnie Mae Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, which are guaranteed as to the timely payment of principal and interest by Ginnie Mae. This guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Ginnie Mae is a wholly owned U.S.-government corporation within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ginnie Mae certificates also are supported by the authority of Ginnie Mae to borrow funds from the U.S. Treasury to make payments under its guarantee. Mortgage-Backed Securities issued by Fannie Mae include Fannie Mae Guaranteed Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates (also known as "Fannie Maes") which are guaranteed as to timely payment of the principal and interest by Fannie Mae. Fannie Maes are solely the obligations of Fannie Mae and are not backed by or entitled to the full faith and credit of the United States. Fannie Mae is a government sponsored organization. Mortgage-Backed Securities issued by Freddie Mac include Freddie Mac Mortgage Participation Certificates (also known as "Freddie Mac PCs"). Freddie Mac is a corporate instrumentality of the United States created pursuant to an Act of Congress. Freddie Macs are not guaranteed by the United States or by any Federal Home Loan Banks and do not constitute a debt or obligation of the United States or any Federal Home Loan Bank. Freddie Macs entitle the holder to timely payment of interest, which is guaranteed by Freddie Mac. Freddie Mac guarantees either ultimate collection or timely payment of all principal payments on the underlying mortgage loans. When Freddie Mac does not guarantee timely payment of principal, Freddie Mac may remit the amount due on account of its guarantee of ultimate payment of principal at any time after default on an underlying mortgage, but in no event later than one year after it becomes payable.

The Fund may also invest in Mortgage-Backed Securities which are collateralized mortgage obligations structured on pools of mortgage pass-through certificates or mortgage loans and derivative multiple-class mortgage-backed securities.

During the financial crisis, rating agencies placed on credit watch or downgraded the ratings previously assigned to a large number of mortgage-related securities (which may include certain of the mortgage-related securities in which the Fund may invest). If a mortgage-related security in which the Fund is invested is placed on credit watch or downgraded, the value of the security may decline, and the Fund may experience losses.

A general economic downturn may lead to declines in income from, or the value of, real estate, including the real estate which secures the mortgage-related securities held by the Fund. Additionally, in recent years, a lack of credit liquidity and decreases in the value of real property have occurred and may continue to occur or worsen, and potentially prevent borrowers from refinancing their mortgages, which may increase the likelihood of default on their mortgage loans.

Economic conditions may also adversely affect the amount of proceeds the holder of a mortgage loan or mortgage-related securities would realize in the event of a foreclosure or other exercise of remedies. Moreover, even if such mortgage-related securities are performing as anticipated, their value in the secondary market may fall or continue to fall as a result of deterioration in general market conditions for such securities or other asset-backed or structured products. Trading activity associated with market indices may also drive spreads on those indices wider than spreads on mortgage-related securities, thereby resulting in a decrease in the value of such mortgage-related securities. Mortgage loans backing non-agency mortgage-related securities are more sensitive to economic factors that could affect the ability of borrowers to pay their obligations under the mortgage loans

backing these securities. Economic conditions may reduce the cash flow that the Fund investing in such mortgage-related securities receives from such securities and increase the incidence and severity of credit events and losses in respect of such securities. In addition, interest rate spreads for mortgage-backed securities may widen and may become more volatile when compared to the past due to adverse changes in market conditions. In the event that interest rate spreads for mortgage-related securities continue to widen following the purchase of such assets by the Fund, the market value of such securities is likely to decline and, in the case of a substantial spread widening, could decline by a substantial amount. Furthermore, adverse changes in market conditions may result in a severe liquidity crisis in the market for mortgage-backed securities (including the mortgage-related securities in which the Fund may invest) and increasing unwillingness by banks, financial institutions, and investors to extend credit to servicers, originators, and other participants in the mortgagerelated securities market for these securities and other asset-backed securities. As a result, the liquidity and/or the market value of any mortgage-related securities that are owned by the Fund may experience declines after they are purchased by the Fund. The recent rise in the rate of foreclosures of properties has resulted in legislative, regulatory, and enforcement actions seeking to prevent or restrict foreclosures. Actions have also been brought against issuers and underwriters of residential mortgage-backed securities collateralized by such residential mortgage loans and investors in such residential mortgage-backed securities. Future legislative or regulatory initiatives by federal, state, or local legislative bodies or administrative agencies, if enacted or adopted, could delay foreclosure or the exercise of other remedies, provide new defenses to foreclosure, or otherwise impair the ability of the loan servicer to foreclose or realize on a defaulted residential mortgage loan included in a pool of residential mortgage loans backing such residential mortgage-backed securities. The nature or extent of any future limitations on foreclosure or exercise of other remedies that may be enacted is uncertain. Governmental actions that interfere with the foreclosure process, for example, could increase the costs of such foreclosures or exercise of other remedies, delay the timing or reduce the amount of recoveries on defaulted residential mortgage loans and securities backed by such residential mortgage loans owned by the Fund, and could adversely affect the yields on the mortgage-related securities owned by the Fund and could have the effect of reducing returns to the Fund that has invested in mortgage-related securities collateralized by these residential mortgage loans.

Structured Securities. Structured securities employ a trust or other similar structure to modify the maturity, price characteristics, or quality of financial assets. For example, structural features can be used to modify the maturity of a security or interest rate adjustment features can be used to enhance price stability. If the structure does not perform as intended adverse tax, or investment consequences may result. Neither the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") nor any other regulatory authority has ruled definitively on certain legal issues presented by structured securities. Future tax or other regulatory determinations could adversely affect the value, liquidity, or tax treatment of the income received from these securities or the nature and timing of distributions made by the Fund. The payment of principal and interest on structured securities may be largely dependent on the cash flows generated by the underlying financial assets.

Variable or Floating Rate Securities. Variable or floating rate securities provide for periodic adjustments of the interest rate paid. Variable rate securities provide for a specific periodic adjustment in the interest rate, while floating rate securities have interest rates that change whenever there is a change in a designated benchmark rate. Some variable or floating rate securities have put features.

Indexed Securities. The Fund may purchase securities whose prices are indexed to the prices of other securities, securities indices, currencies, precious metals, or other commodities, or other financial indicators. Indexed securities typically, but not always, are debt securities or deposits whose value at maturity or coupon rate is determined by reference to a specific instrument or statistic. Gold-indexed securities, for example, typically provide for a maturity value that depends on the price of gold, resulting in a security whose price tends to rise and fall together with gold prices. Currency-indexed securities typically are short-term to intermediate-term debt securities whose maturity values or interest rates are determined by reference to the values of one or more specified foreign currencies and may offer higher yields than U.S. dollar-denominated securities of equivalent issuers. Currency-indexed securities may be positively or negatively indexed; that is, their maturity value may increase when the specified currency value increases, resulting in a security that performs similarly to a foreign-

denominated instrument, or their maturity value may decline when foreign currencies increase, resulting in a security whose price characteristics are similar to a put on the underlying currency. Currency-indexed securities may also have prices that depend on the value of a number of different foreign currencies relative to each other.

The performance of indexed securities depends to a great extent on the performance of the security, currency, or other instrument to which they are indexed, and may also be influenced by interest rate changes in the United States and abroad. At the same time, indexed securities are subject to the credit risks associated with the issuer of the security, and their values may decline substantially if the issuer's creditworthiness deteriorates. Recent issuers of indexed securities have included banks, corporations, and certain U.S. government agencies. Indexed securities may be more volatile than the underlying instruments.

Stripped Securities. The Fund may purchase separately traded interest and principal component parts of such obligations that are transferable through the Federal book entry system, known as Separately Traded Registered Interest and Principal Securities ("STRIPS") and Coupon Under Book Entry Safekeeping ("CUBES"). These instruments are issued by banks and brokerage firms and are created by depositing U.S. Treasury notes and U.S. Treasury bonds into a special account at a custodian bank; the custodian holds the interest and principal payments for the benefit of the registered owner of the certificates or receipts. The custodian arranges for the issuance of the certificates or receipts evidencing ownership and maintains the register. Receipts include Treasury Receipts ("TRS"), Treasury Investment Growth Receipts ("TIGRs"), and Certificates of Accrual on Treasury Securities ("CATS").

STRIPS, CUBES, TRs, TIGRs, and CATS are sold as zero-coupon securities, which mean that they are sold at a substantial discount and redeemed at face value at their maturity date without interim cash payments of interest or principal. This discount is amortized over the life of the security, and such amortization will constitute the income earned on the security for both accounting and tax purposes. Because of these features, these securities may be subject to greater interest rate volatility than interest-paying U.S. Treasury obligations. Bonds issued by the Resolution Funding Corporation ("REFCORP") can also be stripped in this fashion. REFCORP STRIPS are eligible investments for the Fund.

Zero Coupon Bonds. The Fund may purchase zero coupon bonds. Zero coupon bonds are purchased at a discount from the face amount because the buyer receives only the right to receive a fixed payment on a certain date in the future and does not receive any periodic interest payments. The effect of owning instruments which do not make current interest payments is that a fixed yield is earned not only on the original investment but also, in effect, on all discount accretion during the life of the obligations. This implicit reinvestment of earnings at the same rate eliminates the risk of being unable to reinvest distributions at a rate as high as the implicit yields on the zero coupon bond, but at the same time eliminates the holder's ability to reinvest at higher rates in the future. For this reason, zero coupon bonds are subject to substantially greater price fluctuations during periods of changing market interest rates than are comparable securities which pay interest currently, whose fluctuation increases the longer the period of maturity. Although zero coupon bonds do not pay interest to holders prior to maturity, U.S. federal income tax law requires the Fund to recognize as interest income a portion of the bond's discount each year and this income must then be distributed to shareholders along with other income earned by the Fund. To the extent that any shareholders in the Fund elect to receive their dividends in cash rather than reinvest such dividends in additional shares, cash to make these distributions will have to be provided from the assets of the Fund or other sources such as proceeds of sales of Fund shares and/or sales of portfolio securities. In such cases, the Fund will not be able to purchase additional income producing securities with cash used to make such distributions and its current income may ultimately be reduced as a result.

Corporate Debt Securities. The Fund may invest in corporate debt securities having a duration of longer than one year. Corporate debt securities include, but are not limited to, debt obligations offered by public or private corporations either registered or unregistered. The market value of such securities may fluctuate in response to interest rates and the creditworthiness of the issuer. The Fund may invest in debt securities that are non-investment grade or are in default. The ratings of debt securities are described in Appendix A.

Lower-Rated Debt Securities. The Fund may purchase lower-rated debt securities, commonly referred to as "junk bonds" (those rated below the fourth highest grade by a NRSRO and non-rated securities judged by the Adviser to be of equivalent quality), that have poor protection with respect to the payment of interest and repayment of principal, or that may be in default. These securities are often considered to be speculative and involve greater risk of loss or price changes due to changes in the issuer's capacity to pay. The market prices of lower-rated debt securities may fluctuate more than those of higher-rated debt securities and may decline significantly in periods of general economic difficulty, which may follow periods of rising interest rates.

The market for lower-rated debt securities may be thinner and less active than that for higher-rated debt securities, which can adversely affect the prices at which the former are sold. If market quotations are not available, lower-rated debt securities will be valued in accordance with procedures established by the Board, including the use of outside pricing services. Judgment plays a greater role in valuing high-yield corporate debt securities than is the case for securities for which more external sources for quotations and last-sale information are available. Adverse publicity and changing investor perceptions may affect the ability of outside pricing services to value lower-rated debt securities and the Fund's ability to sell these securities.

Since the risk of default is higher for lower-rated debt securities, the Adviser's research and credit analysis are an especially important part of managing securities of this type held by the Fund. In considering investments for the Fund, the Adviser will attempt to identify those issuers of high-yielding debt securities whose financial condition are adequate to meet future obligations, have improved, or is expected to improve in the future. The analysis focuses on such factors as interest or dividend coverage, asset coverage, earnings prospects, and the experience and managerial strength of the issuer.

The Fund may choose, at its expense or in conjunction with others, to pursue litigation or otherwise exercise its right as security holder to seek to protect the interests of security holders if it determines this to be in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders.

Loans and Other Debt Instruments. Loans and other direct debt instruments are interests in amounts owed by a corporate, governmental, or other borrower to another party. They may represent amounts owed to lenders or lending syndicates (loans and loan participation), to suppliers of goods or services (trade claims or other receivables), or to other parties. Direct debt instruments involve a risk of loss in case of default or insolvency of the borrower and may offer less legal protection to the Fund in the event of fraud or misrepresentation. In addition, loan participations involve a risk of insolvency of the lending bank or other financial intermediary. Direct debt instruments may also include standby financing commitments that obligate the Fund to supply additional cash to the borrower on demand.

Regulation of Derivatives and Certain Other Transactions. Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act permits the Fund to enter into "derivatives transactions" and certain other transactions notwithstanding the restrictions on the issuance of "senior securities" under Section 18 of the 1940 Act. "Derivatives transactions" include: (1) any swap, security-based swap, futures contract, forward contract, option, any combination of the foregoing, or any similar instrument, under which the Fund is or may be required to make any payment or delivery of cash or other assets during the life of the instrument or at maturity or early termination, whether as margin or settlement payment or otherwise; (2) any short sale borrowing; (3) reverse repurchase agreements and similar financing transactions, if the Fund treats these transactions as derivatives transactions under Rule 18f-4; and (4) when-issued or forward-settling securities and non-standard settlement cycle securities, unless the Fund intends to physically settle the transaction and the transaction will settle within 35 days of its trade date.

Rule 18f-4 permits a fund to enter into derivatives transactions notwithstanding the restrictions under Section 18, provided that the fund either: (1) adopts and implements a derivatives risk management program ("DRMP"), adheres to a limit on leverage risk based on value-at-risk ("VaR") and complies with board oversight and reporting requirements or (2) satisfies the conditions of the limited derivatives user exception. A fund that is a limited derivatives user is not required to adopt a DRMP, adhere to the VaR limit or comply with the board oversight and reporting requirements. To rely on the limited derivatives user exception, a fund must adopt and

implement policies and procedures reasonably designed to manage its derivatives risks and limit its derivatives exposure to 10% of its net assets.

**Derivative Instruments.** A variety of derivative investment products are available in the financial markets, including put and call options on securities, indexes, and currencies; financial and commodity futures contracts and options on futures contracts; swap agreements and options on such agreements; structured notes; and various hybrid instruments. The Fund is currently permitted to invest up to 10% of its assets in derivative instruments as further described below.

Swap Agreements. Swap agreements can be individually negotiated and structured to include exposure to a variety of different types of investments or market factors. Depending on their structure, swap agreements may increase or decrease the Fund's exposure to long- or short-term interest rates (in the United States or abroad), foreign currency values, mortgage securities, corporate borrowing rates, or other factors such as security prices or inflation rates. Swap agreements can take many different forms and are known by a variety of names. The Fund is not limited to any particular form of swap agreement if the Adviser determines it is consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

In a typical cap or floor agreement, one party agrees to make payments only under specified circumstances, usually in return for payment of a fee by the other party. For example, the buyer of an interest rate cap obtains the right to receive payments to the extent that a specific interest rate exceeds an agreed-upon level, while the seller of an interest rate floor is obligated to make payments to the extent that a specified interest rate falls below an agreed-upon level. An interest rate collar combines elements of buying a cap and selling a floor.

Swap agreements will tend to shift the Fund's investment exposure from one type of investment to another. For example, if the Fund agreed to exchange payments in dollars for payments in foreign currency, the swap agreement would tend to decrease the Fund's exposure to U.S. interest rates and increase its exposure to foreign currency and interest rates. Caps and floors have an effect similar to buying or writing options. Depending on how they are used, swap agreements may increase or decrease the overall volatility of the Fund's investments and its share price.

The most significant factor in the performance of swap agreements is the change in the specific interest rate, currency, or other factors that determine the amounts of payments due to and from the Fund. If a swap agreement calls for payments by the Fund, the Fund must be prepared to make such payments when due. In addition, if the counterparty's creditworthiness declined, the value of a swap agreement would be likely to decline, potentially resulting in losses.

The Fund expects to be able to eliminate its exposure under swap agreements whether by assignment or other disposition, or by entering into an offsetting swap agreement with the same party or a similarly creditworthy party. The Fund will maintain appropriate liquid assets in a segregated custodial account to cover its current obligations under swap agreements. If the Fund enters into a swap agreement on a net basis, it will segregate assets with a daily value at least equal to the excess, if any, of the Fund's accrued obligations under the swap agreement over the accrued amount the Fund is entitled to receive under the agreement. If the Fund enters into a swap agreement on other than a net basis, it will segregate assets with a value equal to the full amount of the Fund's accrued obligations under the agreement.

Foreign Currency Transactions. The Fund may conduct foreign currency transactions on a spot (i.e., cash) basis or by entering into forward contracts to purchase or sell foreign currencies at a future date and price. The Fund will convert currencies on a spot basis from time to time, and investors should be aware of the costs of currency conversion. Although foreign exchange dealers generally do not charge a fee for conversion, they do realize a profit based on the difference between the prices at which they are buying and selling various currencies. Thus, a dealer may offer to sell a foreign currency to the Fund at one rate, while offering a lesser rate of exchange should the Fund desire to resell that currency to the dealer. Forward contracts are generally traded in an interbank market conducted directly between currency traders (usually large commercial banks)

and their customers. The parties to a forward contract may agree to offset or terminate the contract before its maturity or may hold the contract to maturity and complete the contemplated currency exchange.

The Fund may use currency forward contracts for any purpose consistent with its investment objective. The following discussion summarizes the principal currency management strategies involving forward contracts that could be used by the Fund. The Fund may also use swap agreements, indexed securities and options, and futures contracts relating to foreign currencies for the same purposes.

When the Fund agrees to buy or sell a security denominated in a foreign currency, it may desire to "lock in" the U.S. dollar price of the security. By entering into a forward contract for the purchase or sale, for a fixed amount of U.S. dollars, of the amount of foreign currency involved in the underlying security transaction, the Fund will be able to protect itself against an adverse change in foreign currency values between the date the security is purchased or sold and the date on which payment is made or received. This technique is sometimes referred to as a "settlement hedge" or "transaction hedge." The Fund may also enter into forward contracts to purchase or sell a foreign currency in anticipation of future purchases or sales of securities denominated in foreign currency, even if the specific investments have not yet been selected by the Adviser.

The Fund may also use forward contracts to hedge against a decline in the value of existing investments denominated in foreign currency. For example, if the Fund owned securities denominated in euros, it could enter into a forward contract to sell euros in return for U.S. dollars to hedge against possible declines in the euro's value. Such a hedge, sometimes referred to as a "position hedge," would tend to offset both positive and negative currency fluctuations, but would not offset changes in security values caused by other factors. The Fund could also hedge the position by selling another currency expected to perform similarly to the euro. This type of hedge, sometimes referred to as a "proxy hedge," could offer advantages in terms of cost, yield, or efficiency, but generally would not hedge currency exposure as effectively as a simple hedge into U.S. dollars. Proxy hedges may result in losses if the currency used to hedge does not perform similarly to the currency in which the hedged securities are denominated.

The Fund may enter into forward contracts to shift its investment exposure from one currency into another. This may include shifting exposure from U.S. dollars to a foreign currency, or from one foreign currency to another foreign currency. For example, if the Fund held investments denominated in euros, the Fund could enter into forward contracts to sell euros and purchase Japanese yen. This type of strategy, sometimes known as a "cross-hedge," will tend to reduce or eliminate exposure to the currency that is sold, and increase exposure to the currency that is purchased, much as if the Fund had sold a security denominated in one currency and purchased an equivalent security denominated in another. Cross-hedges protect against losses resulting from a decline in the hedged currency, but will cause the Fund to assume the risk of fluctuations in the value of the currency it purchases.

Under certain conditions, SEC guidelines require mutual funds to set aside appropriate liquid assets in a segregated custodial account to cover currency forward contracts. As required by SEC guidelines, the Fund will segregate assets to cover currency forward contracts, if any, whose purpose is essentially speculative. The Fund will not segregate assets to cover forward contracts entered into for hedging purposes, including settlement hedges, position hedges, and proxy hedges.

Successful use of currency management strategies will depend on the Adviser's skill in analyzing and predicting currency values. Currency management strategies may substantially change the Fund's investment exposure to changes in currency exchange rates and could result in losses to the Fund if currencies do not perform as anticipated. For example, if a currency's value rose at a time when the Adviser had hedged the Fund by selling that currency in exchange for U.S. dollars, the Fund would be unable to participate in the currency's appreciation. If the Fund hedges currency exposure through proxy hedges, the Fund could realize currency losses from the hedge and the security position at the same time if the two currencies do not move in tandem. Similarly, if the Adviser increases the Fund's exposure to a foreign currency, and that currency's value declines,

the Fund will realize a loss. There is no assurance that the use of currency management strategies will be advantageous to the Fund or that it will hedge at an appropriate time.

Futures Contracts. The Fund may enter into futures contracts, options on futures contracts and stock index futures contracts, and options thereon for bona fide hedging purposes. Futures contracts provide for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of a specific security, class of securities, or an index at a specified future time and at a specified price. A stock index futures contract is a bilateral agreement pursuant to which two parties agree to take or make delivery of an amount of cash equal to a specified dollar amount times the difference between the stock index value at the close of trading of the contracts and the price at which the futures contract is originally struck. Futures contracts which are standardized as to maturity date and underlying financial instrument are traded on national futures exchanges. Futures exchanges and trading are regulated under the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC"), a U.S. government agency.

Although futures contracts by their terms call for actual delivery and acceptance of the underlying securities, in most cases the contracts are closed out before the settlement date without the making or taking of delivery. Closing out an open futures position is done by taking an opposite position ("buying" a contract which has previously been "sold," or "selling" a contract previously "purchased") in an identical contract to terminate the position. A futures contract on a securities index is an agreement obligating either party to pay, and entitling the other party to receive, while the contract is outstanding, cash payments based on the level of a specified securities index. The acquisition of put and call options on futures contracts will, respectively, give the Fund the right (but not the obligation), for a specified price, to sell or to purchase the underlying futures contract, upon exercise of the option, at any time during the option period. Brokerage commissions are incurred when a futures contract is bought or sold.

Futures traders are required to make a good faith margin deposit in cash or U.S. government securities with a broker or custodian to initiate and maintain open positions in futures contracts. A margin deposit is intended to assure completion of the contract (delivery or acceptance of the underlying security) if it is not terminated prior to the specified delivery date. Minimal initial margin requirements are established by the futures exchange and may be changed. Brokers may establish deposit requirements that are higher than the exchange minimums. Initial margin deposits on futures contracts are customarily set at levels much lower than the prices at which the underlying securities are purchased and sold, typically ranging upward from less than 5% of the value of the contract being traded.

After a futures contract position is opened, the value of the contract is marked to market daily. If the futures contract price changes to the extent that the margin on deposit does not satisfy margin requirements, payment of additional "variation" margin will be required. Conversely, a change in the contract value may reduce the required margin, resulting in a repayment of excess margin to the contract holder. Variation margin payments are made to and from the futures broker for as long as the contract remains open. The Fund expects to earn interest income while its margin deposits are held pending performance on the futures contract.

When interest rates are expected to rise or market values of portfolio securities are expected to fall, the Fund can seek, through the sale of futures, contracts to offset a decline in the value of its portfolio securities. When interest rates are expected to fall or market values are expected to rise, the Fund, through the purchase of such contracts, can attempt to secure better rates or prices for the Fund than might later be available in the market when it affects anticipated purchases.

The Fund's ability to effectively utilize futures trading depends on several factors. First, it is possible that there will not be a perfect price correlation between the futures contracts and their underlying stock index. Second, it is possible that a lack of liquidity for futures contracts could exist in the secondary market, resulting in an inability to close a futures position prior to its maturity date. Third, the purchase of a futures contract involves the risk that the Fund could lose more than the original margin deposit required to initiate a futures transaction.

Restrictions on the Use of Futures Contracts. The Fund will only sell futures contracts to protect securities it owns against price declines or purchase contracts to protect against an increase in the price of securities it intends to purchase. Pursuant to amendments by the CFTC to Rule 4.5 under the CEA, the Adviser has filed a notice of exemption from registration as a "commodity pool operator" with respect to the Fund. The Fund and the Adviser are therefore not subject to registration or regulation as a pool operator under the CEA. In order to claim the Rule 4.5 exemption, the Fund is significantly limited in its ability to invest in commodity futures, options, and swaps (including securities futures, broad-based stock index futures, and financial futures contracts). These limitations may have a negative impact on the ability of the Adviser to manage the Fund, and on the Fund's performance.

In addition to the margin restrictions discussed above, transactions in futures contracts may involve the segregation of funds pursuant to requirements imposed by the SEC. Under those requirements, where the Fund has a long position in a futures contract, it may be required to establish a segregated account (not with a futures commission merchant or broker, except as may be permitted under SEC rules) containing cash or certain liquid assets equal to the purchase price of the contract (less any margin on deposit). For a short position in futures or forward contracts held by the Fund, those requirements may mandate the establishment of a segregated account (not with a futures commission merchant or broker, except as may be permitted under SEC rules) with cash or certain liquid assets that, when added to the amounts deposited as margin, equal the market value of the instruments underlying the futures contracts (but are not less than the price at which the short positions were established). However, segregation of assets is not required if the Fund "covers" a long position. For example, instead of segregating assets, the Fund, when holding a long position in a futures contract, could purchase a put option on the same futures contract with a strike price as high as or higher than the price of the contract held by the Fund. In addition, where the Fund takes short positions, or engages in sales of call options, it need not segregate assets if it "covers" these positions. For example, where the Fund holds a short position in a futures contract, it may cover by owning the instruments underlying the contract. The Fund may also cover such a position by holding a call option permitting it to purchase the same futures contract at a price no higher than the price at which the short position was established. When the Fund sells a call option on a futures contract, it may cover either by entering into a long position in the same contract at a price no higher than the strike price of the call option or by owning the instruments underlying the futures contract. The Fund could also cover this position by holding a separate call option permitting it to purchase the same futures contract at a price no higher than the strike price of the call option sold by the Fund.

In addition, the extent to which the Fund may enter into transactions involving futures contracts may be limited by the Code's requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company and the Fund's intention to qualify as such.

Risk Factors in Future Transactions. Positions in futures contracts may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for such futures. However, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular futures contract at any specific time. Thus, it may not be possible to close a futures position. In the event of adverse price movements, the Fund would continue to be required to make daily cash payments to maintain the required margin. In such situations, if the Fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell portfolio securities to meet daily margin requirements at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. In addition, the Fund may be required to make delivery of the instruments underlying futures contracts it holds. The inability to close options and futures positions also could have an adverse impact on the ability to effectively hedge them. The Fund will minimize the risk that it will be unable to close out a futures contract by only entering into futures contracts which are traded on national futures exchanges and for which there appears to be a liquid secondary market.

The risk of loss in trading futures contracts in some strategies can be substantial, due both to the low margin deposits required and the extremely high degree of leverage involved in futures pricing. Because the deposit requirements in the futures markets are less onerous than margin requirements in the securities market, there may be increased participation by speculators in the futures market which may also cause temporary price distortions. A relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in immediate and substantial

loss (as well as gain) to the investor. For example, if at the time of purchase, 10% of the value of the futures contract is deposited as margin, a subsequent 10% decrease in the value of the futures contract would result in a total loss of the margin deposit, before any deduction for the transaction costs, if the account were then closed out. A 15% decrease would result in a loss equal to 150% of the original margin deposit if the contract were closed out. Thus, a purchase or sale of a futures contract may result in losses in excess of the amount invested in the contract. However, because the futures strategies engaged in by the Fund are only for hedging purposes, it is expected that the Fund is generally not subject to risks of loss exceeding those that would be undertaken if, instead of the futures contract, it had invested in the underlying financial instrument and sold it after the decline.

Utilization of futures transactions by the Fund involves the risk of imperfect or no correlation where the securities underlying futures contract have different maturities than the portfolio securities being hedged. It is also possible that the Fund could both lose money on futures contracts and also experience a decline in value of its portfolio securities. There is also the risk of loss by the Fund of margin deposits in the event of bankruptcy of a broker with whom the Fund has an open position in a futures contract or related option.

*Options*. The Fund may purchase and sell put and call options on their portfolio securities to enhance investment performance and to protect against changes in market prices.

<u>Covered Call Options</u>. The Fund may write covered call options on its securities to realize a greater current return through the receipt of premiums than it would realize on its securities alone. Such option transactions may also be used as a limited form of hedging against a decline in the price of securities owned by the Fund.

A call option gives the holder the right to purchase, and obligates the writer to sell, a security at the exercise price at any time before the expiration date. A call option is "covered" if the writer, at all times while obligated as a writer, either owns the underlying securities (or comparable securities satisfying the cover requirements of the securities exchanges) or has the right to acquire such securities through immediate conversion of securities.

In return for the premium received when it writes a covered call option, the Fund gives up some or all of the opportunity to profit from an increase in the market price of the securities covering the call option during the life of the option. The Fund retains the risk of loss should the price of such securities decline. If the option expires unexercised, the Fund realizes a gain equal to the premium, which may be offset by a decline in price of the underlying security. If the option is exercised, the Fund realizes a gain or loss equal to the difference between the Fund's cost for the underlying security and the proceeds of sale (exercise price minus commissions) plus the amount of the premium.

The Fund may terminate a call option that it has written before it expires by entering into a closing purchase transaction. The Fund may enter into closing purchase transactions in order to free itself to sell the underlying security or to write another call on the security, realize a profit on a previously written call option, or protect a security from being called in an unexpected market rise. Any profits from a closing purchase transaction may be offset by a decline in the value of the underlying security. Conversely, because increases in the market price of a call option will generally reflect increases in the market price of the underlying security, any loss resulting from a closing purchase transaction is likely to be offset in whole or in part by unrealized appreciation of the underlying security owned by the Fund.

<u>Covered Put Options.</u> The Fund may write covered put options in order to enhance its current return. Such options transactions may also be used as a limited form of hedging against an increase in the price of securities that the Fund plans to purchase. A put option gives the holder the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, a security at the exercise price at any time before the expiration date. A put option is "covered" if the writer segregates cash and high-grade short-term debt obligations or other permissible collateral equal to the price to be paid if the option is exercised.

In addition to the receipt of premiums and the potential gains from terminating such options in closing purchase transactions, the Fund also receives interest on the cash and debt securities maintained to cover the exercise

price of the option. By writing a put option, the Fund assumes the risk that it may be required to purchase the underlying security for an exercise price higher than its then current market value, resulting in a potential capital loss unless the security later appreciates in value.

The Fund may terminate a put option that it has written before it expires by a closing purchase transaction. Any loss from this transaction may be partially or entirely offset by the premium received on the terminated option.

<u>Purchasing Put and Call Options.</u> The Fund may also purchase put options to protect portfolio holdings against a decline in market value. This protection lasts for the life of the put option because the Fund, as a holder of the option, may sell the underlying security at the exercise price regardless of any decline in its market price. In order for a put option to be profitable, the market price of the underlying security must decline sufficiently below the exercise price to cover the premium and transaction costs that the Fund must pay. These costs will reduce any profit the Fund might have realized had it sold the underlying security instead of buying the put option.

The Fund may purchase call options to hedge against an increase in the price of securities that the Fund wants ultimately to buy. Such hedge protection is provided during the life of the call option since the Fund, as holder of the call option, is able to buy the underlying security at the exercise price regardless of any increase in the underlying security's market price. In order for a call option to be profitable, the market price of the underlying security must rise sufficiently above the exercise price to cover the premium and transaction costs. These costs will reduce any profit the Fund might have realized had it bought the underlying security at the time it purchased the call option.

The Fund may also purchase put and call options to attempt to enhance its current return.

Options on Foreign Securities. The Fund may purchase and sell options on foreign securities if the Adviser believes that the investment characteristics of such options, including the risks of investing in such options, are consistent with the Fund's investment objectives. It is expected that risks related to such options will not differ materially from risks related to options on U.S. securities. However, position limits and other rules of foreign exchanges may differ from those in the United States. In addition, options markets in some countries, many of which are relatively new, may be less liquid than comparable markets in the United States.

<u>Risks Involved in the Sale of Options</u>. Options transactions involve certain risks, including the risks that the Adviser will not forecast interest rate or market movements correctly, that the Fund may be unable at times to close out such positions, or that hedging transactions may not accomplish their purpose because of imperfect market correlations. The successful use of these strategies depends on the ability of the Adviser to forecast market and interest rate movements correctly.

An exchange-listed option may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for an option of the same series. There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an exchange will exist for any particular option or at any particular time. If no secondary market were to exist, it would be impossible to enter into a closing transaction to close out an option position. As a result, the Fund may be forced to continue to hold, or to purchase at a fixed price, a security on which it has sold an option at a time when the Adviser believes it is inadvisable to do so.

Higher than anticipated trading activity or order flow or other unforeseen events might cause The Options Clearing Corporation or an exchange to institute special trading procedures or restrictions that might restrict the Fund's use of options. The exchanges have established limitations on the maximum number of calls and puts of each class that may be held or written by an investor or group of investors acting in concert. It is possible that the Trust and other clients of the Adviser may be considered such a group. These position limits may restrict the Fund's ability to purchase or sell options on particular securities.

Options which are not traded on national securities exchanges may be closed out only with the other party to the option transaction. For that reason, it may be more difficult to close out unlisted options than listed options. Furthermore, unlisted options are not subject to the protection afforded purchasers of listed options by The Options Clearing Corporation.

Government regulations, particularly the requirements for qualification as a "regulated investment company" under the Code, may also restrict the Fund's use of options.

Special Expiration Price Options. The Fund may purchase over-the-counter ("OTC") puts and calls with respect to specified securities ("special expiration price options") pursuant to which the Fund in effect may create a custom index relating to a particular industry or sector that the Adviser believes will increase or decrease in value generally as a group. In exchange for a premium, the counterparty, whose performance is guaranteed by a broker-dealer, agrees to purchase (or sell) a specified number of shares of a particular stock at a specified price and further agrees to cancel the option at a specified price that decreases straight line over the term of the option. Thus, the value of the special expiration price option is comprised of the market value of the applicable underlying security relative to the option exercise price and the value of the remaining premium. However, if the value of the underlying security increases (or decreases) by a pre-negotiated amount, the special expiration price option is canceled and becomes worthless. A portion of the dividends during the term of the option are applied to reduce the exercise price if the options are exercised. Brokerage commissions and other transaction costs will reduce the Fund's profits if the special expiration price options are exercised. The Fund will not purchase special expiration price options with respect to more than 10% of the value of its net assets and will limit premiums paid for such options in accordance with state securities laws.

<u>LEAPS</u>. The Fund may purchase certain long-term exchange-traded equity options called Long-Term Equity Anticipation Securities ("LEAPS"). LEAPS provide a holder the opportunity to participate in the underlying securities' appreciation in excess of a fixed dollar amount. The Fund will not purchase these options with respect to more than 10% of the value of its net assets.

LEAPS are long-term call options that allow holders the opportunity to participate in the underlying securities' appreciation in excess of a specified strike price, without receiving payments equivalent to any cash dividends declared on the underlying securities. A LEAPS holder will be entitled to receive a specified number of shares of the underlying stock upon payment of the exercise price, and therefore the LEAPS will be exercisable at any time the price of the underlying stock is above the strike price. However, if at expiration the price of the underlying stock is at or below the strike price, the LEAPS will expire worthless.

Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs"). The Fund may invest in REITs. REITs are pooled investment vehicles that invest primarily in either real estate or real estate related loans. Like Regulated Investment Companies ("RICs") such as the Fund, REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided that they comply with certain requirements under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). The Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any expenses paid by REITs in which it invests in addition to the Fund's own expenses. REITs involve certain unique risks in addition to those risks associated with investing in the real estate industry in general (such as possible declines in the value of real estate, lack of availability of mortgage funds, or extended vacancies of property). REITs are generally classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs, or a combination of equity and mortgage REITs. Equity REITs invest the majority of their assets directly in real property and derive income primarily from the collection of rents. Equity REITs can also realize capital gains by selling properties that have appreciated in value. Mortgage REITs invest the majority of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive income from the collection of interest payments. Equity REITs may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the REITs, while mortgage REITs may be affected by the risk of borrower default. REITs, and mortgage REITs in particular, are also subject to interest rate risk.

Mortgage REITs receive principal and interest payments from the owners of the mortgaged properties. Accordingly, mortgage REITs are subject to the credit risk of the borrowers to whom they extend credit. Credit

risk refers to the possibility that the borrower will be unable and/or unwilling to make timely interest payments and/or repay the principal on the loan to a mortgage REIT when due. Mortgage REITs are subject to significant interest rate risk. When the general level of interest rates goes up, the value of a mortgage REIT's investment in fixed rate obligations goes down. When the general level of interest rates goes down, the value of a mortgage REIT's investment in fixed rate obligations goes up. Mortgage REITs typically use leverage, and many are highly leveraged, which exposes them to leverage risk. Leverage risk refers to the risk that leverage created from borrowing may impair a mortgage REIT's liquidity, cause it to liquidate positions at an unfavorable time and increase the volatility of the values of securities issued by the mortgage REIT. Mortgage REITs are subject to prepayment risk, which is the risk that borrowers may prepay their mortgage loans at faster than expected rates. Prepayment rates generally increase when interest rates fall and decrease when interest rates rise. These faster than expected payments may adversely affect a mortgage REIT's profitability because the mortgage REIT may be forced to replace investments that have been redeemed or repaid early with other investments having a lower yield. Additionally, rising interest rates may cause the duration of a mortgage REIT's investments to be longer than anticipated and increase such investments' interest rate sensitivity.

REITs are dependent upon their operators' management skills, are generally not diversified (except to the extent the Code requires) and are subject to heavy cash flow dependency and the risk of default by borrowers. REITs are also subject to the possibility of failing to qualify for tax-free pass-through of income under the Code or failing to maintain their exemptions from registration under the 1940 Act. REITs may have limited financial resources, may trade less frequently and in a limited volume, and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements than more widely held securities.

The Fund's investment in a REIT may result in the Fund making distributions that constitute a return of capital to Fund shareholders for federal income tax purposes or may require the Fund to accrue and distribute income not yet received. In addition, distributions attributable to REITs made by the Fund to Fund shareholders will not qualify for the corporate dividends-received deduction, or, generally, for treatment as qualified dividend income.

**ReFlow Liquidity Program.** The Fund participates in the ReFlow Fund, LLC ("ReFlow") liquidity program. ReFlow operates an auction program (the "Auction Program") through which it makes a source of capital available to participating funds (like the Fund) to allow participating funds to satisfy some or all of their daily net redemption requests. This program is designed to provide an alternative liquidity source to funds on days where redemptions of fund shares exceed purchases. ReFlow makes the Auction Program available to eligible funds on an investment blind basis, meaning that ReFlow stands ready to purchase shares of participating funds that submit successful bids without regard to their investment objectives or performance.

The Fund has determined to make its Institutional Class shares available for purchase by ReFlow through the Auction Program. With respect to shares purchased through the Auction Program, ReFlow will not be subject to any investment minimum applicable to such shares. There is no assurance that, on any given day, either the Fund will be successful during the Auction, or that ReFlow will have sufficient funds available to meet the Fund's needs.

Following purchases of Fund shares, ReFlow then generally redeems those shares when the Fund experiences net sales, at the end of a maximum holding period determined by ReFlow (currently 8 days) or at other times at ReFlow's discretion. While ReFlow holds Fund shares, it will have the same rights and privileges with respect to those shares as any other shareowner. For use of the ReFlow service, a participating fund pays a fee to ReFlow each time it purchases fund shares, calculated by applying to the purchase amount a fee rate determined through an automated daily auction among other participating mutual funds seeking liquidity that day. The current minimum fee rate is 0.14% of the value of the Fund shares purchased by ReFlow although the Fund may submit a higher bid. The actual fee rate that may be charged to the Fund may therefore be higher than 0.14%. The costs to the Fund for participating in the Auction Program are expected to be influenced by and comparable to the costs of other sources of liquidity, such as the Fund's short-term lending arrangements or the costs of

selling portfolio securities to meet redemptions. Such a fee is allocated among the Fund's share classes based on relative net assets.

In accordance with federal securities laws, ReFlow is prohibited from acquiring more than 3% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. ReFlow will periodically redeem its entire share position in the Fund and may request that any redemption of shares purchased through the Auction Program be met in-kind in accordance with the Fund's ReFlow in-kind redemption policies. If the Fund redeems Reflow shares in-kind, it is anticipated that the use of the program will reduce a Fund's realization of capital gains.

When purchasing Institutional shares of the Fund, ReFlow is not subject to the Fund's investment minimum or redemption fee. In addition, investments in the Fund by ReFlow are not subject to the Fund's policy regarding excessive trading described under "Tools to Combat Frequent Transactions" in the Prospectus.

## INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

The Trust (on behalf of the Fund) has adopted the following restrictions as fundamental policies, which may not be changed without the affirmative vote of the holders of a "majority" of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Under the 1940 Act, the "vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities" means the vote of the holders of the lesser of (1) 67% or more of the shares of the Fund represented at a meeting at which the holders of more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding shares are represented or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

As a matter of fundamental policy, the Fund may not:

- 1. Borrow money or issue senior securities, except through reverse repurchase agreements or otherwise as permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted, modified, or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority. Generally, issuing senior securities is prohibited under the 1940 Act; however, certain exceptions apply such as in the case of reverse repurchase agreements, borrowing, and certain other leveraging transactions. For purposes of this limitation, entering into repurchase agreements, lending securities, and acquiring any debt security are not deemed to be the making of loans;
- 2. Act as underwriter (except to the extent the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter in connection with the sale of securities in its investment portfolio);
- 3. Invest 25% or more of its net assets, calculated at the time of purchase and taken at market value, in securities of issuers in any one industry or groups of industries (other than U.S. government securities);
- 4. Purchase or sell real estate, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities (although the Fund may purchase and sell securities that are secured by real estate and securities of companies that invest or deal in real estate);
- 5. Purchase or sell physical commodities, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments. This limitation shall not prevent the Fund from purchasing, selling, or entering into futures contracts, or acquiring securities or other instruments and options thereon backed by, or related to, physical commodities; or
- 6. Make loans (except purchases of debt securities consistent with the investment policies of the Fund). For purposes of this limitation, entering into repurchase agreements, lending securities, and acquiring any debt security are not deemed to be the making of loans.

Except with respect to borrowing, if a percentage or rating restriction on investment or use of assets set forth herein or in the Prospectus is adhered to at the time a transaction is effected, later changes in the percentage or rating resulting from any cause other than actions by the Fund will not be considered a violation of the Fund's investment restrictions.

## PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

Although the Fund generally will not invest for short-term trading purposes, portfolio securities may be sold without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Adviser, investment considerations warrant such action. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing (1) the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for a fiscal year by (2) the monthly average of the value of portfolio securities owned during such fiscal year. A 100% turnover rate would occur if all the securities in the Fund's portfolio, with the exception of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less, were sold and either repurchased or replaced within one year. A high rate of portfolio turnover (100% or more) generally leads to higher transaction costs and may result in a greater number of taxable transactions. The Fund's portfolio turnover rates for the fiscal years ended July 31 are shown in the table below. (See "Execution of Portfolio Transactions".)

	Fiscal Year Ended July 31,		
	2024	2023	
Portfolio Turnover Rate	5%	2%	

## PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

The Trust, on behalf of the Fund, has adopted a portfolio holdings disclosure policy that governs the timing and circumstances of disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Fund. The Adviser has also adopted a policy with respect to disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Fund (the "Adviser's Policy"). Information about the Fund's portfolio holdings will not be distributed to any third party except in accordance with the Trust's portfolio holdings disclosure policy and the Adviser's Policy (the "Disclosure Policies"). The Adviser and the Board considered the circumstances under which the Fund's portfolio holdings may be disclosed under the Disclosure Policies and the actual and potential material conflicts that could arise in such circumstances between the interests of the Fund's shareholders and the interests of the Adviser, distributor, or any other affiliated person of the Fund, the Adviser, or the distributor. After due consideration, the Adviser and the Board determined that the Fund has a legitimate business purpose for disclosing portfolio holdings to persons described in the Disclosure Policies, including mutual fund rating or statistical agencies, or persons performing similar functions, and internal parties involved in the investment process, administration, or custody of the Fund. Pursuant to the Disclosure Policies, the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"), President, and Treasurer are each authorized to consider and authorize dissemination of portfolio holdings information to additional third parties, after considering the best interests of the Fund shareholders and potential conflicts of interest in making such disclosures.

The Board exercises continuing oversight of the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio holdings by: (1) overseeing the implementation and enforcement of the Disclosure Policies, Codes of Ethics, and other relevant policies of the Fund and its service providers by the Trust's CCO, (2) by considering reports and recommendations by the Trust's CCO concerning any material compliance matters (as defined in Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act), and (3) by considering to approve any amendment to the Disclosure Policies. The Board reserves the right to amend the Disclosure Policies at any time without prior notice to shareholders in its sole discretion.

The Fund publicly discloses its portfolio holdings on a quarterly basis by way of filings with the SEC on Form N-PORT; information reported on Form N-PORT is made publicly available 60 days after the end of each quarter. The Fund also publicly discloses its portfolio holdings in its shareholder reports, which are filed with the SEC within 70 days after the end of the second and fourth quarters and are available to the public on the Fund's website. The Fund discloses its top ten calendar quarter-end portfolio holdings on its website at www.akrefund.com within 30 days after the quarter-end. The top ten calendar quarter-end portfolio holdings for the Fund will remain posted on the website until the following calendar quarter-end portfolio holdings are posted. Portfolio holdings information posted on the Fund's website may be separately provided to any person, commencing on the day after it is first published on the Fund's website. In addition, the Fund may provide its complete portfolio holdings information at the same time that it is filed with the SEC.

In the event of a conflict between the interests of the Fund and the interests of Adviser or an affiliated person of the Adviser, the CCO of the Adviser, in consultation with the Trust's CCO, shall make a determination in the best interests of the Fund and shall report such determination to the Board at the end of the quarter in which such determination was made. Any employee of the Adviser who suspects a breach of this obligation must report the matter immediately to the Adviser's CCO or to his or her supervisor.

In addition, material non-public holdings information may be provided without lag as part of the normal investment activities of the Fund to each of the following entities, which, by explicit agreement or by virtue of their respective duties to the Fund, are required to maintain the confidentiality of the information disclosed, including a duty not to trade on non-public information: the fund administrator, fund accountant, custodian, transfer agent, auditors, counsel to the Adviser and the Fund or the Board, broker-dealers (in connection with the purchase or sale of securities or requests for price quotations or bids on one or more securities), and regulatory authorities. Portfolio holdings information not publicly available with the SEC or through the Fund's website may only be provided to additional third parties, including mutual fund ratings or statistical agencies, in accordance with the Disclosure Policies, when the Fund has a legitimate business purpose and the third party recipient is subject to a confidentiality agreement that includes a duty not to trade on non-public information.

In no event shall the Adviser, its affiliates or employees, the Fund, or any other party receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio holdings.

There can be no assurance that the Disclosure Policies will protect the Fund from potential misuse of portfolio holdings information by individuals or entities to which it is disclosed.

From time to time, the Adviser may make additional disclosure of the Fund's portfolio holdings on the Fund's website. Shareholders can access the Fund's website at www.akrefund.com for additional information about the Fund, including, without limitation, the periodic disclosure of its portfolio holdings.

## TRUSTEES AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Board is responsible for the overall management of the Trust, including general supervision and review of the investment activities of the Fund. The Board, in turn, elects the officers of the Trust, who are responsible for administering the day-to-day operations of the Trust and its separate series. The current trustees and officers of the Trust, their year of birth, positions with the Trust, terms of office with the Trust and length of time served, their principal occupations for the past five years and other directorships are set forth in the table below.

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position with the Trust <sup>(1)</sup>	Term of Office <sup>(2)</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex <sup>(3)</sup> Overseen by Trustees	Other Directorships Held During the Past 5 Years
		Indepen	dent Trustees of the Trust		
Kathleen T. Barr (born 1955) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee Chairperson	Indefinite Term; Since November 2018. Indefinite Term; Since February 2023.	Retired; Former Chair of the Governing Council, Independent Directors Council (since 2020); formerly, President, owner of a registered investment adviser, Productive Capital Management, Inc. (2010 to 2013); formerly, Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Vice President and Senior Managing Director of Allegiant Asset Management Company (merged with PNC Capital Advisors, LLC in 2009); formerly, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Senior Vice President of PNC Funds and PNC Advantage Funds (f/k/a Allegiant Funds) (registered investment companies).	1	Independent Director, Muzinich Corporate Lending Income Fund, Inc. (2023 to present); Independent Director, Muzinich BDC, Inc. (2019 to present); Independent Trustee for the William Blair Funds (2013 to present) (18 series).
Eric W. Falkeis (born 1973) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since September 2011.	Chief Operating Officer, Tidal Financial Group (2024 to present); formerly, Chief Growth Officer, Tidal Financial Group (2022 to 2023); Chief Executive Officer, Tidal ETF Services LLC (2018 to present); formerly, Chief Operating Officer, Direxion Funds (2013 to 2018); formerly, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (and other positions), U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (1997 to 2013).	1	Independent Director, Muzinich Corporate Lending Income Fund, Inc. (2023 to present); Interested Trustee, Tidal Trust II (2022 to present) (41 series); Independent Director, Muzinich BDC, Inc. (2019 to present); Interested Trustee, Tidal ETF Trust I (2018 to Present) (40 series); Former Interested Trustee, Direxion Funds (36 series), Direxion Shares ETF Trust (112 series) and Direxion Insurance Trust (2013 to 2018).
Steven J. Paggioli (born 1950) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since May 1991.	Consultant; formerly, Executive Vice President, Investment Company Administration, LLC (mutual fund administrator).	1	Independent Director, Muzinich Corporate Lending Income Fund, Inc. (2023 to present); Independent Director, Muzinich BDC, Inc. (2019 to present); Independent Trustee, AMG Funds (1993 to present) (42 series).

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position with the Trust <sup>(1)</sup>	Term of Office <sup>(2)</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex <sup>(3)</sup> Overseen by Trustees	Other Directorships Held During the Past 5 Years	
Ashi S. Parikh (born 1966) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since June 2020.	President and Chief Investment Officer, Venturi Private Wealth (investment management firm) (2022 to present); formerly, Chief Executive and Chief Investment Officer and various other positions, RidgeWorth Investments, LLC (global investment management firm) (2006 to 2017); formerly, Chief Investment Officer Institutional Growth Equities, Eagle Asset Management (investment management firm); formerly Sr. Managing Director, Growth Equities, Banc One Investment Advisors (investment management firm).	1	Board of Directors Member, Investment Working Group, The Ohio State University Endowments and Foundation (2016 to present); Board of Directors, World Methodist Council, Investment Committee (2018 to present); Independent Trustee, PNC Funds (2018 to 2019) (32 series); Interested Trustee, RidgeWorth Funds (2014 to 2017) (35 series).	
Cynthia M. Fornelli (born 1960) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since January 2022.	Independent Director of TriplePoint Venture Growth BDC Corp. (2019 to present); Retired; formerly, Executive Director of the Center for Audit Quality (2007-2019); formerly, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Conflicts Management at Bank of America (2005-2007); formerly, Deputy Director, Division of Investment Management with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (1998-2005).	1	Independent Director, TriplePoint Private Venture Credit, Inc. (2020 to present).	
Officers of the Trust						
Jason F. Hadler (born 1975) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	President & Principal Executive Officer	Indefinite Term; Since September 2021.	Senior Vice President and Head of Client Experience, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since March 2022; Senior Vice President and Head of Fund Services Fund Administration Department, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (December 2003- March 2022).	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.	

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position with the Trust <sup>(1)</sup>	Term of Office <sup>(2)</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex <sup>(3)</sup> Overseen by Trustees	Other Directorships Held During the Past 5 Years
Elaine E. Richards (born 1968) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Secretary & Vice President	Indefinite Term; Since September 2024.	Senior Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since July 2007.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Craig Benton (born 1985) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Treasurer & Vice President	Indefinite Term; Since December 2021.	Assistant Treasurer of the Trust (2016-2021); Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since November 2007.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Nicholas A. Moll (born 1998) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Since November 2024.	Mutual Funds Administrator, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since December 2022.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Kathryn E. LaPlante Johnson (born 1998) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Since November 2023.	Mutual Funds Administrator, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since June 2020; Business Administration Student, 2017-2021.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Gazala Khan (born 1969) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Chief Compliance Officer Anti-Money Laundering Officer	Indefinite Term; Since November 2022.	Vice President and Compliance Officer, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since July 2022; Chief Compliance Officer Matthews Asia Fund (May 2019-July 15, 2022); Chief Compliance Officer GS Trust/VIT (June 2009-May 2019); Vice President GSAM (May 2005-June 2009); Staff Accountant, SEC Office of Compliance Inspection and Examination (1999-2005).	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.

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

Under the terms of the Board's retirement policy, a Trustee shall retire at the end of the calendar year in which he or she reaches the age of 78.

(3) The Trust is comprised of numerous series managed by unaffiliated investment advisers. The term "Fund Complex" applies to the Fund. The Fund does not hold itself out as related to any other series within the Trust for purposes of investment and investor services, nor does it share the same investment adviser with any other series.

## **Additional Information Concerning the Board of Trustees**

The Role of the Board

The Board oversees the management and operations of the Trust. Like all mutual funds, the day-to-day management and operation of the Trust is the responsibility of the various service providers to the Trust, such as the Adviser, the Distributor, the Administrator, the Custodian, and the Transfer Agent, each of whom is discussed in greater detail in this Statement of Additional Information. The Board has appointed various senior employees of the Administrator as officers of the Trust, with responsibility to monitor and report to the Board on the Trust's operations. In conducting this oversight, the Board receives regular reports from these officers and the service providers. For example, the Treasurer reports as to financial reporting matters and the President reports as to matters relating to the Trust's operations. In addition, the Adviser provides regular reports on the investment strategy and performance of the Fund. The Board has appointed a Chief Compliance Officer who administers the Trust's compliance program and regularly reports to the Board as to compliance matters. These reports are provided as part of formal "Board Meetings" which are typically held quarterly, in person, and involve the Board's review of recent operations. In addition, various members of the Board also meet with management in less formal settings, between formal "Board Meetings," to discuss various topics. In all cases, however, the role of the Board and of any individual Trustee is one of oversight and not of management of the day-to-day affairs of the Trust and its oversight role does not make the Board a guarantor of the Trust's investments, operations or activities.

## Board Structure, Leadership

The Board has structured itself in a manner that it believes allows it to perform its oversight function effectively. It has established three standing committees, a Nominating and Governance Committee, an Audit Committee, and a Qualified Legal Compliance Committee, which are discussed in greater detail below under "Trust Committees." The Board is entirely comprised of Trustees who are Independent Trustees, which are Trustees that are not affiliated with the Adviser, the principal underwriter, or their affiliates. The Independent Trustees have engaged their own independent counsel to advise them on matters relating to their responsibilities in connection with the Trust. The Nominating and Governance Committee, Audit Committee and Qualified Legal Compliance Committee are comprised of all of the Independent Trustees. The Chairperson of the Board is an Independent Trustee. The Trust has appointed Kathleen Barr, an Independent Trustee, as Chairperson of the Board, and she acts as a liaison with the Trust's service providers, officers, legal counsel, and other Trustees between meetings, helps to set Board meeting agendas, and serves as Chairperson during executive sessions of the Independent Trustees. The Board has determined not to combine the Chairperson position and the principal executive officer position and has appointed a Vice President of the Administrator as the President of the Trust, who routinely interacts with the unaffiliated investment advisers of the Trust and comprehensively manages the operational aspects of the funds in the Trust. The Board reviews its structure and the structure of its committees annually. The Board has determined that the structure of the Independent Chairperson, the composition of the Board, and the function and composition of its various committees are appropriate means to address any potential conflicts of interest that may arise.

Board Oversight of Risk Management

As part of its oversight function, the Board receives and reviews various risk management reports and discusses these matters with appropriate management and other personnel. Because risk management is a broad concept comprised of many elements (e.g., investment risk, issuer and counterparty risk, compliance risk, operational risks, business continuity risks, etc.), the oversight of different types of risks is handled in different ways. For example, the Audit Committee meets with the Treasurer and the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm to discuss, among other things, the internal control structure of the Trust's financial reporting function. The Board meets regularly with the Chief Compliance Officer to discuss compliance and operational

risks and how they are managed. The Board also receives reports from the Adviser as to investment risks of the Fund. In addition to these reports, from time to time the Board receives reports from the Administrator and the Adviser as to enterprise risk management.

Information about Each Trustee's Qualification, Experience, Attributes, or Skills

The Board believes that each of the Trustees has the qualifications, experience, attributes and skills ("Trustee Attributes") appropriate to their continued service as Trustees of the Trust in light of the Trust's business and structure. In addition to a demonstrated record of business and/or professional accomplishment, each of the Trustees has served on the Board for a number of years. They have substantial board experience and, in their service to the Trust, have gained substantial insight as to the operation of the Trust. They have demonstrated a commitment to discharging their oversight duties as trustees in the interests of shareholders. The Board annually conducts a "self-assessment" wherein the effectiveness of the Board and individual Trustees is reviewed.

In addition to the information provided in the chart above, below is certain additional information concerning each particular Trustee and his/her Trustee Attributes. The information is not all-inclusive. Many Trustee Attributes involve intangible elements, such as intelligence, integrity, work ethic, the ability to work together, the ability to communicate effectively, the ability to exercise judgment, to ask incisive questions, and commitment to shareholder interests.

Ms. Barr's Trustee Attributes include her substantial mutual fund experience, including her role as Chair of the Governing Council for the Independent Directors Council and member of the ICI Board of Governors. She has executive experience as the former owner of a registered investment adviser (Productive Capital Management, Inc.), as the Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Vice President and Senior Managing Director of Allegiant Asset Management Company (merged with PNC Capital Advisors LLC in 2009), and as the Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Senior Vice President of PNC Funds and PNC Advantage Funds (f/k/a Allegiant Funds). Ms. Barr also currently serves on the board of several registered investment companies. Ms. Barr has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Ms. Barr's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees led to the conclusion that she possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Mr. Falkeis' Trustee Attributes include his substantial ETF and mutual fund experience and his experience with financial, accounting, investment and regulatory matters through his former position as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (and other positions) of U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, a full-service provider to ETFs, mutual funds and alternative investment products. Mr. Falkeis currently serves as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer of Tidal ETF Services LLC, (2018 to present), formerly, Chief Growth Officer of Tidal Financial Group, and he has experience consulting with investment advisers regarding the legal structure of investment companies, distribution channel analysis, marketing and actual distribution of those funds. Mr. Falkeis also has substantial managerial, operational and risk oversight experience through his former positions as Chief Operating Officer and Trustee of the Direxion Funds and the Direxion Exchange Traded Funds. Mr. Falkeis has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Mr. Falkeis' experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees led to the conclusion that he possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Mr. Paggioli's Trustee Attributes include his substantial mutual fund and investment advisory experience. Mr. Paggioli is an independent consultant on investment company and investment advisory matters. He has held a number of senior positions with mutual fund and investment advisory organizations and related businesses, including Executive Vice President, Director and Principal of the Wadsworth Group (fund administration, distribution transfer agency and accounting services). He serves on the boards of several investment management companies and advisory firms. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Investment Company Institute and of the Governing Council of the Independent Directors Council. He has served on various industry association and self-regulatory committees and formerly worked on the staff of the SEC. Mr.

Paggioli has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Mr. Paggioli's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees led to the conclusion that he possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Mr. Parikh's Trustee Attributes include his substantial investment and executive experience in the asset management industry, including his position as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of RidgeWorth Investments (global investment management firm with over \$41 billion in assets). He has also served as a Trustee of several investment trusts (including private investment trusts). Mr. Parikh has ongoing responsibility as a member of the Investment Working Group as part of the Board of Directors for the Ohio State University Endowments & Foundation, as well as an ongoing position as a member of the Investment Committee for the World Methodist Council Endowment Fund (a charitable religious foundation). Mr. Parikh has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Mr. Parikh possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Ms. Fornelli's Trustee Attributes include her substantial governance, legal, regulatory and business experience, including her role as an Independent Director of TriplePoint Venture Growth BDC Corp and TriplePoint Private Venture Credit, Inc. She has broad leadership experience in strategy formulation, corporate governance and risk management. She has executive experience as the Executive Director of Center for Audit Quality (2007-2019), Senior Vice President of Regulatory and Conflicts Management at Bank of America (2005-2007) and Deputy Director, Division of Investment Management with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (1998-2005). Ms. Fornelli has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Ms. Fornelli's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees led to the conclusion that she possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

## **Trust Committees**

The Trust has three standing committees: the Nominating and Governance Committee, and the Audit Committee, which also serves as the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee ("QLCC").

The Nominating and Governance Committee, comprised of all of the Independent Trustees, is responsible for seeking and reviewing candidates for consideration as nominees for Trustees and meets only as necessary. The Nominating and Governance Committee is also responsible for, among other things, assisting the Board in its oversight of the Trust's compliance program under Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act, reviewing and making recommendations regarding Independent Trustee compensation and the Trustees' annual "self-assessment." The Nominating and Governance Committee has appointed Independent Trustee Eric Falkeis as the Chairperson of the Committee. The Nominating and Governance Committee will consider nominees nominated by shareholders. Recommendations for consideration by shareholders by the Nominating Committee should be sent to the President of the Trust in writing together with the appropriate biographical information concerning each such proposed Nominee, and such recommendation must comply with the notice provisions set forth in the Trust By-Laws. In general, to comply with such procedures, such nominations, together with all required biographical information, must be delivered to and received by the President of the Trust at the principal executive offices of the Trust not later than 120 days and no more than 150 days prior to the shareholder meeting at which any such nominee would be voted on. The Nominating and Governance Committee met one time during the Fund's last fiscal year with respect to the Fund.

The Audit Committee is comprised of all of the Independent Trustees. The Audit Committee has appointed Independent Trustee Cynthia Fornelli as the Chairperson of the Committee. The Audit Committee generally meets on a quarterly basis with respect to the various series of the Trust, and may meet more frequently. The function of the Audit Committee, with respect to each series of the Trust, is to review the scope and results of the audit of such series' financial statements and any matters bearing on the audit or the financial statements,

and to ensure the integrity of the series' pricing and financial reporting. The Audit Committee met one time with respect to the Fund during the Fund's last fiscal year.

The function of the QLCC is to receive reports from an attorney retained by the Trust of evidence of a material violation by the Trust or by any officer, director, employee or agent of the Trust. The QLCC did not meet during the Fund's last fiscal year with respect to the Fund.

# **Trustee Ownership of Fund Shares and Other Interests**

The following table shows the amount of shares in the Fund and the amount of shares in other portfolios of the Trust owned by the Trustees as of the calendar year ended December 31, 2023.

Name	Dollar Range of Fund Shares	Aggregate Dollar Range of Fund and other portfolio Shares in the Trust
Independent Trustees		
Kathleen T. Barr	\$10,001-\$50,000	\$10,001-\$50,000
Eric W. Falkeis	None	\$10,001-\$50,000
Steven J. Paggioli	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Ashi S. Parikh	None	Over \$100,000
Cynthia Fornelli	None	None

Furthermore, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate family own securities beneficially or of record in the Adviser, the Fund's principal underwriter, or any of their affiliates. Neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate family have had a direct or indirect interest during the two most recently completed calendar years, the value of which exceeds \$120,000, in the Adviser, the Fund's principal underwriter, or any of their affiliates.

## Compensation

Effective January 1, 2024, the Independent Trustees were due to receive an annual retainer of \$145,000 allocated among each of the various portfolios comprising the Trust, an additional \$8,000 per regularly scheduled Board meeting, and an additional \$3,500 per special meeting, paid by the Trust or applicable advisers/portfolios, as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with attendance at Board meetings. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee receives additional compensation of \$20,000 annually, the Chairperson of the Nominating and Governance Committee receives additional compensation of \$8,000 annually and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees receives additional compensation of \$30,000 annually, and such compensation is also allocated among each of the various portfolios comprising the Trust. Independent Trustees receive additional fees from the applicable portfolios for any special meetings at rates assessed by the Trustees depending on the length of the meeting and whether in-person attendance is required. All Trustees will be reimbursed for expenses in connection with each Board meeting attended, which reimbursement is allocated among applicable portfolios of the Trust. The Trust has no pension or retirement plan. No other entity affiliated with the Trust pays any compensation to the Trustees. Set forth below is the rate of compensation received by the following Independent Trustees for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2024.

Name of Person/Position	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from Fund and Fund Complex <sup>(1)</sup> Paid to Trustees
Kathleen T. Barr, Independent Trustee	\$53,388	None	None	\$53,388

Name of Person/Position	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from Fund and Fund Complex <sup>(1)</sup> Paid to Trustees
Eric W. Falkeis, Independent Trustee	\$54,530	None	None	\$54,530
Steve J. Paggioli, Independent Trustee	\$52,271	None	None	\$52,271
Ashi S. Parikh, Independent Trustee	\$52,271	None	None	\$52,271
Cynthia Fornelli, Independent Trustee	\$57,920	None	None	\$57,920

There are currently numerous unaffiliated portfolios comprising the Trust. The term "Fund Complex" applies only to the Fund. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2024, aggregate Trustees' fees of \$270,410 were incurred by the Trust.

## **Codes of Ethics**

The Trust and the Adviser have each adopted separate Codes of Ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act. These Codes permit, subject to certain conditions, access persons of the Adviser to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. The Distributor, as defined below, relies on the principal underwriter's exception in Rule 17j-1(c)(3) under the 1940 Act, specifically where the Distributor is not affiliated with the Trust or the Adviser, and no officer, director or general partner of the Distributor serves as an officer, director or general partner of the Trust or the Adviser.

## PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Board has adopted Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures ("Proxy Policies") on behalf of the Trust which delegate the responsibility for voting proxies to the Adviser, subject to the Board's continuing oversight. The Proxy Policies require that the Adviser vote proxies received in a manner consistent with the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. The Proxy Policies also require the Adviser to present to the Board, at least annually, the Adviser's Proxy Policies and a record of each proxy voted by the Adviser on behalf of the Fund, including a report on the resolution of all proxies identified by the Adviser as involving a conflict of interest.

The Adviser has adopted Proxy Voting Policies that underscore the Adviser's concern that all proxies voting decisions be made in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders. A copy of the Adviser's Proxy Voting Policies is attached as Appendix B.

The Trust is required to file a Form N-PX, with the Fund's complete proxy voting record for the 12 months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. Form N-PX for the Fund is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free 1-877-862-9556 and on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

# CONTROL PERSONS, PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS, AND MANAGEMENT OWNERSHIP

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially owns 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund. A control person is any person who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of the Fund or acknowledges the existence of control. As of October 31, 2024, the Trustees and Officers of the Trust as a group did not own more than 1% of the outstanding shares of the Fund. As of October 31, 2024, the following shareholders were considered to be either a control person or principal shareholder of the Fund, and may have a significant impact on matters submitted to a shareholder:

# **Principal Holders of Akre Focus Fund – Retail Shares**

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody Account FBO Customers Attn. Mutual Funds Dept. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	35.82%	Record
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Blvd., FL 4th Jersey City, NJ 07310-2010	30.13%	Record
Vanguard Brokerage Services P.O Box 1170 Valley Forge, PA 19482-1170	14.97%	Record

# **Principal Holders of Akre Focus Fund – Institutional Shares**

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership
National Financial Services, LLC 499 Washington Blvd., FL 4th Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	36.21%	Record
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody Account FBO Customers Attn. Mutual Funds Dept. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	36.09%	Record

# **Principal Holders of Akre Focus Fund – Supra Institutional Shares**

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership
Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. On Behalf of BBH Private Banking Private Client Omnibus Account 140 Broadway New York, NY 10005-1108	100.00%	Record

# **Control Persons of Akre Focus Fund**

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership
National Financial Services, LLC 499 Washington Blvd. Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	30.64%	Record
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody Account FBO Customers Attn. Mutual Funds Dept. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	32.67%	Record

## THE FUND'S INVESTMENT ADVISER

As stated in the Prospectus, investment advisory services are provided to the Fund by Akre Capital Management, LLC (the "Adviser"), located at 2 W. Marshall Street, Middleburg, Virginia 20117, pursuant to an Investment Advisory Agreement (the "Advisory Agreement"). Charles T. Akre, Jr., is indirectly the largest owner of the Adviser's voting interests and is the Manager and a control person of the Adviser.

The Advisory Agreement continues in effect from year-to-year only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities and by a majority of the Independent Trustees, who are not parties to the Advisory Agreement or interested persons of any such party, in each case cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Advisory Agreement. The Advisory Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on behalf of the Fund on not more than 60 days' nor less than 30 days' written notice to the Adviser when authorized either by a majority vote of the Fund's shareholders or by a vote of a majority of the Trustees, or by the Adviser on not more than 60 days' nor less than 30 days' written notice to the Trust, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment" (as defined in the 1940 Act). The Advisory Agreement provides that the Adviser shall not be liable under such agreement for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss arising out of any investment or for any act or omission in the execution of portfolio transactions for the Fund, except for willful misfeasance, bad faith, or gross negligence in the performance of its duties, or by reason of reckless disregard of its obligations and duties thereunder.

In consideration of the services provided by the Adviser pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser is entitled to receive from the Fund an investment advisory fee computed daily and paid monthly, based on a rate equal to 0.90% of the Fund's average daily net assets as specified in the Prospectus. However, the Adviser may voluntarily agree to reduce a portion of the fees payable to it on a month-to-month basis.

The Fund is responsible for its own operating expenses. The Adviser has contractually agreed to reduce fees and/or pay Fund expenses (excluding front-end or contingent deferred loads, taxes, leverage interest, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, or extraordinary expenses such as litigation, Rule 12b-1 fees, shareholder servicing fees, and any other class-specific expenses) in order to the limit Net Expenses for shares of the Fund to 1.04% (the "Expense Cap"). The current Expense Cap for the Fund will remain in effect through at least November 28, 2025, and may continue thereafter for an indefinite period, as determined by the Board. The Adviser is permitted to be reimbursed for fee reductions and/or expense payments made in the prior three years. Any such reimbursement is subject to the Board's review and approval. This reimbursement may be requested by the Adviser if the aggregate amount actually paid by the Fund toward operating expenses for such period (taking into account any reimbursement) does not exceed the lesser of the Expense Cap in place at the time of waiver or at the time of reimbursement. The Fund's accrued advisory fees and waived fees for the following fiscal years is shown in the table below.

	Fees Accrued	Fees Waived	Total Fees Paid to Adviser
Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2024	\$113,845,863	\$0	\$113,845,863
Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2023	\$115,572,704	\$0	\$115,572,704
Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2022	\$145,887,981	\$0	\$145,887,981

## Portfolio Manager

John H. Neff serves as Portfolio Manager of the Fund and is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. The following table provides information regarding other accounts managed by the Portfolio Manager as of July 31, 2024.

Name	Category of Account	Total Number of Accounts Managed	Total Assets in Accounts Managed	Number of Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance	Assets in Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance
John H. Neff					
	Other Registered Investment Companies	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	3	\$1.231 billion	3	\$1.231 billion
	Other Accounts	55	\$531.0 million	55	\$531.0 million

The compensation package for the Portfolio Manager is comprised of a base salary, discretionary bonus, distributions based on firm profitability, and performance-based fees from the private pooled funds managed by the Adviser.

The Adviser also manages numerous accounts for multiple clients. These accounts include other types of pooled accounts (*e.g.*, collective investment funds) and separate accounts (*i.e.*, accounts managed on behalf of individuals or public or private institutions). The Adviser makes investment decisions for each account based on the investment objectives and policies and other relevant investment considerations applicable to that portfolio. Even where multiple accounts are managed by the Adviser with a similar investment discipline, the Adviser may take action with respect to one account that may differ from the timing or nature of action taken, with respect to another account. Accordingly, the performance of each account managed by the Adviser will vary.

Conflicts of interest also may arise where some accounts managed by the Adviser have higher fees than the fees paid by other accounts. Because the compensation of the Portfolio Manager may be affected by revenues earned by the Adviser, the incentives associated with any given account may be significantly higher or lower than those associated with other accounts.

Because the Adviser performs investment management services for various clients, certain conflicts of interest could arise. The Adviser may give advice and take action with respect to its other clients and/or funds that may differ from advice given or the timing or nature of action taken with respect to the Fund. The Adviser will have no obligation to purchase or sell for the Fund, or to recommend for purchase or sale by the Fund, any security that the Adviser, its principals, its affiliates, or its employees may purchase for themselves or for other clients and/or funds at the same time or the same price. Where the Adviser buys or sells the same security for two or more clients, it may place concurrent orders with a single broker, to be executed together as a single "block" in order to facilitate orderly and efficient execution.

The Adviser has adopted and implemented policies and procedures, including brokerage and trade allocation policies and procedures, which it believes address the conflicts associated with managing multiple accounts for multiple clients. In addition, the Adviser monitors a variety of areas, including compliance with account investment guidelines and/or restrictions, the allocation of initial public offerings, and compliance with the Adviser's Code of Ethics and compliance program under the 1940 Act and Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended.

The following indicates the dollar range of beneficial ownership of shares by the Portfolio Manager as of July 31, 2024:

	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund Beneficially Owned (None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, \$100,001 -
Name of Portfolio Manager	\$500,000, \$500,001-\$1,000,000, Over \$1,000,000)
John H. Neff	Over \$1 000 000

## SERVICE PROVIDERS

## Administrator, Transfer Agent and Fund Accountant

Pursuant to an administration agreement (the "Administration Agreement"), U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services ("Fund Services") 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, acts as the Administrator to the Fund. Fund Services provides certain services to the Fund including, among other responsibilities, coordinating the negotiation of contracts and fees with, and the monitoring of performance and billing of, the Fund's independent contractors and agents; preparation for signature by an officer of the Trust of all documents required to be filed for compliance by the Trust and the Fund with applicable laws and regulations, excluding those of the securities laws of various states; arranging for

the computation of performance data, including NAV and yield; responding to shareholder inquiries; and arranging for the maintenance of books and records of the Fund, and providing, at its own expense, office facilities, equipment, and personnel necessary to carry out its duties. In this capacity, Fund Services does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Fund, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of the Fund's shares.

Fund Services also is entitled to certain out-of-pocket expenses. Fund Services also acts as fund accountant, transfer agent, and dividend disbursing agent under separate agreements. Additionally, Fund Services provides Chief Compliance Officer services to the Trust under a separate agreement. The cost for the Chief Compliance Officer's services is charged to the Fund and approved by the Board annually.

The table below shows the amount of administration fees paid by the Fund to Fund Services for the periods shown.

Fiscal Year Ended	Administration Fee Paid
July 31, 2024	\$3,124,671
July 31, 2023	\$3,261,999
July 31, 2022	\$3,453,404

#### Custodian

U.S. Bank N.A. is the custodian of the assets of the Fund (the "Custodian") pursuant to a custody agreement between the Custodian and the Trust, whereby the Custodian provides services for fees based on average daily net assets, portfolio transactions, and out-of-pocket expenses. The Custodian's address is 1555 N. RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212. The Custodian does not participate in decisions relating to the purchase or sale of securities by the Fund. Fund Services and U.S. Bank N.A. are affiliated entities under the common control of U.S. Bancorp. The Custodian and its affiliates may participate in revenue sharing arrangements with the service providers of mutual funds in which the Fund may invest.

## **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm and Legal Counsel**

Tait, Weller & Baker LLP, Two Liberty Place, 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2900, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102, is the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund providing audit services, tax services, and assistance with respect to the preparation of filings with the SEC for the Fund.

Sullivan & Worcester LLP, 1251 Avenue of the Americas, 19th Floor, New York, New York 10020, serves as legal counsel to the Trust. Sullivan & Worcester also serves as independent legal counsel to the Board of Trustees.

## **Securities Lending Agent**

The Fund participates in securities lending arrangements whereby it lends certain of its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers, and financial institutions (not with individuals) in order to receive additional income and increase the rate of return of its portfolio. U.S. Bank N.A. serves as the Fund's securities lending agent. For the most recent fiscal year ended July 31, 2024, the Fund's securities lending activities resulted in the following:

	Akre Focus Fund
Gross income from securities lending activities:	\$ 579,973
Fees and/or compensation for securities lending activities and related services:	
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$ (2,994)
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service (including fees deducted from a pooled cash collateral reinvestment vehicle) that are not included in the revenue split	\$ (14,996)
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$ 0

Indemnification fee not included in revenue split	\$ 0
Rebates (paid to borrower)	\$ (550,005)
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$ 0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities:	\$ (567,995)
Net income from securities lending activities:	\$ 11,978

U.S. Bank N.A. oversees the securities lending process, which includes the screening, selection, and ongoing review of borrowers; monitoring the availability of securities; negotiating rebates; daily marking to market of loans; monitoring and maintaining cash collateral levels; processing securities movements; and reinvesting cash collateral as directed by the Adviser. Going forward, the Fund will pay a portion of the income (net of rebate fees), or fees earned by it from securities lending to U.S. Bank N.A., the Fund's securities lending agent.

## **EXECUTION OF PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS**

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser determines which securities are to be purchased and sold by the Fund and which broker-dealers are eligible to execute the Fund's portfolio transactions. Purchases and sales of securities in the OTC market will generally be executed directly with a "market-maker" unless, in the opinion of the Adviser, a better price and execution can otherwise be obtained by using a broker for the transaction.

Purchases of portfolio securities for the Fund also may be made directly from issuers or from underwriters. Where possible, purchase and sale transactions will be effected through dealers (including banks) that specialize in the types of securities that the Fund will be holding, unless better executions are available elsewhere. Dealers and underwriters usually act as principal for their own accounts. Purchases from underwriters will include a concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter and purchases from dealers will include the spread between the bid and the asked price. If the execution and price offered by more than one dealer or underwriter are comparable, the order may be allocated to a dealer or underwriter that has provided research or other services as discussed below.

In placing portfolio transactions, the Adviser will use its reasonable efforts to choose broker-dealers capable of providing the services necessary such that the client's total cost or proceeds in each transaction is the most favorable under the circumstances. The full range and quality of services available will be considered in making these determinations, such as the size of the order, the difficulty of execution, the operational facilities of the firm involved, the firm's risk in positioning a block of securities, and other factors. Consideration may be given to those broker-dealers that furnish or supply research and statistical information to the Adviser, to the extent the Adviser may lawfully and appropriately use such research and information in its investment advisory capacity, as well as provide other services in addition to execution services. The Adviser considers such information, which is in addition to and not in lieu of the services required to be performed by it under the Advisory Agreement, to be useful in varying degrees, but of indeterminable value. Portfolio transactions may be placed with broker-dealers that sell shares of the Fund subject to rules adopted by the FINRA and the SEC. The Fund does not effect securities transactions through brokers in return for selling shares of the Fund.

While selecting a broker-dealer to execute portfolio transactions for the Fund, weight is also given to the ability of a broker-dealer to furnish brokerage and research services (as defined by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) to the Fund or to the Adviser, even if the specific services are not directly useful to the Fund and may be useful to the Adviser in advising other clients. In negotiating commissions with a broker-dealer, the Fund may therefore pay a higher commission than would be the case if no weight were given to the furnishing of these supplemental services, provided that the amount of such commission has been determined in good faith by the Adviser to be reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research services provided by such broker-dealer. The standard of reasonableness is to be measured in light of the Adviser's overall responsibilities to the Fund.

Research and brokerage services obtained by the Adviser using client commissions may be used by the Adviser in its other investment activities, including for the benefit of other client accounts. The Adviser does not seek to allocate soft dollar benefits to client accounts proportionately to the soft dollar credits the accounts generate. In determining whether to direct client brokerage to particular broker-dealers, the Adviser's investment personnel meet periodically to review and evaluate the soft dollar practices of the Adviser and to determine in good faith whether, with respect to any research or other products or services received, the commissions used to obtain those products and services were reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage, research, or other products or services provided. This determination is viewed in terms of either the specific transaction or the Adviser's overall responsibilities to the accounts or portfolios over which the Adviser exercises investment discretion.

Investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those of other client accounts or mutual funds ("other accounts") managed or advised by the Adviser. Nevertheless, it is possible that at times identical securities will be acceptable for both the Fund and one or more of such other accounts. In such event, the position of the Fund and such other accounts in the same issuer may vary and the length of time that each may choose to hold its investment in the same issuer may likewise vary. However, to the extent any of such other accounts seeks to acquire the same security as the Fund at the same time, the Fund may not be able to acquire as large a portion of such security as it desires, or it may have to pay a higher price or obtain a lower yield for such security. Similarly, the Fund may not be able to obtain as high a price for, or as large an execution of, an order to sell any particular security at the same time. If one or more of such other accounts simultaneously purchases or sells the same security that the Fund is purchasing or selling, each day's transactions in such security will be allocated between the Fund and all such other accounts in a manner deemed equitable by the Adviser, taking into account the respective sizes of the accounts and the amount being purchased or sold. It is recognized that in some cases this system could have a detrimental effect on the price or value of the security insofar as the Fund is concerned. In other cases, however, it is believed that the ability of the Fund to participate in volume transactions may produce better executions for the Fund.

The table below shows the amount of brokerage commissions paid by the Fund with respect to transactions for the fiscal years shown.

	July 31, 2024	July 31, 2023	July 31, 2022
Brokerage Fees Paid	\$538,094	\$488,274	\$399,279

The table below shows the estimated value of the street research, statistical, or other services provided to the Adviser during the fiscal years shown.

	July 31, 2024	July 31, 2023	July 31, 2022
<b>Brokerage Commissions Used for Research:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0

The Fund did not own any securities of its regular brokers or dealers, as of the fiscal year ended July 31, 2024.

## CAPITAL STOCK

Shares issued by the Fund have no preemptive, conversion, or subscription rights. Shares issued and sold by the Fund are deemed to be validly issued, fully paid, and non-assessable by the Trust. Shareholders have equal and exclusive rights as to dividends and distributions as declared by the Fund and to the net assets of the Fund upon liquidation or dissolution. The Fund, as a separate series of the Trust, votes separately on matters affecting only the Fund (*e.g.*, approval of the Advisory Agreement); all series of the Trust vote as a single class on matters affecting all series jointly or the Trust as a whole (*e.g.*, election or removal of Trustees). Voting rights are not cumulative, so that the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting in any election of Trustees can, if they so choose, elect all of the Trustees. While the Trust is not required and does not intend to hold annual meetings of shareholders, such meetings may be called by the Board in its discretion, or upon demand by the holders of 10% or more of the outstanding shares of the Trust, for the purpose of electing or removing Trustees.

## **DETERMINATION OF SHARE PRICE**

As noted in the Prospectus, the NAV of shares of the Fund will be determined once daily as of the close of public trading on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") (normally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on each day that the NYSE is open for trading. It is expected that the NYSE will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays and on New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas. The Fund does not expect to determine the NAV of shares on any day when the NYSE is not open for trading even if there is sufficient trading in its portfolio securities on such days to materially affect the NAV per share.

To the extent the Fund's portfolio investments trade in markets on days when the Fund is not open for business, the Fund's assets may vary on those days. In addition, trading in certain portfolio investments may not occur on days the Fund is open for business. If the exchange or market on which the Fund's underlying investments are primarily traded closes early, the NAV may be calculated prior to its normal calculation time. For example, the primary trading markets for the Fund may close early on the day before certain holidays and the day after Thanksgiving.

In valuing the Fund's assets for calculating NAV, readily marketable portfolio securities listed on a national securities exchange are valued at the last sale price on the business day as of which such value is being determined. If there has been no sale on such exchange on such day, the security is valued at the mean between the bid and asked prices on such day. Securities primarily traded on U.S. national securities exchanges for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued at either the last reported sale price on the day of valuation, or the exchange's official closing price, if applicable. If there has been no sale on such day, then the mean between the bid and asked prices will be used. Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available (including restricted securities which are subject to limitations as to their sale) are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Adviser. Pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the 1940 Act, the Board has designated the Adviser as the Fund's valuation designee with responsibility for performing all fair valuations of the Fund's portfolio investments, subject to the Board's oversight. The Adviser has established a valuation committee to fulfill its responsibility as the valuation designee, and the valuation committee operates under procedures adopted by the Adviser and approved by the Board.

Debt securities, including short-term debt instruments having a maturity of less than 60 days, are valued at the evaluated mean price between the bid and asked prices in accordance with prices supplied by an approved pricing service. Pricing services may use various valuation methodologies such as matrix pricing and other analytical pricing models as well as market transactions and dealer quotations. In the absence of a price from a pricing service, fair value will be determined. Investments in other open-end regulated investment companies are valued at their NAV. If the Fund invests in securities that trade on foreign securities markets on days other than the Fund business day, the value of the Fund's portfolio may change on days that shareholders will not be able to purchase or redeem Fund shares.

Trading in foreign securities markets is normally completed well before the close of the NYSE. In addition, foreign securities trading may not take place on all days on which the NYSE is open for trading and may occur in certain foreign markets on days on which the Fund's NAV is not calculated. Events affecting the values of portfolio securities that occur between the time their prices are determined and the close of the NYSE will not be reflected in the calculation of NAV unless the Adviser deems that the particular event would affect NAV, in which case an adjustment will be made in such manner as the Adviser deems appropriate to determine fair market value. Assets or liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are translated, in determining NAV, into U.S. dollars based on the spot exchange rates, or at such other rates as the Adviser may determine to be appropriate.

## ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION INFORMATION

The information provided below supplements the information contained in the Prospectus regarding the purchase and redemption of the Fund's shares.

## **How to Buy Shares**

In addition to purchasing shares directly from the Fund, you may purchase shares of the Fund through certain financial intermediaries and their agents that have made arrangements with the Fund and are authorized to buy and sell shares of the Fund (collectively, "Financial Intermediaries"). Investors should contact their Financial Intermediary directly for appropriate instructions, as well as information pertaining to accounts and any service or transaction fees that may be charged. If you transmit your order to these Financial Intermediaries before the close of regular trading (generally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on a day that the NYSE is open for business, your order will be priced at the Fund's NAV next computed after it is received by the Financial Intermediary. Investors should check with their Financial Intermediary to determine if it participates in these arrangements.

The public offering price of the Fund's shares is the NAV. Shares are purchased at the public offering price next determined after the transfer agent receives your order in proper form, as discussed in the Prospectus. In order to receive that day's public offering price, the transfer agent must receive your order in proper form before the close of regular trading on the NYSE, generally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern time.

The Trust reserves the right in its sole discretion to: (1) suspend the continued offering of the Fund's shares and (2) reject purchase orders in whole or in part when in the judgment of the Adviser or the distributor such rejection is in the best interest of the Fund. The Trust has granted limited authority to the Adviser to reduce or waive the minimum for initial and subsequent investments for certain fiduciary accounts or under circumstances where certain economies can be achieved in sales of the Fund's shares.

In addition to cash purchases, the Fund's shares may be purchased by tendering payment in-kind in the form of shares of stock, bonds, or other securities. Any securities used to buy the Fund's shares must be readily marketable, their acquisition consistent with the Fund's objective and otherwise acceptable to the Adviser and the Board.

## **Automatic Investment Plan**

As discussed in the Prospectus, the Fund provides an Automatic Investment Plan ("AIP") for the convenience of investors who wish to purchase shares of the Fund on a regular basis. All record keeping and custodial costs of the AIP are paid by the Fund. The market value of the Fund's shares is subject to fluctuation. Prior to participating in the AIP, the investor should keep in mind that this plan does not assure a profit nor protect against depreciation in declining markets.

## How to Sell Shares and Delivery of Redemption Proceeds

You can sell your Fund shares any day the NYSE is open for regular trading, either directly to the Fund or through your Financial Intermediary.

The Fund typically sends redemption proceeds on the next business day (a day when the NYSE is open for normal business) after a redemption request is received in good order and prior to market close, regardless of whether the redemption proceeds are sent via check, wire, or automated clearing house (ACH) transfer. Under unusual circumstances, the Fund may suspend redemptions or postpone payment for up to seven days, as permitted by federal securities law.

The Fund typically expects that it will use cash or cash equivalents to meet redemption requests. The Fund may also use the proceeds from the sale of portfolio securities to meet redemption requests if consistent with the

management of the Fund. In situations in which investment holdings in cash or cash equivalents are not sufficient to meet redemption requests, the proceeds from the sale of portfolio securities is not sufficient to meet redemption requests, or when shareholders may be adversely impacted by short-term timing issues associated with the conversion of cash equivalents or securities into cash, the Fund will typically borrow money through its line of credit to meet redemption requests. These redemption methods will be used regularly and may also be used in stressed market conditions. The Fund reserves the right to pay redemption proceeds to you in whole or in part through a redemption in-kind as described under "Redemptions In-Kind" below. Redemptions in-kind are typically used in order to minimize the effect of redemptions on the Fund and its remaining shareholders. Redemptions in-kind may be used regularly and may also be used in stressed market conditions.

The Fund may suspend the right of redemption or postpone the date of payment during any period when: (1) trading on the NYSE is restricted as determined by the SEC or the NYSE is closed for other than weekends and holidays; (2) an emergency exists as determined by the SEC making disposal of portfolio securities or valuation of net assets of the Fund not reasonably practicable; or (3) for such other period as the SEC may permit for the protection of the Fund's shareholders.

The value of shares on redemption may be more or less than the investor's cost, depending upon the market value of the Fund's portfolio securities at the time of redemption or repurchase.

## **Telephone Redemptions**

Shareholders with telephone transaction privileges established on their account may redeem Fund shares by telephone. Upon receipt of any instructions or inquiries by telephone from the shareholder the Fund or its authorized agents may carry out the instructions and/or to respond to the inquiry consistent with the shareholder's previously established account service options. For joint accounts, instructions or inquiries from either party will be carried out without prior notice to the other account owners. In acting upon telephone instructions, the Fund and its agents use procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that such instructions are genuine. These include recording all telephone calls, requiring pertinent information about the account, and sending written confirmation of each transaction to the registered owner.

The transfer agent will employ reasonable procedures to confirm that instructions communicated by telephone are genuine. If the transfer agent fails to employ reasonable procedures, the Fund and the transfer agent may be liable for any losses due to unauthorized or fraudulent instructions. If these procedures are followed, however, that to the extent permitted by applicable law, neither the Fund nor its agents will be liable for any loss, liability, cost, or expense arising out of any redemption request, including any fraudulent or unauthorized request. For additional information, contact the Transfer Agent.

## **Redemptions In-Kind**

The Trust has elected to be governed by Rule 18f-1 under the 1940 Act so that the Fund is obligated to redeem its shares solely in cash up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of its net asset value during any 90-day period for any shareholder of the Fund. The Fund has reserved the right to pay the redemption price of its shares in excess of \$250,000 or 1% of its net asset value, either totally or partially, by a distribution in-kind of portfolio securities (instead of cash). The securities so distributed would be valued at the same amount as that assigned to them in calculating the NAV for the shares being sold. If a shareholder receives a distribution in-kind, the shareholder could incur brokerage or other charges in converting the securities to cash and will bear any market risks associated with such securities until they are converted into cash. A redemption in-kind is treated as a taxable transaction and a sale of the redeemed shares, generally resulting in capital gain or loss to you, subject to certain loss limitation rules.

The Fund does not intend to hold any significant percentage of its portfolio in illiquid securities, although the Fund, like virtually all mutual funds, may from time to time hold a small percentage of securities that are illiquid. In the unlikely event the Fund were to elect to make an in-kind redemption, the Fund expects that it

would follow the Trust protocol of making such distribution by way of a pro rata distribution of securities that are traded on a public securities market or are otherwise considered liquid pursuant to the Fund's liquidity policies and procedures. Except as otherwise may be approved by the Trustees, the securities that would not be included in an in-kind distribution include: (1) unregistered securities which, if distributed, would be required to be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended; (2) securities issued by entities in countries which (a) restrict or prohibit the holding of securities by non-nationals other than through qualified investment vehicles, such as a fund, or (b) permit transfers of ownership of securities to be effected only by transactions conducted on a local stock exchange; and (3) certain Fund assets that, although they may be liquid and marketable, must be traded through the marketplace or with the counterparty to the transaction in order to effect a change in beneficial ownership.

## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAX INFORMATION

#### Distributions.

Dividends of net investment income and distributions of net capital gains from the sale of securities are generally made annually, as described in the Prospectus. Also, the Fund typically distributes any undistributed net investment income on or about December 31 of each year. Any net capital gains realized through the period ended October 31 of each year will also typically be distributed by December 31 of each year.

Each distribution by the Fund is accompanied by a brief explanation of the form and character of the distribution. In January of each year, the Fund will issue to each shareholder a statement of the federal income tax status of all distributions that relate to the previous year.

#### Tax Information.

Each series of the Trust is treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. The Fund has elected and intends to continue to qualify to be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code, and to comply with all applicable requirements regarding the source of its income, diversification of its assets, and the timing and amount of its distributions. If the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M, it will be taxed as a regular corporation. The Fund's policy is to distribute to its shareholders all of its net taxable income and any net realized capital gains for each fiscal year in a manner that complies with the distribution requirements applicable to regulated investment companies under the Code, so that the Fund will not be subject to any federal income or excise taxes. However, the Fund can give no assurances that its distributions will be sufficient to eliminate all taxes. In order to avoid a nondeductible 4% excise tax, the Fund must distribute (or be deemed to have distributed) by December 31 of each calendar year: (1) at least 98.0% of its ordinary income for such year, (2) at least 98.2% of the excess of its realized capital gains over its realized capital losses for the 12-month period ending on October 31 during such year, and (3) any amounts from the prior calendar year that were not distributed and on which the Fund paid no federal income tax.

The Fund's ordinary income generally consists of interest and dividend income, less expenses. Net realized capital gains for a fiscal period are computed by taking into account any capital loss carry-forward of the Fund.

In order to qualify as a regulated investment company, the Fund must, among other things, derive at least 90% of its gross income each year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to loans of stock and securities, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities, or foreign currency gains related to investments in stock or securities, or other income (generally including gains from options, futures, or forward contracts) derived with respect to the business of investing in stock, securities or currency, and net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership. The Fund must also satisfy the following two asset diversification tests. At the end of each quarter of each taxable year: (1) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets must be represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities, with such other securities being limited in respect of any one issuer to an amount 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 (2) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies), the securities of any two or more issuers (other than the securities of other regulated investment companies) that the Fund controls (by owning 20% or more of their outstanding voting stock) and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships. The Fund must also distribute each taxable year sufficient dividends to its shareholders to claim a dividends paid deduction equal to at least the sum of 90% of the Fund's net taxable income before the dividends paid deduction (which generally includes dividends, interest, and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) and 90% of the Fund's net tax-exempt interest, if any.

Distributions of net investment income and net short-term capital gains are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. The Fund may make taxable distributions to shareholders even during periods in which the share price has declined. For non-corporate shareholders, a portion of the distributions paid by the Fund may be qualified dividends currently eligible for federal income taxation at long-term capital gain rates to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend and certain holding period requirements are met. In the case of corporate shareholders, a portion of the distributions may qualify for the inter-corporate dividendsreceived deduction to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend and certain holding period requirements are met. The aggregate amount so reported to either non-corporate or corporate shareholders cannot, however, exceed the aggregate amount of qualifying dividends received by the Fund for its taxable year. In view of the Fund's investment policy, it is expected that dividends from domestic corporations will be part of the Fund's gross income and that, accordingly, part of the distributions by the Fund may be eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income by non-corporate shareholders or for the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders under federal tax law. However, the portion of the Fund's gross income attributable to qualifying dividends is largely dependent on the Fund's investment activities for a particular year and therefore cannot be predicted with any certainty. The deduction may be reduced or eliminated if the Fund shares held by a non-corporate investor are held for less than 61 days or Fund shares held by a corporate shareholder are treated as debt-financed or are held for less than 46 days.

For taxable years beginning after 2017 and before 2025, non-corporate taxpayers generally may deduct 20% of "qualified business income" derived either directly or through partnerships or S corporations. For this purpose, "qualified business income" generally includes ordinary real estate investment trust ("REIT") dividends and income derived from master limited partnership ("MLP") investments. If the Fund receives a REIT dividend which is treated as "qualified business income," then the Fund may pay a dividend to its non-corporate shareholders that will be treated as "qualified business income," provided certain holding period and other requirements are satisfied by the shareholder. Although there is currently no mechanism for the Fund, to the extent the Fund invests in MLPs, to pass through "qualified business income" to its non-corporate shareholders, the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") has requested comments on similar tax treatment for MLP income received by a regulated investment company.

If you buy shares shortly before a distribution, the price you pay will reflect the value of the upcoming distribution, which will nonetheless be taxable to you. Although distributions generally are taxable when received, certain distributions declared in October, November, or December and paid in the following January are taxed as if received in the prior December.

Federal taxes on the Fund's distribution of long-term capital gains are determined by how long the Fund owned the investments that generated the gains, not how long a shareholder owned the Fund shares. There is no requirement that the Fund take into consideration any tax implications when implementing its investment strategy, and the Fund is not required to consider tax consequences in making or disposing of investments. Shareholders should note that the Fund may make taxable distributions of income and capital gains even when share values have declined.

If you sell shares of the Fund at a loss within six months of acquiring the shares, your loss will be a long-term capital loss to the extent of any capital gain distributions you have received.

The Fund may be subject to foreign taxes and withholding on dividends and interest earned with respect to securities of foreign corporations. Based on the principal investment strategies of the Fund, it is not expected that the Fund will be eligible to pass through to shareholders any credits or deductions with respect to such foreign taxes.

Under the Code, the Fund will be required to report to the IRS all distributions of ordinary income and capital gains as well as gross proceeds from the redemption or exchange of Fund shares, except in the case of exempt shareholders, which includes most corporations. Pursuant to the backup withholding provisions of the Code, distributions of any taxable income and capital gains and proceeds from the redemption of Fund shares may be subject to withholding of federal income tax at the rate of 24% in the case of non-exempt shareholders who fail to furnish the Fund with their taxpayer identification numbers and with required certifications regarding their status under the federal income tax law or if the IRS notifies the Fund that such backup withholding is required. If the withholding provisions are applicable, any such distributions and proceeds, whether taken in cash or reinvested in additional shares, will be reduced by the amounts required to be withheld. Corporate and other exempt shareholders should provide the Fund with their taxpayer identification numbers and certify their exempt status in order to avoid possible erroneous application of backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax and any amounts withheld may be credited against a shareholder's ultimate federal income tax liability if proper documentation is provided. The Fund reserves the right to refuse to open an account for any person failing to provide a certified taxpayer identification number.

In addition to the federal income tax, certain individuals, trusts, and estates may be subject to a 3.8% federal tax on net investment income, which is imposed on the lesser of: (1) the taxpayer's investment income, net of deductions properly allocable to such income or (2) the amount by which the taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income exceeds certain thresholds (\$250,000 for married individuals filing jointly, \$200,000 for unmarried individuals, and \$125,000 for married individuals filing separately). The Fund's distributions are includable in a shareholder's investment income for purposes of this federal tax. In addition, any capital gain realized by a shareholder upon a sale or redemption of Fund shares is includable in such shareholder's investment income for purposes of this tax.

Distributions and the transactions referred to in the preceding paragraphs may be subject to state and local income taxes, and the state or local tax treatment thereof may differ from the federal income tax treatment.

## The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA").

A 30% withholding tax on the Fund's ordinary income distributions generally applies if paid to a foreign entity unless: (1) if the foreign entity is a "foreign financial institution," it undertakes certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligations, (2) if the foreign entity is not a "foreign financial institution," it identifies certain of its U.S. investors, or (3) the foreign entity is otherwise excepted under FATCA. If applicable, and subject to any intergovernmental agreement, withholding under FATCA is required generally with respect to ordinary income distributions from the Funds. If withholding is required under FATCA on a payment related to your shares, investors that otherwise would not be subject to withholding (or that otherwise would be entitled to a reduced rate of withholding) on such payment generally will be required to seek a refund or credit from the IRS to obtain the benefits of such exemption or reduction. The Fund will not pay any additional amounts in respect of amounts withheld under FATCA. You should consult your tax advisor regarding the effect of FATCA based on your individual circumstances.

The foregoing discussion of U.S. federal income tax law relates solely to the application of that law to U.S. citizens or residents and U.S. domestic corporations, estates, the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source and trusts that: (1) are subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) have a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to

be treated as a United States person. Each shareholder who is not a U.S. person should consider the U.S. and foreign tax consequences of ownership of shares of the Fund, including the possibility that such a shareholder may be subject to a U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30 percent (or at a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty) on the Fund's distributions.

In addition, the foregoing discussion of tax law is based on existing provisions of the Code, existing and proposed regulations thereunder, and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. Any such changes could affect the validity of this discussion. The IRS could assert a position contrary to those stated here. The discussion also represents only a general summary of tax law and practice currently applicable to the Fund and certain shareholders therein, and, as such, is subject to change. In particular, the consequences of an investment in shares of the Fund under the laws of any state, local, or foreign taxing jurisdictions are not discussed herein. The Fund does not plan to seek a ruling from the IRS or an opinion of counsel with respect to any tax matters. Each prospective investor should consult his or her own tax adviser to determine the application of the tax law and practice in his or her own particular circumstances.

## THE FUND'S PRINCIPAL UNDERWRITER AND DISTRIBUTOR

Quasar Distributors, LLC, Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine 04101 (the "Distributor"), serves as the Fund's principal underwriter in a continuous public offering of the Fund's shares. Pursuant to a distribution agreement between the Fund and the Distributor (the "Distribution Agreement"), the Distributor acts as the Fund's principal underwriter and distributor and provides certain administrative services and promotes and arranges for the sale of the Fund's shares. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and is a member of FINRA.

The Distribution Agreement will continue in effect only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities and, in either case, by a majority of the Independent Trustees. The Distribution Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on behalf of the Fund on a 60-day written notice when authorized either by a majority vote of the Fund's shareholders or by vote of a majority of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, or by the Distributor on a 60-day written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment" (as defined in the 1940 Act).

## Rule 12b-1 Distribution Plan

The Fund has adopted a Distribution Plan (the "Plan") pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act on behalf of the Retail Class under which the Retail Class pays the Distributor a distribution fee and shareholder servicing fee, an amount which is accrued daily and paid quarterly, at an annual rate of 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the Retail Class. Amounts paid under the Plan by the Retail Class are paid to the Distributor in connection with the promotion and distribution of the Fund's Retail Class shares ("Distribution Services") and the provision of personal services relating to the servicing and maintenance of shareholder accounts ("Shareholder Services"). The Distributor may pay all or a portion of these fees to any broker-dealer, financial institution, or service provided include the cost of overhead and telephone expenses; printing and distribution of prospectuses and reports used in connection with the offering of the Fund's shares to prospective investors; and preparation, printing, and distribution of sales literature and advertising materials. The services provided by selected dealers pursuant to the Plan include the furnishing of office space and equipment, telephone facilities, personnel, and assistance to the Fund in servicing such shareholders. Additional Shareholder Services provided by financial institutions pursuant to the Plan are designed to provide support services to the Fund and may include, but are not limited to, establishing and maintaining shareholders' accounts and records, processing

purchase and redemption transactions, answering routine client inquiries regarding the Fund, and providing other services to the Fund as may be required.

Under the Plan, the Trustees will be furnished quarterly with information detailing the amount of expenses paid under the Plan and the purposes for which payments were made. The Plan may be terminated at any time by vote of a majority of the Trustees of the Trust who are not interested persons. Continuation of the Plan is considered by such Trustees no less frequently than annually. With the exception of the Distributor, in its capacity as the Fund's principal underwriter and distribution coordinator, no interested person has or had a direct or indirect financial interest in the Plan or any related agreement.

While there is no assurance that the expenditures of the Fund's assets will have the anticipated results, the Board believes there is a reasonable likelihood that one or more of such benefits will result, and because the Board is in a position to monitor the Plan expenses, it is able to determine the benefit of such expenditures in deciding whether to continue the Plan.

The table below shows the 12b-1 payments paid by the Retail Class shares of the Fund pursuant to the Plan for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2024.

12b-1 Payments Paid			
\$11,011,574			

Of this amount, payments were made for the following activities:

	Advertising and Marketing	Printing and Mailing	Compensation to Underwriter	Compensation to Broker- Dealer	Compensation to Sales Personnel	Other Expenses (Travel)	Interest, carrying or other financing charges
ſ	\$0	\$2,195	\$220,899	\$10,788,480	\$0	\$0	\$0

# **Shareholder Servicing Plan**

Pursuant to a Shareholder Servicing Plan (the "Plan") adopted by the Trust established by the Fund with respect to each Class of the Fund, the Adviser is authorized to provide, or arrange for others to provide, personal shareholder services relating to the servicing and maintenance of shareholder accounts not otherwise provided to the Fund ("Shareholder Servicing Activities"). Under the Plan, the Adviser may enter into shareholder service agreements with securities broker-dealers and other securities professionals ("Service Organizations") who provide Shareholder Servicing Activities for their clients invested in the Fund.

Shareholder Servicing Activities shall include one or more of the following: (1) establishing and maintaining accounts and records relating for shareholders of the Fund; (2) aggregating and processing orders involving the shares of the Fund; (3) processing dividend and other distribution payments from the Fund on behalf of shareholders; (4) providing information to shareholders as to their ownership of Fund shares or about other aspects of the operations of the Fund; (5) preparing tax reports or forms on behalf of shareholders; (6) forwarding communications from the Fund to shareholders; (7) assisting shareholders in changing the Fund's records as to their addresses, dividend options, account registrations, or other data; (8) providing subaccounting with respect to shares beneficially owned by shareholders or the information to the Fund necessary for sub-accounting; (9) responding to shareholder inquiries relating to the services performed; (10) providing shareholders with a service that invests the assets of their accounts in shares pursuant to specific or preauthorized instructions; and (11) providing such other similar services as the Adviser may reasonably request to the extent the Service Organization is permitted to do so under applicable statutes, rules, or regulations.

As compensation for the Shareholder Servicing Activities, the Retail and Institutional Class each pay a fee of up to 0.10% or \$22 per account, while the Supra Institutional Class pays a fee of up to 0.03%, of the Class's average daily net assets of the shares owned by investors for which the shareholder servicing agent maintains a servicing relationship or \$22 per account.

Any material amendment to the Plan must be approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, or by a vote of a "majority" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the outstanding voting securities of the applicable class or classes. The Plan may be terminated, with respect to a class or classes of the Fund, without penalty at any time: (1) by vote of a majority of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees or (2) by a vote of a "majority" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the outstanding voting securities of the applicable class or classes.

The Fund paid the following amounts in Plan fees for the periods shown below:

	July 31, 2024	July 31, 2023	July 31, 2022
<b>Shareholder Servicing Plan Fees Paid</b>	\$9,870,384	\$10,036,705	\$12,719,788

## MARKETING, SUPPORT AND OTHER PAYMENTS

The Adviser, out of its own resources and without additional cost to the Fund or its shareholders, may provide additional cash payments or other compensation to certain Financial Intermediaries who sell shares of the Fund or provide shareholder servicing to their customers holding shares of the Fund.

The prospect of receiving, or the receipt of, additional payments or other compensation as described below by Financial Intermediaries, may provide such intermediaries and/or their salespersons with an incentive to favor sales of shares of the Fund, or other mutual funds whose affiliates make similar compensation available, over the sale of shares of mutual funds (or non-mutual fund investments) not making such payments. You may wish to take such payment arrangements into account when considering and evaluating any recommendations relating to the Fund shares.

These payments may be divided into categories as follows:

# **Support Payments.**

Payments may be made by the Adviser to certain Financial Intermediaries in connection with the eligibility of the Fund to be offered in certain programs and/or in connection with meetings between the Fund's representatives and Financial Intermediaries and their sales representatives. Such meetings may be held for various purposes, including providing education and training about the Fund and other general financial topics to assist Financial Intermediaries' sales representatives in making informed recommendations to, and decisions on behalf of, their clients.

# **Entertainment, Conferences, and Events.**

The Adviser also pays cash or non-cash compensation to sales representatives of Financial Intermediaries in the form of: (1) occasional gifts; (2) occasional meals, tickets, or other entertainments; and/or (3) sponsorship support for the Financial Intermediary's client seminars and cooperative advertising. In addition, the Adviser may pay for exhibit space or sponsorships at regional or national events of Financial Intermediaries.

## Shareholder Servicing.

Many Fund shares are owned by Financial Intermediaries for the benefit of their customers. In those cases, the Fund may not maintain an account for the shareholder. Thus, some or all of the transfer agency and administrative functions for these accounts are performed by the Financial Intermediaries. A portion of the fees charged by the Financial Intermediaries for these services is paid out of the Adviser's revenues. These amounts include, but are not necessarily limited to, fees for shareholder servicing, sub-transfer agency, sub-accounting, and recordkeeping services. The amounts paid by the Adviser do not include fees for shareholder servicing that may be paid separately by the Fund pursuant to the Fund's Distribution Plan and Shareholder Servicing Plan.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The <u>Annual Certified Shareholder Report on Form N-CSR</u> for the Fund for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2024, is a separate document available, without charge, upon request by calling 1-877-862-9556, and the financial statements, accompanying notes, and report of the independent registered public accounting firm appearing therein are incorporated by reference into this SAI. The annual report for the Fund was filed on Form N-CSR with the SEC on October 4, 2024.

## APPENDIX A

# **DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES RATINGS**

## **Short-Term Credit Ratings**

- An **S&P Global Ratings** short-term issue credit rating is generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market. The following summarizes the rating categories used by S&P Global Ratings for short-term issues:
- "A-1" A short-term obligation rated "A-1" is rated in the highest category by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong.
- "A-2" A short-term obligation rated "A-2" is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rating categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is satisfactory.
- "A-3" A short-term obligation rated "A-3" exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken an obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.
- "B" A short-term obligation rated "B" is regarded as vulnerable and has significant speculative characteristics. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties that could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments.
- "C" A short-term obligation rated "C" is currently vulnerable to nonpayment and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.
- "D" A short-term obligation rated "D" is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the "D" rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within any stated grace period. However, any stated grace period longer than five business days will be treated as five business days. The "D" rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. A rating on an obligation is lowered to "D" if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer.
- Local Currency and Foreign Currency Ratings S&P Global Ratings' issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. A foreign currency rating on an issuer will differ from the local currency rating on it when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, versus obligations denominated in a foreign currency.
  - "NR" This indicates that a rating has not been assigned or is no longer assigned.
- **Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's")** short-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment.

Moody's employs the following designations to indicate the relative repayment ability of rated issuers:

"P-1" - Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-1 have a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations.

- "P-2" Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-2 have a strong ability to repay short-term debt obligations.
- "P-3" Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-3 have an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations.
- "NP" Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.
  - "NR" Is assigned to an unrated issuer.
- Fitch, Inc. / Fitch Ratings Ltd. ("Fitch") short-term issuer or obligation rating is based in all cases on the short-term vulnerability to default of the rated entity and relates to the capacity to meet financial obligations in accordance with the documentation governing the relevant obligation. Short-term deposit ratings may be adjusted for loss severity. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations whose initial maturity is viewed as "short-term" based on market convention. Typically, this means up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign, and structured obligations and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets. The following summarizes the rating categories used by Fitch for short-term obligations:
- "F1" Securities possess the highest short-term credit quality. This designation indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.
- "F2" Securities possess good short-term credit quality. This designation indicates good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.
- "F3" Securities possess fair short-term credit quality. This designation indicates that the intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.
- "B" Securities possess speculative short-term credit quality. This designation indicates minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.
  - "C" Securities possess high short-term default risk. Default is a real possibility.
- "RD" Restricted default. Indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other financial obligations. Typically applicable to entity ratings only.
  - "D" Default. Indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a short-term obligation.
- Plus (+) or minus (-) The "F1" rating may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show the relative status within that major rating category.
  - "NR" Is assigned to an unrated issue of a rated issuer.
- The *DBRS® Ratings Limited* ("*DBRS*") short-term debt rating scale provides an opinion on the risk that an issuer will not meet its short-term financial obligations in a timely manner. Ratings are based on quantitative and qualitative considerations relevant to the issuer and the relative ranking of claims. The R-1 and R-2 rating categories are further denoted by the sub-categories "(high)", "(middle)", and "(low)".

The following summarizes the ratings used by DBRS for commercial paper and short-term debt:

"R-1 (high)" - Short-term debt rated "R-1 (high)" is of the highest credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is exceptionally high. Unlikely to be adversely affected by future events.

- "R-1 (middle)" Short-term debt rated "R-1 (middle)" is of superior credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is very high. Differs from "R-1 (high)" by a relatively modest degree. Unlikely to be significantly vulnerable to future events.
- "R-1 (low)" Short-term debt rated "R-1 (low)" is of good credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is substantial. Overall strength is not as favorable as higher rating categories. May be vulnerable to future events, but qualifying negative factors are considered manageable.
- "R-2 (high)" Short-term debt rated "R-2 (high)" is considered to be at the upper end of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.
- "R-2 (middle)" Short-term debt rated "R-2 (middle)" is considered to be of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events or may be exposed to other factors that could reduce credit quality.
- "R-2 (low)" Short-term debt rated "R-2 (low)" is considered to be at the lower end of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events. A number of challenges are present that could affect the issuer's ability to meet such obligations.
- "R-3" Short-term debt rated "R-3" is considered to be at the lowest end of adequate credit quality. There is a capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due. May be vulnerable to future events and the certainty of meeting such obligations could be impacted by a variety of developments.
- "R-4" Short-term debt rated "R-4" is considered to be of speculative credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is uncertain.
- "R-5" Short-term debt rated "R-5" is considered to be of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet short-term financial obligations as they fall due.
- "D" Short-term debt rated "D" is assigned when the issuer has filed under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or winding up statute or there is a failure to satisfy an obligation after the exhaustion of grace periods, a downgrade to "D" may occur. DBRS may also use "SD" (Selective Default) in cases where only some securities are impacted, such as the case of a "distressed exchange".

## **Long-Term Credit Ratings**

The following summarizes the ratings used by **S&P Global Ratings** for long-term issues:

- "AAA" An obligation rated "AAA" has the highest rating assigned by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is extremely strong.
- "AA" An obligation rated "AA" differs from the highest-rated obligations only to a small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is very strong.
- "A" An obligation rated "A" is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is still strong.
- "BBB" An obligation rated "BBB" exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

- "BB," "B," "CCC," "CC" and "C" Obligations rated "BB," "B," "CCC," "CC" and "C" are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. "BB" indicates the least degree of speculation and "C" the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposure to adverse conditions.
- "BB" An obligation rated "BB" is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions that could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.
- "B" An obligation rated "B" is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated "BB", but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.
- "CCC" An obligation rated "CCC" is currently vulnerable to nonpayment and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitments on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.
- "CC" An obligation rated "CC" is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The "CC" rating is used when a default has not yet occurred, but S&P Global Ratings expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.
- "C" An obligation rated "C" is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment, and the obligation is expected to have lower relative seniority or lower ultimate recovery compared with obligations that are rated higher.
- "D" An obligation rated "D" is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the "D" rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or 30 calendar days. The "D" rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. An obligation's rating is lowered to "D" if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer.
- Plus (+) or minus (-) The ratings from "AA" to "CCC" may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the rating categories.
  - "NR" This indicates that a rating has not been assigned or is no longer assigned.

Local Currency and Foreign Currency Risks - S&P Global Ratings' issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. An issuer's foreign currency rating will differ from its local currency rating on it when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, versus obligations denominated in a foreign currency.

- **Moody's** long-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of one year or more. Such ratings reflect both on the likelihood of default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment. The following summarizes the ratings used by Moody's for long-term debt:
- "Aaa" Obligations rated "Aaa" are judged to be of the highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk.
  - "Aa" Obligations rated "Aa" are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.
  - "A" Obligations rated "A" are judged to be upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.

- "Baa" Obligations rated "Baa" are judged to be medium-grade and subject to moderate credit risk and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.
  - "Ba" Obligations rated "Ba" are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.
  - "B" Obligations rated "B" are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.
- "Caa" Obligations rated "Caa" are judged to be speculative of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.
- "Ca" Obligations rated "Ca" are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.
- "C" Obligations rated "C" are the lowest rated and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.
- Note: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from "Aa" through "Caa." The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.
  - "NR" Is assigned to unrated obligations.

The following summarizes long-term ratings used by *Fitch*:

- "AAA" Securities considered to be of the highest credit quality. "AAA" ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
- "AA" Securities considered to be of very high credit quality. "AA" ratings denote expectations of very low credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
- "A" Securities considered to be of high credit quality. "A" ratings denote expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity m
- ay, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
- "BBB" Securities considered to be of good credit quality. "BBB" ratings indicate that expectations of credit risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.
- "BB" Securities considered to be speculative. "BB" ratings indicate that there is an elevated vulnerability to credit risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.
  - "B" Securities considered to be highly speculative. "B" ratings indicate that material credit risk is present.
  - "CCC" A "CCC" rating indicates that substantial credit risk is present.
  - "CC" A "CC" rating indicates very high levels of credit risk.
  - "C" A "C" rating indicates exceptionally high levels of credit risk.

Defaulted obligations typically are not assigned "RD" or "D" ratings but are instead rated in the "CCC" to "C" rating categories, depending on their recovery prospects and other relevant characteristics. Fitch believes that

this approach better aligns obligations that have comparable overall expected loss but varying vulnerability to default and loss.

- Plus (+) or minus (-) may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the "AAA" obligation rating category, or to corporate finance obligation ratings in the categories below "CCC".
  - "NR" Is assigned to an unrated issue of a rated issuer.
- The *DBRS* long-term rating scale provides an opinion on the risk of default. That is, the risk that an issuer will fail to satisfy its financial obligations in accordance with the terms under which an obligation has been issued. Ratings are based on quantitative and qualitative considerations relevant to the issuer, and the relative ranking of claims. All rating categories other than AAA and D also contain subcategories "(high)" and "(low)". The absence of either a "(high)" or "(low)" designation indicates the rating is in the middle of the category. The following summarizes the ratings used by DBRS for long-term debt:
- "AAA" Long-term debt rated "AAA" is of the highest credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is exceptionally high and unlikely to be adversely affected by future events.
- "AA" Long-term debt rated "AA" is of superior credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered high. Credit quality differs from "AAA" only to a small degree. Unlikely to be significantly vulnerable to future events.
- "A" Long-term debt rated "A" is of good credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is substantial, but of lesser credit quality than "AA." May be vulnerable to future events, but qualifying negative factors are considered manageable.
- "BBB" Long-term debt rated "BBB" is of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.
- "BB" Long-term debt rated "BB" is of speculative, non-investment grade credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is uncertain. Vulnerable to future events.
- "B" Long-term debt rated "B" is of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet financial obligations.
- "CCC", "CC" and "C" Long-term debt rated in any of these categories is of very highly speculative credit quality. In danger of defaulting on financial obligations. There is little difference between these three categories, although "CC" and "C" ratings are normally applied to obligations that are seen as highly likely to default or subordinated to obligations rated in the "CCC" to "B" range. Obligations in respect of which default has not technically taken place but is considered inevitable may be rated in the "C" category.
- "D" A security rated "D" is assigned when the issuer has filed under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or winding up statute or there is a failure to satisfy an obligation after the exhaustion of grace periods, a downgrade to "D" may occur. DBRS may also use "SD" (Selective Default) in cases where only some securities are impacted, such as the case of a "distressed exchange".

## **Municipal Note Ratings**

An *S&P Global Ratings* U.S. municipal note rating reflects S&P Global Ratings' opinion about the liquidity factors and market access risks unique to the notes. Notes due in three years or less will likely receive a note rating. Notes with an original maturity of more than three years will most likely receive a long-term debt rating. In determining which type of rating, if any, to assign, S&P Global Ratings' analysis will review the following considerations:

- Amortization schedule the larger the final maturity relative to other maturities, the more likely it will be treated as a note; and
- Source of payment the more dependent the issue is on the market for its refinancing, the more likely it will be treated as a note.

Municipal Short-Term Note rating symbols are as follows:

- "SP-1" A municipal note rated "SP-1" exhibits a strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus (+) designation.
- "SP-2" A municipal note rated "SP-2" exhibits a satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.
  - "SP-3" A municipal note rated "SP-3" exhibits a speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.
- "D" This rating is assigned upon failure to pay the note when due, completion of a distressed exchange offer, or the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions.
- **Moody's** uses the global short-term Prime rating scale (listed above under Short-Term Credit Ratings) for commercial paper issued by U.S. municipalities and nonprofits. These commercial paper programs may be backed by external letters of credit or liquidity facilities, or by an issuer's self-liquidity.

For other short-term municipal obligations, Moody's uses one of two other short-term rating scales, the Municipal Investment Grade ("MIG") and Variable Municipal Investment Grade ("VMIG") scales provided below.

Moody's uses the MIG scale for U.S. municipal cash flow notes, bond anticipation notes and certain other short-term obligations, which typically mature in three years or less. Under certain circumstances, Moody's uses the MIG scale for bond anticipation notes with maturities of up to five years.

MIG Scale

- "MIG-1" This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.
- "MIG-2" This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.
- "MIG-3" This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.
- "SG" This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.
  - "NR" Is assigned to an unrated obligation.

In the case of variable rate demand obligations ("VRDOs"), a two-component rating is assigned: a long or short-term debt rating and a demand obligation rating. The long-term rating addresses the issuer's ability to meet scheduled principal and interests payments. The short-term demand obligation rating addresses the ability of the issuer or the liquidity provider to make payments associated with the purchase-price-upon demand feature ("demand feature") of the VRDO. The short-term demand obligation rating uses the VMIG scale. VMIG ratings with liquidity support use as an input the short-term Counterparty Risk Assessment of the support provider, or the long-term rating of the underlying obligor in the absence of third-party liquidity support. Transitions of VMIG Ratings of demand obligations with conditional liquidity support differ from transitions on the Prime scale to reflect the risk that external liquidity support will terminate if the issuer's long-term rating drops below investment grade.

Moody's typically assigns the VMIG short-term demand obligation rating if the frequency of the demand feature is less than every three years. If the frequency of the demand feature is less than three years but the purchase price is payable only with remarketing proceeds, the short-term demand obligation rating is "NR".

- "VMIG-1" This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by the superior short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.
- "VMIG-2" This designation denotes strong credit quality. Good protection is afforded by the strong short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.
- "VMIG-3" This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Adequate protection is afforded by the satisfactory short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.
- "SG" This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Demand features rated in this category may be supported by a liquidity provider that does not have a sufficiently strong short-term rating or may lack the structural and/or legal protections necessary to ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.
  - "NR" Is assigned to an unrated obligation.

## **About Credit Ratings**

An *S&P Global Ratings* issue credit rating is a forward-looking opinion about the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation, a specific class of financial obligations, or a specific financial program (including ratings on medium-term note programs and commercial paper programs). It takes into consideration the creditworthiness of guarantors, insurers, or other forms of credit enhancement on the obligation and takes into account the currency in which the obligation is denominated. The opinion reflects S&P Global Ratings' view of the obligor's capacity and willingness to meet its financial commitments as they come due, and this opinion may assess terms, such as collateral security and subordination, which could affect ultimate payment in the event of default.

Ratings assigned on *Moody's* global long-term and short-term rating scales are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issued by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles, and public sector entities.

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

Credit ratings provided by *DBRS* are forward-looking opinions about credit risk which reflect the creditworthiness of an issuer, rated entity, security and/or obligation. Credit ratings are not statements of fact. While historical statistics and performance can be important considerations, credit ratings are not based solely on such; they include subjective considerations and involve expectations for future performance that cannot be guaranteed. To the extent that future events and economic conditions do not match expectations, credit ratings assigned to issuers, entities, securities and/or obligations can change. Credit ratings are also based on approved and applicable methodologies ("Methodologies"), which are periodically updated and when material changes are deemed necessary, this may also lead to rating changes.

Credit ratings typically provide an opinion on the risk that investors may not be repaid in accordance with the terms under which the obligation was issued. In some cases, credit ratings may also include consideration for the relative ranking of claims and recovery, should default occur. Credit ratings are meant to provide opinions on relative

measures of risk and are not based on expectations of any specific default probability, nor are they meant to predict such.

The data and information on which DBRS bases its opinions is not audited or verified by DBRS, although, DBRS conducts a reasonableness review of information received and relied upon in accordance with its Methodologies and policies.

DBRS uses rating symbols as a concise method of expressing its opinion to the market, but there are a limited number of rating categories for the possible slight risk differentials that exist across the rating spectrum and DBRS does not assert that credit ratings in the same category are of "exactly" the same quality.

## APPENDIX B

# AKRE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC (the "Adviser")

# **Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**

# Amended and Restated July 12, 2013 - Revised October 27, 2023

## I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

Proxy voting is an important right of shareholders and reasonable care and diligence must be undertaken by the Adviser to ensure that such rights are properly exercised in a timely manner on behalf of its clients. When the Adviser has discretion to vote the proxies of its clients, it will vote those proxies in the best interest of its clients and in accordance with these Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures.

## II. PROXY VOTING PROCEDURES

The Adviser will appoint a "Proxy Voting Coordinator" who is employed by the Adviser and who receives or has access to all proxies for the Adviser's clients. The Proxy Voting Coordinator:

- Keeps a record of each proxy received;
- Notifies the investment research team of proxy deadlines; absent material conflicts (see Section IV below);
- Shall cast proxy votes as directed by the investment research team on matter(s) included in the proxy or ensure a member of the investment research team cast proxy votes for each account holding the security to which a proxy relates;
- Maintain records of each proxy vote cast;
- The Adviser may retain a third party to assist the Proxy Coordinator in coordinating and voting
  proxies with respect to its clients' securities. In this case, the Proxy Voting Coordinator will
  monitor the third party to ensure that all proxies are properly voted and appropriate records are
  retained.
- Perform reconciliations to seek to ensure that all proxies are voted (e.g., reconcile the list of clients for which the Adviser has proxy voting obligations against a list of votes cast by the Adviser or a third party, if applicable, for clients) or that the Adviser has determined that not voting for a particular client is appropriate.

## III. VOTING GUIDELINES

In the absence of specific voting instructions or guidelines from a client, the Adviser will vote proxies in the best interests of each particular client, which may result in different voting results for proxies of the same issuer. With this in mind, the Adviser will generally vote:

- In favor of routine corporate proposals, including election of directors (where no corporate governance issues are implicated), selection of auditors, and increases in or reclassification of common stock; and
- Against proposals that make it more difficult to replace members of the issuer's board of
  directors, including proposals to stagger the board, cause management to be overrepresented on
  the board, introduce cumulative voting, introduce unequal voting rights, and create supermajority
  voting.

For other proposals, the Adviser shall determine whether a proposal is in the best interests of a client and may take into account the following factors, among others:

- Whether the proposal was recommended by management and the Adviser's opinion of management;
- Whether the proposal acts to entrench existing management; and
- Whether the proposal fairly compensates management for past and future performance.

Where the policies do not address the proposal presented, the Adviser will either request voting instructions or a waiver of the conflict of interest from the client, cast the vote in accordance with the recommendations of an independent proxy voting service, refrain from voting, or take other appropriate action to resolve the conflict.

## IV. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Adviser's Compliance Officer will seek to identify any conflicts that exist between the interests of the Adviser and its clients. This examination will seek to include a review of the relationship between the Adviser and its affiliates with the issuer of each security and any of the issuer's affiliates to determine if the issuer is a client of the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser or has some other relationship with the Adviser or a client of the Adviser.

If a material conflict exists, the Adviser will determine whether voting in accordance with the voting guidelines and factors described above is in the best interests of the client. The Adviser will also determine whether it is appropriate to disclose the conflict to the affected clients and, except in the case of clients that are subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), give the clients the opportunity to vote their proxies themselves. In the case of an ERISA client, if the Investment Management Agreement reserves to the ERISA client the authority to vote proxies when the Adviser determines it has a material conflict that affects its best judgment as an ERISA fiduciary, the Adviser will give the ERISA client the opportunity to vote the proxies itself. Absent the client reserving voting rights, the Adviser will vote the proxies solely in accordance with the policies outlined in Section III, "Voting Guidelines" above.

## V. DISCLOSURE AND REPORTING

The Adviser will disclose in its Form ADV Part 2 that clients may contact the Adviser, via e-mail or telephone, in order to obtain information on how the Adviser voted such client's proxies, and to request a copy of these Proxy Voting Policies. If a client requests this information, the Adviser will prepare a written response to the client that lists, with respect to each voted proxy about which the client has inquired, (1) the name of the issuer; (2) the proposal voted upon; and (3) how the Adviser voted the client's proxy.

A concise summary of this Proxy Voting Policies will be included in the Adviser's Form ADV Part 2 and will be updated whenever these Proxy Voting Policies are updated. The Compliance Officer will arrange for a copy of this summary to be sent to all existing clients (who will already have been sent Adviser's Form ADV Part 2A) either as a separate mailing or along with a periodic account statement or other correspondence sent to clients.

Effective for votes occurring on or after July 1, 2023, the Adviser will report how it voted proxies relating to executive compensation ("say-on-pay") matters annually on Form N-PX no later than August 31 of each year for the most recent 12-month period ended June 30, as required by Rule 14Ad-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

## VI. RECORDKEEPING

The Proxy Voting Coordinator and Compliance Officer will maintain files relating to the Adviser's proxy voting procedures in an easily accessible place. Records will be maintained and preserved for five years from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on a record, with records for the first two years kept in the offices of the Adviser. Records of the following will be included in the files:

- Copies of this proxy voting policy and procedures, and any amendments thereto.
- A copy of each proxy statement that the Adviser receives, provided however that the Adviser may
  rely on obtaining a copy of proxy statements from the SEC's EDGAR system for those proxy
  statements that are so available.
- A record of each vote that the Adviser casts.
- A copy of any document the Adviser created that was material to making a decision how to vote proxies, or that memorializes that decision.
- A copy of each written client request for information on how the Adviser voted such client's proxies, and a copy of any written response to any (written or oral) client request for information on how the Adviser voted its proxies.

## VII. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

Due Diligence. The Compliance Officer will periodically review a sample of proxy votes to determine whether those votes complied with these policies and procedures.

Annual Review. The Compliance Officer shall review, no less frequently than annually, the adequacy of these policies and procedures to make sure they have been implemented effectively, including whether the policies and procedures continue to be reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interests of its clients.