

August 31, 2025

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	INVESTOR CLASS SHARES	INSTITUTIONAL CLASS SHARES
VULCAN VALUE PARTNERS FUND	VVPLX	VVILX
VULCAN VALUE PARTNERS SMALL CAP FUND	VVPSX	VVISX

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Each of the Vulcan Value Partners Fund and the Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”) is a series of Financial Investors Trust (the “Trust”), an open-end series management investment company organized as a Delaware statutory trust.

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) expands upon and supplements the information contained in the current Prospectus of the Funds listed above, each of which is a separate series of the Trust. Each of these series of the Trust represents shares of beneficial interest in a separate portfolio of securities and other assets with its own objective and policies. Vulcan Value Partners LLC is the investment adviser of each Fund. This SAI is not a prospectus and is only authorized for distribution when preceded or accompanied by the Funds’ current prospectus dated August 31, 2025, as supplemented from time to time (the “Prospectus”). This SAI supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus, a copy of which may be obtained without charge by writing either Fund at the address listed above, or by calling the Funds’ transfer agent at 877.421.5078. The Funds’ most recent [annual report](#) are incorporated by reference into this SAI and can be obtained free of charge by calling the toll-free number printed above.

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## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Prospectus discusses the investment objectives of the Vulcan Value Partners Fund and the Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”), as well as the strategies each Fund employs to achieve those objectives. Each Fund is a series of Financial Investors Trust (the “Trust”), an open-end series management investment company organized as a Delaware statutory trust on November 30, 1993. The discussion below supplements the information set forth in the Prospectus under “Investment Objective and Principal Strategies.” Each Fund seeks to achieve long-term capital appreciation.

As of the date hereof, each Fund is classified as non-diversified.

While there is no assurance that a Fund will achieve its investment objective, it endeavors to do so by following the strategies and policies described in the Prospectus.

The Trust’s Board of Trustees (the “Board”) may change a Fund’s investment objective without a shareholder vote. The Board may change the Fund’s principal investment strategies without a shareholder vote. The Vulcan Value Small Cap Fund will notify you in writing at least sixty (60) days before making any change to the Fund’s 80% policy (described below). If there is a material change to a Fund’s investment objective or principal investment strategies, you should consider whether the Fund remains an appropriate investment for you.

On April 17, 2025, the Board, based upon the recommendation of Vulcan Value Partners, LLC, the investment adviser to the Funds, approved the proposed reorganization of each Fund into correspondingly named series of Elevation Series Trust, subject to the approval of the shareholders of the relevant Fund.

### What are the Funds’ Principal Investment Strategies?

Unless otherwise stated, the following investment philosophies and processes apply to each Fund.

- **VULCAN VALUE PARTNERS FUND** seeks to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in publicly traded small- and large-capitalization U.S. companies believed to be both undervalued and possessing a sustainable competitive advantage.
- **VULCAN VALUE PARTNERS SMALL CAP FUND** seeks to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in publicly traded small-capitalization U.S. companies believed to be both undervalued and possessing a sustainable competitive advantage.

**The Funds’ Investment Philosophies.** Both Funds are value funds. Vulcan Value Partners, LLC (“Vulcan” or the “Adviser”) is the investment adviser to the Funds. The Funds view equity investments as ownership in a business enterprise and approach investing as long-term partial ownership of businesses. The Funds seek to purchase publicly traded companies at significant discounts to intrinsic worth. The Funds seek to invest for the long term, limiting the selection of qualifying investments to good businesses with identifiable, sustainable competitive advantages to maximize returns and to minimize risk. The Funds generally define risk as the probability of permanently losing capital over a five-year period. The Funds generally sell stocks when they approach their appraised value. The Funds seek to determine business or intrinsic value through disciplined financial analysis. The Funds believe that equities purchased at prices substantially less than their intrinsic worth generally afford capital protection from significant permanent loss and also create the possibility of substantial appreciation if the market recognizes the company’s economic value.

**The Funds’ Investment Process.** Under normal circumstances, both Funds follow the same investment disciplines and appraisal methods. The Funds identify publicly traded companies that are believed to have sustainable competitive advantages allowing them to produce free cash flow and earn superior cash returns on capital. The Funds seek to invest in businesses that are run by ethical, capable, stockholder-oriented management teams that also are good operators, and, very importantly, understand the importance of capital allocation. The Funds then focus their analysis on the difference between price and value; that is, the difference between the price of the company’s securities and the appraised value of the securities. The greater the difference of value over price, the larger the margin of safety and the more attractive the investment. The Funds will generally invest larger amounts of their assets in companies determined to have lower price to value ratios and reduce capital committed to companies determined to have higher price to value ratios.

Under normal circumstances, at least eighty percent (80%) of the Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund's net assets are invested in small-cap companies. As of June 30, 2025, the latest reconstitution date, the median market capitalization of the Russell 2000® Index was approximately \$0.88 billion and the top of this range was approximately \$15.8 billion. The Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund's capitalization range will change over time. For purposes of the Fund's 80% investment policy, the Fund considers small-cap companies to be those companies whose market capitalization at the time of initial purchase is within the market capitalization range of companies in the Russell 2000® Index during the most recent 12-month period. As of June 30, 2025, the latest reconstitution date, this range was approximately \$36.9 million to \$15.8 billion; however, this capitalization range is expected to change over time.

Each Fund may hold significant positions in cash or cash equivalents when the Adviser believes the investment climate is, or will become, unfavorable for equity securities. During such periods when the Adviser perceives the investment climate to be unfavorable, the Adviser may also attempt to hedge that Fund's portfolio by using stock index futures, options on stock market indexes or options on individual securities.

Within the parameters of its specific investment policies, each Fund may invest in publicly traded foreign equity and debt securities. The Vulcan Value Partners Fund may invest no more than 10% of its net assets in securities issued by the same issuer, provided that the aggregate value of the securities held in issuers in each of which it invests more than 5% of its assets is less than 40% of the Fund's total assets. This test will be applied to the Fund's holdings on an ongoing basis.

A mutual fund may elect to operate as a "diversified company," which generally is defined in Section 5(b)(1) of the 1940 Act as any management investment company, if at least 75 percent of the company's assets consist of cash, cash items, government securities, securities of other investment companies, and other securities. For the purposes of this calculation, "other securities" are limited in regard to any issuer to an amount not greater than 5 percent of the value of the total assets of the management company and to not more than 10 percent of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer. The Funds have chosen to be classified as non-diversified. As a result, an increase or decrease in the value of a single security may have a greater impact on a Fund's net asset value ("NAV") and total return. Being non-diversified may also cause a Fund to be more susceptible to financial, economic, political or other developments that may impact a security. Although a Fund may from time to time satisfy the requirements for a diversified fund, its non-diversified classification gives the Funds' portfolio manager more flexibility to hold larger positions in a smaller number of securities than a fund that is classified as diversified.

*Equity Securities.* Equity securities are securities which signify ownership interest in a corporation and represent a claim on part of the corporation's assets and earnings. Equity securities may include common stocks, preferred stocks, convertible securities, equity interest in non-U.S. investments or trusts, depositary receipts, equity interests in publicly traded limited partnerships/units and other equity investments. Each Fund may invest in equity or equity-related securities and equipment lease certificates, equipment trust certificates and conditional sales contracts or limited partnership interests.

*Foreign Securities.* Each Fund may invest directly in publicly traded foreign securities denominated in a foreign currency and not publicly traded in the United States. Other ways of investing in foreign securities include depositary receipts or shares.

*Derivative Securities.* Neither Fund typically invests in listed or unlisted derivative securities, including options, futures, forwards, swap agreements participation notes and other types of derivatives individually or in combination for hedging purposes or for non-hedging purposes such as seeking to enhance return. Although the Funds typically do not invest in such instruments, the Adviser intends to either: (i) comply with the requirements of the CEA by operating the Funds in a manner consistent with the restrictions of CFTC Rule 4.5, including filing a notice of eligibility of exemption from registration in accordance with applicable procedures and deadlines; (ii) comply with the requirements of the CEA by registering as a CPO with the CFTC and the National Futures Association; or (iii) operate the Funds in a manner such that each Fund will not be a “commodity pool” under the CEA.

*Regulation of Derivatives.* Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act permits the Fund to enter into Derivatives Transactions (as defined below) and certain other transactions notwithstanding the restrictions on the issuance of “senior securities” under Section 18 of the 1940 Act. Section 18 of the 1940 Act, among other things, prohibits open-end funds, including the Fund, from issuing or selling any “senior security,” other than borrowing from a bank (subject to a requirement to maintain 300% “asset coverage”).

Under Rule 18f-4, “Derivatives Transactions” include the following: (1) any swap, security-based swap (including a contract for differences), futures contract, forward contract, option (excluding purchased options), 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 (e.g., recourse and non-recourse tender option bonds, and borrowed bonds), if the Fund elects to treat these transactions as Derivatives Transactions under Rule 18f-4; and (4) when-issued or forward-settling securities (e.g., firm and standby commitments, including to-be-announced (“TBA”) commitments, and dollar rolls) 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.

Unless the Fund is relying on the Limited Derivatives User Exception (as defined below), the Fund must comply with Rule 18f-4 with respect to its Derivatives Transactions. Rule 18f-4, among other things, requires the Fund to adopt and implement a comprehensive written derivatives risk management program (“DRMP”) and comply with a relative or absolute limit on Fund leverage risk calculated based on value-at-risk (“VaR”). The DRMP is administered by a “derivatives risk manager,” who is appointed by the Fund’s Board, including a majority of the independent Directors, and periodically reviews the DRMP and reports to the Fund’s Board.

Rule 18f-4 provides an exception from the DRMP, VaR limit and certain other requirements if a Fund’s “derivatives exposure” is limited to 10% of its net assets (as calculated in accordance with Rule 18f-4) and the Fund adopts and implements written policies and procedures reasonably designed to manage its derivatives risks (the “Limited Derivatives User Exception”).

*Exchange Traded Funds.* Each Fund may invest in shares of exchange traded funds (“ETFs”) and other similar instruments if the Adviser chooses to adjust that Fund’s exposure to the general market or industry sectors and to manage that Fund’s risk exposure. ETFs differ from traditional index funds in that their shares are listed on a securities exchange and can be traded intraday. ETF shares are shares of exchange traded investment companies that are registered under the 1940 Act and hold a portfolio of common stocks designed to track the performance of a particular index. Limitations of the 1940 Act may prohibit each Fund from acquiring more than 3% of the outstanding shares of certain ETFs. Instruments that are similar to ETFs represent beneficial ownership interests in specific “baskets” of stocks of companies within a particular industry sector or group. These securities may also be exchange traded, but unlike ETFs, the issuers of these securities are not registered as investment companies.

*Other Investment Companies.* The Funds may not acquire securities of other investment companies, except as permitted by the 1940 Act or any order pursuant thereto.

*Portfolio Turnover.* Each Fund may engage in short-term trading. This means that each Fund may buy a security and sell that security a short period of time after its purchase to realize gains if the Adviser believes that the sale is in the best interest of that Fund (for example, if the Adviser believes an alternative investment has greater growth potential). This activity will increase that Fund's portfolio turnover rate and generate higher transaction costs due to commissions or dealer mark-ups and other expenses that would reduce that Fund's investment performance. In addition, a high level of short-term trading may increase the amount of taxable distributions to shareholders that would reduce the after-tax returns of that Fund, and in particular may generate short-term capital gains that when distributed to shareholders are taxed at ordinary U.S. federal income tax rates.

*Cash Position.* Each Fund may not always stay fully invested in stocks or bonds. For example, when the Adviser believes that market conditions are unfavorable for profitable investing, or when it is otherwise unable to locate attractive investment opportunities, that Fund's cash or similar investments may increase. In other words, cash or similar investments generally are a residual – they represent the assets that remain after that Fund has committed available assets to desirable investment opportunities. When that Fund's investments in cash or similar investments increase, it may not participate in market advance or declines to the same extent that it would if that Fund remained more fully invested in stocks or bonds. The cash or cash equivalent holdings of each fund will be invested in securities issued by the United States, or an agency thereof, a money market or similar account, or cash deposits with federally insured depository institutions.

#### **What are the Non-Principal Strategies of Each Fund?**

Unless otherwise stated within its specific investment policies, each Fund may also invest in other types of domestic and foreign securities and use other investment strategies. These securities and strategies are not principal investment strategies of the Fund. If successful, they may benefit the Fund by earning a return on the Fund's assets or by reducing risk; however, they may not achieve the Fund's objective. These securities and strategies may include:

- Investment grade debt securities of publicly traded companies;
- indexed/structured securities; and
- securities purchased on a when-issued, delayed delivery or forward commitment basis.

#### **ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND RISKS**

The principal risks associated with each Fund's principal investment strategies are described in the Prospectuses. The following section describes in greater detail than the Prospectuses certain of the Funds' investment strategies and the associated risks.

## **Equity Investments**

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

### **Common Stock**

Common stocks are shares of a corporation or other entity that entitle the holder to a pro rata share of the profits of the corporation, if any, without preference over any other shareholder or class of shareholders, including holders of the entity's preferred stock and other senior equity. Common stock usually carries with it the right to vote and frequently an exclusive right to do so.

Common stocks of companies that the Adviser believes have earnings that will grow faster than the economy as a whole are known as growth stocks. Growth stocks typically trade at higher multiples of current earnings than other stocks. As a result, the values of growth stocks may be more sensitive to changes in current or expected earnings than the values of other stocks. If the Adviser's assessment of the prospects for a company's earnings growth is wrong, or if its judgment of how other investors will value the company's earnings growth is wrong, then the price of that company's stock may fall or may not approach the value that the Adviser has placed on it.

Common stocks of companies that are not expected to experience significant earnings growth, but whose stocks the Adviser believes are undervalued compared to their true worth, are known as value stocks. These companies may have experienced adverse business developments or may be subject to special risks that have caused their stocks to be out of favor. If the Adviser's assessment of a company's prospects is wrong, or if other investors do not eventually recognize the value of the company, then the price of the company's stocks may fall or may not approach the value that the Adviser has placed on it.

Many stocks have both "growth" and "value" characteristics, and for some stocks it may be unclear which category, if any, it fits into. Each Fund's investment process is biased towards value.

### **Preferred Stock**

Preferred stocks, like debt obligations, are generally fixed-income securities. Shareholders of preferred stocks normally have the right to receive dividends at a fixed rate when and as declared by the issuer's board of directors, but do not participate in other amounts available for distribution by the issuing corporation. Dividends on the preferred stock may be cumulative, and generally all cumulative dividends must be paid prior to common shareholders receiving any dividends. Because as a general matter preferred stock dividends must be paid before common stock dividends, preferred stocks generally entail less risk than common stocks. Upon liquidation, preferred stocks are generally entitled to a specified liquidation preference, which is generally the same as the par or stated value, and are senior in right of payment to common stock. Preferred stocks are, however, equity securities in the sense that they do not represent a liability of the issuer and, therefore, do not offer as great a degree of protection of capital or assurance of continued income as investments in corporate debt securities. In addition, preferred stocks are subordinated in right of payment to all debt obligations and creditors of the issuer, and convertible preferred stocks may be subordinated to other preferred stock of the same issuer.

## Exchange Traded Funds and Other Similar Instruments

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

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

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

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

Each Fund’s investment in ETFs that are financially leveraged may create an opportunity for greater total return on its investment, but at the same time may be expected to exhibit more volatility in market price and net asset value than an investment in shares of investment companies without a leveraged capital structure. In addition, due to the compounding of daily returns, leveraged ETFs might not track their intended benchmark over longer periods of time.



## **Leverage Risk**

Leverage occurs when a Fund increases its assets available for investment through borrowings or similar transactions. In accordance with the Fund's investment policy, the Fund may engage in transactions that create leverage, including, but not limited to, borrowing money from banks to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, only for purposes of meeting short term cash flow needs for redemptions only, not for investment or other purposes. A Fund's use of leverage may result in risks and can magnify the effect of any gains or losses, causing the Fund to be more volatile than if it had not been leveraged.

## **Warrants and Rights**

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

## **Market Risk**

The market price of securities owned by either Fund may go up or down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably.

Securities may decline in value due to factors affecting securities markets generally or particular industries represented in the securities markets. The value of a security may decline due to general market conditions which are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. They may also decline due to factors which affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry. During a general downturn in the securities markets, multiple asset classes may decline in value simultaneously.

Equity securities generally have greater price volatility than fixed-income securities.

## **Non-U.S. Securities**

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

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

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

Certain markets are in only the earliest stages of development. There is also a high concentration of market capitalization and trading volume in a small number of issuers representing a limited number of industries, as well as a high concentration of investors and financial intermediaries. Many of such markets also may be affected by developments with respect to more established markets in the region. Brokers in non-U.S. and emerging market countries typically are fewer in number and less capitalized than brokers in the United States. These factors, combined with the U.S. regulatory requirements for open-end investment companies and the restrictions on foreign investment, result in potentially fewer investment opportunities for a Fund and may have an adverse impact on the investment performance of the Fund. There generally is less governmental supervision and regulation of exchanges, brokers and issuers in non-U.S. countries than there is in the United States. For example, there may be no comparable provisions under certain non-U.S. laws to insider trading and similar investor protection securities laws that apply with respect to securities transactions consummated in the United States. Further, brokerage commissions and other transaction costs on non-U.S. securities exchanges generally are higher than in the United States. With respect to investments in certain emerging market countries, archaic legal systems may have an adverse impact on a Fund. For example, while the potential liability of a shareholder in a U.S. corporation with respect to acts of the corporation is generally limited to the amount of the shareholder's investment, the notion of limited liability is less clear in emerging market countries. Similarly, the rights of investors in emerging market companies may be more limited than those of shareholders of U.S. corporations.

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

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

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

#### **Securities Related Activities**

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

#### **Non-U.S. Sub-custodians**

Rules adopted under the 1940 Act permit each Fund to maintain its non-U.S. securities and cash in the custody of certain eligible non-U.S. banks and securities depositories.

Certain banks in non-U.S. countries may not be eligible sub-custodians for either Fund, in which event the Fund may be precluded from purchasing securities in certain non-U.S. countries in which it otherwise would invest or which may result in the Fund's incurring additional costs and delays in providing transportation and custody services for such securities outside of such countries. A Fund may encounter difficulties in effecting on a timely basis portfolio transactions with respect to any securities of issuers held outside their countries. Other banks that are eligible non-U.S. sub-custodians may be recently organized or otherwise lack extensive operating experience. In addition, in certain countries there may be legal restrictions or limitations on the ability of a Fund to recover assets held in custody by non-U.S. sub-custodians in the event of the bankruptcy of the sub-custodian.

#### **Credit Ratings**

The interest-bearing instruments included in each Fund's investment portfolio must be assigned a credit rating of "investment grade". A description of the ratings used by Moody's and S&P is set forth in Appendix A. An investment in either Fund should not be considered as a complete investment program for all investors. Moreover, substantial investments in non-U.S. securities may have adverse U.S. federal income tax implications as described under "FEDERAL INCOME TAXES."

The Adviser will take various factors into consideration in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issuer. For corporate debt securities, such factors typically include the issuer's financial resources, its sensitivity to economic conditions and trends, the operating history of the issuer, and the experience and track record of the issuer's management. For sovereign debt instruments, these will typically include the economic and political conditions within the issuer's country, the issuer's overall and external debt levels and debt service ratios, the issuer's access to capital markets and other sources of funding, and the issuer's debt service payment history. The Adviser will also review the ratings assigned to the security by any recognized rating organizations, although the Adviser's judgment as to the quality of a debt security may differ from that suggested by the rating published by a rating service. In addition to the foregoing credit analysis, the Adviser will evaluate the relative value of an investment compared with its perceived credit risk. A Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective may be more dependent on the Adviser's credit analysis than would be the case if it invested in higher quality debt securities.

### **Credit Risk**

The companies in which a Fund may invest may have their credit rating downgraded, fail financially or be unwilling or unable to make timely payments of interest or principal, thereby reducing the value of the Fund's portfolio and its income.

### **Emerging Market Countries**

Certain of the risks associated with international investments and investing in smaller capital markets are heightened for investments in emerging market countries. For example, some of the currencies of emerging market countries have experienced devaluations relative to the U.S. dollar, and major adjustments have been made periodically in certain of such currencies. Certain of such countries face serious exchange constraints. In addition, governments of many emerging market countries have exercised and continue to exercise substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector. In certain cases, the government owns or controls many companies, including the largest in the country. Accordingly, government actions in the future could have a significant effect on economic conditions in developing countries which could affect private sector companies and a Fund, as well as the value of securities in the Fund.

Investment in certain emerging market securities is restricted or controlled to varying degrees which may at times limit or preclude investment in certain emerging market securities and increase the costs and expenses of a Fund's portfolio. Certain emerging market countries require governmental approval prior to investments by foreign persons, limit the amount of investment by foreign persons in a particular issuer, limit the investment by foreign persons to only a specific class of securities of an issuer that may have less advantageous rights than other classes, restrict investment opportunities in issuers in industries deemed important to national interests and/or impose additional taxes on foreign investors. Certain emerging market countries may require governmental approval for the repatriation of investment income, capital or the proceeds of sales of securities by foreign investors which could adversely affect a Fund. In addition, if deterioration occurs in an emerging market country's balance of payments, it could impose temporary restrictions on foreign capital remittances. Investing in local markets in emerging market countries may require a portfolio to adopt special procedures, seek local government approvals or take other actions, each of which may involve additional costs to a Fund.

## **Fixed Income Securities**

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

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

## **Call or Buy-Back Features**

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

## **Bank Obligations**

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

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

## **Initial Public Offerings**

The Fund may purchase shares in initial public offerings (“IPO”). Because IPO shares frequently are volatile in price, the Fund may hold IPO shares for a very short period of time. This may increase the turnover of the Fund’s portfolio and may lead to increased expenses to the Fund, such as commissions and transaction costs. By selling shares, the Fund may realize taxable capital gains that it will subsequently distribute to shareholders. Investing in IPOs has added risks because their shares are frequently volatile in price. As a result, their performance can be more volatile and they face greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the Fund’s portfolio.

## **Convertible Securities**

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

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

Each Fund may purchase securities on a firm commitment basis, including when-issued securities. Securities purchased on a firm commitment basis are purchased for delivery beyond the normal settlement date at a stated price and yield. No income accrues to the purchaser of a security on a firm commitment basis prior to delivery. Such securities are recorded as an asset and are subject to changes in value based upon changes in the general level of interest rates. Purchasing a security on a firm commitment basis can involve a risk that the market price at the time of delivery may be lower than the agreed upon purchase price, in which case there could be an unrealized loss at the time of delivery. Each Fund will only make commitments to purchase securities on a firm commitment basis with the intention of actually acquiring the securities, but may sell them before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable.

## **Floating and Variable Rate Instruments**

Each Fund may each invest in floating and variable rate obligations. Floating or variable rate obligations bear interest at rates that are not fixed, but vary with changes in specified market rates or indices, such as the prime rate, and at specified intervals. The variable rate obligations in which a Fund may invest include variable rate master demand notes, which are unsecured instruments issued pursuant to an agreement between the issuer and the holder that permit the indebtedness thereunder to vary and provide for periodic adjustments in the interest rate.

Certain of the floating or variable rate obligations that may be purchased by a Fund may carry a demand feature that would permit the holder to tender them back to the issuer of the instrument or to a third party at par value prior to maturity. Some of the demand instruments purchased by a Fund are not traded in a secondary market and derive their liquidity solely from the ability of the holder to demand repayment from the issuer or third party providing credit support. If a demand instrument is not traded in a secondary market, the Fund will nonetheless treat the instrument as liquid for the purposes of its investment restriction limiting investments in illiquid securities unless the demand feature has a notice period of more than seven days; if the notice period is greater than seven days, such a demand instrument will be characterized as illiquid for such purpose. The Fund's right to obtain payment at par on a demand instrument could be affected by events occurring between the date the Fund elects to demand payment and the date payment is due that may affect the ability of the issuer of the instrument or a third party providing credit support to make payment when due. To facilitate settlement, some demand instruments may be held in book entry form at a bank other than the Fund's custodian subject to a sub-custodian agreement approved by the Fund between that bank and the Fund's custodian.

### **Inflation-Indexed Bonds**

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

Inflation-indexed securities issued by the U.S. Treasury have maturities of five, ten or twenty years, although it is possible that securities with other maturities will be issued in the future. The U.S. Treasury securities pay interest on a semiannual basis, equal to a fixed percentage of the inflation-adjusted principal amount. For example, if a Fund purchased an inflation-indexed bond with a par value of \$1,000 and a 3% real rate of return coupon (payable 1.5% semi-annually), and inflation over the first six months were 1%, the mid-year par value of the bond would be \$1,010 and the first semi-annual interest payment would be \$15.15 (\$1,010 times 1.5%). If inflation during the second half of the year resulted in the whole year's inflation equaling 3%, the end-of-year par value of the bond would be \$1,030 and the second semi-annual interest payment would be \$15.45 (\$1,030 times 1.5%).

If the periodic adjustment rate measuring inflation falls, the principal value of inflation-indexed bonds will be adjusted downward, and consequently the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. Repayment of the original bond principal upon maturity (as adjusted for inflation) is guaranteed in the case of U.S. Treasury inflation-indexed bonds, even during a period of deflation. However, the current market value of the bonds is not guaranteed, and will fluctuate. The Funds may also invest in other inflation related bonds which may or may not provide a similar guarantee. If a guarantee of principal is not provided, the adjusted principal value of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal. The value of inflation-indexed bonds is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates in turn are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation.

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

Each Fund may hold money market instruments, including commercial paper, bankers acceptances, certificates of deposit and other short term debt securities as ancillary liquid assets.

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

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

Each Fund may purchase Rule 144A securities on certain exchanges. These markets provide access to only institutional and highly sophisticated investors. They allow private companies to raise capital without the disclosure requirements of public markets and follow specific SEC rules to avoid certain disclosure requirements. Under these rules, companies are able to sell securities without registering them if the issued securities are limited to qualified institutional buyers (investors with at least \$100 million in assets), and there are less than 500 shareholders. The market is run through a proprietary trading system. This system allows the members of the exchange to view bid and ask offers and recent sales. Actual transactions are made through special brokers. Because of the lack of disclosure in these markets, shares are expected to trade at a discount to the equivalent price achievable if the shares were listed on a public market. Companies utilizing these markets however, believe that the ability to avoid disclosure requirements of public markets is more important than receiving the higher price available from a public exchange listing.

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

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

Securities issued by the U.S. Treasury generally do not involve the credit risks associated with investments in other types of fixed-income securities, although, as a result, the yields available from these securities are generally lower than the yields available from corporate fixed-income securities. Like other debt securities, however, the values of U.S. government securities change as interest rates fluctuate, which could affect a Fund’s net asset value. Since the magnitude of these fluctuations will generally be greater at times when the Fund’s average maturity is longer, under certain market conditions the Fund may, for temporary defensive purposes, accept lower current income from short-term investments rather than investing in higher yielding long-term securities. Some U.S. Government securities (such as Fannie Maes and Freddie Macs) are guaranteed as to the payment of principal and interest by the relevant entity (e.g., FNMA or FHLMC) but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government securities. Therefore, the securities would generally be neither the securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury.



Under the direction of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have entered into a joint initiative to develop a common securitization platform for the issuance of a uniform mortgage-backed security (the “Single Security Initiative”), which would generally align the characteristics of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac certificates. The Single Security Initiative was launched in June 2019, and as of this time, the long-term effects it may have on the market for mortgage-backed securities remains uncertain.

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

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

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

To avoid liability for U.S. federal income and excise taxes, the Fund may be required to distribute income accrued with respect to zero coupon securities, certain pay-in-kind bonds, deferred payment securities and certain other securities, and may have to dispose of portfolio securities under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate cash to satisfy these distribution requirements.

### **Cybersecurity Risk**

In connection with the increased use of technologies such as the Internet and the dependence on computer systems to perform necessary business functions, a Fund may be susceptible to operational, information security and related risks due to the possibility of cyber-attacks or other incidents. Cyber incidents may result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. Cyber-attacks include, but are not limited to, infection by computer viruses or other malicious software code, gaining unauthorized access to systems, networks or devices that are used to service a Fund’s operations through hacking or other means for the purpose of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data or causing operational disruption. Cyber-attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as causing denial-of-service attacks (which can make a website unavailable) on a Funds’ website. In addition, authorized persons could inadvertently or intentionally release confidential or proprietary information stored on a Fund’s systems.

Cybersecurity failures or breaches by a Fund's third-party service providers (including, but not limited to, the Adviser, distributor, custodian, transfer agent and financial intermediaries) may cause disruptions and impact the service providers' and a Fund's business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the mutual funds to process transactions, inability to calculate a Fund's net asset value, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs and/or additional compliance costs. A Fund and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result of successful cyber-attacks against, or security breakdowns of, a Fund or its third-party service providers.

A Fund may incur substantial costs to prevent or address cyber incidents in the future. In addition, there is a possibility that certain risks have not been adequately identified or prepared for. Furthermore, a Fund cannot directly control any cyber security plans and systems put in place by third party service providers. Cyber security risks are also present for issuers of securities in which a Fund invests, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause a Fund's investment in such securities to lose value.

## **OTHER PRACTICES**

### **Borrowing**

Neither Fund will use leverage or borrow for investment purposes. Each Fund may borrow up to 10% of its net assets for short term cash flow purposes to meet any redemption requests. Borrowing creates an opportunity for increased return, but, at the same time, creates special risks. Furthermore, if a Fund were to engage in borrowing, an increase in interest rates could reduce the value of the Fund's shares by increasing the Fund's interest expense.

Subject to the limitations described under "Investment Limitations" below, each Fund may be permitted to borrow from any bank for temporary purposes. Such a practice will result in leveraging of the Fund's assets and may cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it would not be advantageous to do so. This borrowing may be secured or unsecured. Provisions of the 1940 Act require each Fund to maintain continuous asset coverage (that is, total assets including borrowings, less liabilities exclusive of borrowings) of 300% of the amount borrowed, with an exception for borrowings not in excess of 5% of the Fund's total assets made for temporary purposes. A loan shall be presumed to be for temporary purposes if it is repaid within sixty days and is not extended or renewed. Any borrowings for temporary purposes in excess of 5% of a Fund's total assets will count against this asset coverage requirement. In the event that such asset coverage shall at any time fall below 300%, the Fund shall, within three days thereafter (not including Sundays and holidays), reduce the amount of its borrowings to an extent that the asset coverage of such borrowings shall be at least 300%. Borrowing will tend to exaggerate the effect on net asset value of any increase or decrease in the market value of a Fund's portfolio. Money borrowed will be subject to interest costs which may or may not be recovered by appreciation of the securities purchased, if any. Each Fund also may be required to maintain minimum average balances in connection with such borrowings or to pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit; either of these requirements would increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate.

## **Depository Receipts**

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

## **Illiquid Securities**

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

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

## **Repurchase Agreements**

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

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

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

### **Reverse Repurchase Agreements**

Each Fund may enter into “reverse” repurchase agreements to avoid selling securities during unfavorable market conditions to meet redemptions. Pursuant to a reverse repurchase agreement, the Fund will sell portfolio securities and agree to repurchase them from the buyer at a particular date and price. A Fund pays interest on amounts obtained pursuant to reverse repurchase agreements. Reverse repurchase agreements are considered to be borrowings by a Fund.

## **INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS**

### **Fundamental Investment Limitations**

The following is a description of the Funds’ fundamental investment restrictions. “Fundamental” restrictions are those that may not be changed without the vote of a majority of a Fund’s outstanding voting securities. Under the 1940 Act, the vote of a majority of the outstanding securities of a company means the vote, at the annual or a special meeting of the security holders of such company duly called: (A) of 67 percent or more of the voting securities present at such meeting, if the holders of more than 50 percent of the outstanding voting securities of such company are present or represented by proxy; or (B) of more than 50 percent of the outstanding voting securities of such company, whichever is less.

In contrast, non-fundamental investment restrictions (which include the Fund’s investment objective and each of the other investment restrictions set forth in the Prospectus or this SAI) may be changed by the Board without shareholder approval.

The percentages set forth below and the percentage limitations set forth in the Prospectus apply at the time of the purchase of a security and shall not be considered violated unless an excess or deficiency occurs or exists immediately after and as a result of a purchase of such security.

For purposes of the fundamental restrictions set forth below, “total assets” means net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes.

Each Fund may not:

(1) Purchase securities which would cause 25% or more of the value of its total assets at the time of purchase to be invested in the securities of one or more issuers conducting their principal business activities in the same industry (excluding the U.S. Government and its agencies and instrumentalities);

- (2) Borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act;
- (3) Make loans, except that the Fund may purchase or hold debt instruments in accordance with their investment objectives and policies; provided however, this restriction does not apply to repurchase agreements or loans of portfolio securities;
- (4) Act as an underwriter of securities of other issuers except that, in the disposition of portfolio securities, it may be deemed to be an underwriter under the federal securities laws;
- (5) Purchase or sell real estate, although the Fund may purchase securities of issuers which deal in real estate, securities which are secured by interests in real estate, and securities which represent interests in real estate, and they may acquire and dispose of real estate or interests in real estate acquired through the exercise of their rights as a holder of debt obligations secured by real estate or interests therein;
- (6) Purchase or sell commodities, except that the Fund may purchase and sell futures contracts and options, may enter into foreign exchange contracts and may enter into swap agreements and other financial transactions not requiring the delivery of physical commodities; or
- (7) Issue senior securities, except for permitted borrowings or as otherwise permitted under the 1940 Act.

Each Fund's industry classification system may be adjusted or changed from time to time (for example, if a 3rd party industry classification system is discontinued) without shareholder approval if determined to be in the best interests of shareholders, and further provided that the practical effect of such change does not result in a material amendment to the Fund's fundamental investment limitation. Restrictions (2) and (7) above shall be interpreted based upon federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder. Under current pronouncements, certain Fund positions may be excluded from the definition of "senior security" so long as the Fund complies with applicable regulatory requirements. See "Borrowing" above.

#### **Non-Fundamental Investment Limitations**

In addition, it is contrary to each Fund's present policy, which may be changed without shareholder vote, to purchase any illiquid security, including any securities whose disposition is restricted under federal securities laws and securities that are not readily marketable, if, as a result, more than 15% of that Fund's net assets (based on then-current value) would then be invested in such securities. The staff of the SEC is presently of the view that repurchase agreements maturing in more than seven days are subject to this restriction. Until that position is revised, modified or rescinded, each Fund will conduct its operations in a manner consistent with this view. This limitation on investment in illiquid securities does not apply to certain restricted securities, including securities pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act and certain commercial paper, that the Adviser has determined to be liquid under procedures approved by the Board.

#### **PORTFOLIO TURNOVER**

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

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

## **DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

### **Policy Statement**

This Policy sets forth the conditions under which Portfolio Holdings data for Financial Investors Trust (the "Trust") on behalf of each Fund of the Trust (collectively the "Funds" and each, a "Fund") may be disclosed to Third Parties (which may include the public) and Service Providers. No data about the Funds may be disclosed except in accordance with this Policy.

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

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

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

### **Policy Overview**

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

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

The Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "Board") will periodically review the list of entities that have received, other than through public channels, Portfolio Holdings data, to ensure that the disclosure of the information was in the best interest of shareholders, identify any potential for conflicts of interest and evaluate the effectiveness of its current portfolio holding policy.

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

The identity of such entities is provided below:

<b>Name of Recipient</b>	<b>Frequency of Holdings Disclosure</b>	<b>Information Lag</b>	<b>Date of Information</b>	<b>Date Provided to Recipients</b>
Vulcan Value Partners, LLC (Adviser)	Daily	None	Daily	Daily
ALPS Fund Services, Inc. (Administrator)	Daily	None	Daily	Daily
Bank of New York Mellon (Custodian)	Daily	None	Daily	Daily
Cohen & Company, Ltd. (Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm)	As needed	None	As needed	As needed
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP (Counsel)	As needed	None	As needed	As needed

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

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

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

### **Full Portfolio Holdings**

The Funds currently authorize quarterly dissemination of full portfolio holdings of a Fund with a ten (10) calendar day lag. In addition, except as set forth in this Policy, including Appendix A hereto, the full holdings of a Fund will be disclosed on a quarterly basis on forms required to be filed with the SEC as follows: (i) Portfolio Holdings as of the end of each fiscal year will be filed as part of the annual report filed on Form N-CSR; (ii) Portfolio Holdings as of the end of the first and third fiscal quarters will be filed in Form N-PORT (as described below); and (iii) Portfolio Holdings as of the end of the second fiscal quarter will be filed as part of the semi-annual report filed on Form N-CSR. Each fiscal quarter, the Trust will file with the SEC a complete schedule of its monthly portfolio holdings on Form N-PORT. Each Fund's holdings as of the end of the third month of every fiscal quarter, as reported on Form N-PORT, will be publicly available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) within 60 days of the end of the fiscal quarter upon filing. The Trust's Form N-CSRs (and historical Form N-Qs) are also available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### **Partial Portfolio Holdings**

Except as set forth in this Policy, partial Portfolio Holdings information will only be provided to third Parties for the most recent month-end period and only after a ten (10) calendar day delay from the end of the month being provided. These holdings may include any combination of the Portfolio Holdings information, except for full Portfolio Holdings.

### **Policy Exceptions**

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

- Disclosures that are required by law;
- Disclosures necessary for Service Providers (defined above);
- Disclosure necessary for Rating Agencies to assess applicable fund ratings.
- Disclosures necessary to broker-dealers or banks as part of the normal buying, selling, shorting, or other transactions in portfolio securities
- Disclosures to the Fund's or Service Providers' regulatory authorities, accountants, or counsel;
- Disclosures to the adviser of the Fund of compiled data concerning accounts managed by the adviser; or
- Any portfolio holdings that precede a full public disclosure (e.g., portfolio holdings that are dated prior to the most recent quarterly disclosure) are not considered to be sensitive, proprietary information of the Fund, and therefore are not subject to the aforementioned disclosure policies.



## PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE

### Investment Decisions and Portfolio Transactions

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

### Brokerage and Research Services

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

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

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

Advisers or subadvisers of investment companies and other institutional investors from time to time receive research and brokerage products and services (together, “services”) from broker-dealers which execute portfolio transactions for the clients of such advisers. Consistent with this practice, the Adviser receives services from many broker-dealers with which the Adviser places the Funds’ portfolio transactions. These services, which in some cases may also be purchased for cash, may include, among other things, such items as general economic and security market reviews, industry and company reviews, evaluations of securities, recommendations as to the purchase and sale of securities, and services related to the execution of securities transactions. The advisory fees paid by a Fund is not reduced because the Adviser receives such services even though the receipt of such services relieves the Adviser from expenses it might otherwise bear. Research and brokerage services provided by broker-dealers chosen by the Adviser to place a Fund’s portfolio transactions may be useful to the Adviser in providing services to the Adviser’s other clients, although not all of these services may be necessarily useful and of value to the Adviser in managing the Funds. Conversely, research and brokerage services provided to the Adviser by broker-dealers in connection with trades executed on behalf of other clients of the Adviser may be useful to the Adviser in managing the Funds, although not all of these services may be necessarily useful and of value to the Adviser in managing such other clients.

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

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

The table below shows the brokerage commissions paid by each Fund for the periods indicated:

	For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2025	For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2024	For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2023
Vulcan Value Partners Fund	\$233,950	\$226,505	\$363,354
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund	\$451,795	\$494,586*	\$1,295,739

\* The variation observed in commission expense by the Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund for fiscal years ending April 30, 2023, and April 30, 2024, was a result of significant client and fund activity associated with redemptions and portfolio management activity.

For the fiscal years ended April 30, 2025, April 30, 2024 and April 30, 2023, neither Fund had any transactions identified for execution primarily on the basis of research and other services provided to the Funds and therefore no related commissions.

For the fiscal years ended April 30, 2025, April 30, 2024 and April 30, 2023, neither Fund directed any trades to an affiliated broker/dealer.

Each Fund may acquire securities of brokers who execute the Fund's portfolio transactions. As of April 30, 2025, each Fund owned securities of their regular broker-dealers (or parents) as shown below:

Fund Name	Name of Broker-Dealer	Market Value of Securities Owned
Vulcan Value Partners Fund	N/A	N/A
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund	N/A	N/A

#### PURCHASE, EXCHANGE & REDEMPTION OF SHARES

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

The Vulcan Funds retain the right to limit inflows into the Vulcan Funds.

#### Share Classes

Each Fund currently offers two classes of shares: Investor Class and Institutional Class shares. The initial share class of the Funds was redesignated as Investor Class shares effective April 23, 2019.

The minimum initial and subsequent investment in each Fund is set forth in the Prospectus.

Subsequent investments may be made at any time by mailing a check to a Fund's Transfer Agent, along with a letter providing the account number. Shareholders should be sure to write the Fund's account number on the check. Purchases of Fund shares (initial or subsequent) may not be made by third party check.

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

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

For a share purchase order for a Fund to become effective on a particular business day, prior to 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time): (i) in the case of a wire transfer payment, a purchaser must call 877.421.5078 to inform the Transfer Agent of an incoming wire transfer; or (ii) in the case of payment by check or money order, a complete share purchase order must be actually received by the Transfer Agent, and, in either case, federal funds must be received by the Transfer Agent, on behalf of the Fund. If federal funds are received by the Transfer Agent that same day, the order will be effective on that day. If the Fund receives notification of a wire transfer or a complete share purchase order after 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), or if federal funds are not received by the Transfer Agent, such purchase order shall be executed as of the date that federal funds are actually received.

The price of each Fund's shares and the valuation of Fund assets are discussed in "Net Asset Value."

### **Exchanging Shares**

If you have held all or part of your shares in a Fund for at least seven days, you may exchange those shares for shares of the other Fund if such Fund is available for sale in your state and meets the investment criteria of the investor.

If you are an existing shareholder of either Fund, you may exchange into a new account copying your existing account registration and options. Exchanges between accounts will be accepted only if registrations are identical.

Exchanges must meet the minimum investment requirements described in the Prospectus. You may also transfer between classes of a Fund if you meet the minimum investment requirements for the class into which you would like to transfer.

Before effecting an exchange, you should read the Prospectus.

An exchange of shares of one Fund for shares of another Fund represents the sale of shares from one Fund and the purchase of shares of the other Fund. For U.S. federal income tax purposes, this may produce a taxable gain or loss in your non-tax-qualified account. If you exchange shares within 90 calendar days from their date of purchase, you may be subject to the redemption fee as described in this SAI in "*Redemption Fees*" below. Transfers between classes of the same Fund are generally not considered a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but may result in tax reporting obligations (see "FEDERAL INCOME TAXES – Transfers between Classes of a Fund").

The exchange privilege may be modified or terminated upon sixty (60) days' written notice to shareholders. Although initially there will be no limit on the number of times you may exercise the exchange privilege, each Fund reserves the right to impose such a limitation. Call or write each Fund for further details.

## Redemption of Shares

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

Under the 1940 Act, either Fund may suspend the right of redemption or postpone the date of payment upon redemption for any period: (i) during which the NYSE is closed, other than customary weekend and holiday closings; (ii) during which trading on the NYSE is restricted; or (iii) during which (as determined by the SEC by rule or regulation) an emergency exists as a result of which disposal or valuation of portfolio securities is not reasonably practicable, or for such other periods as the SEC may permit. A Fund may also suspend or postpone the recordation of the transfer of its shares upon the occurrence of any of the foregoing conditions.

*Redemption Procedures.* A Fund will redeem all full and fractional shares of the Fund upon request on any business day at the applicable net asset value determined a redemption request has been received in good order, less any applicable redemption fees. A purchase, exchange or redemption order is in "good order" when the Fund or its agent (financial intermediary or plan sponsor, if applicable), receives all required information, including properly completed and signed documents. Shareholders liquidating their holdings will receive upon redemption all dividends reinvested through the date of redemption. If notice of redemption is received on any business day, the redemption will be effective on the date of receipt. Payment will ordinarily be made on the next business day, but, in any case, within no more than seven business days from the date of receipt. If the notice is received on a day that is not a business day or after the close of regularly scheduled trading on the NYSE (normally, 4 p.m. Eastern time), the redemption notice will be deemed received as of the next business day. The value of shares at the time of redemption may be more or less than the shareholder's cost.

No redemption requests will be processed until the Fund has received a completed purchase application, and no redemption of shares purchased by check will be made until all checks received for such shares have been collected, which may take up to 10 days or more.

*Redemption By Mail.* Shares may be redeemed by mail by submitting a written request from the registered owner(s) signed exactly as shares are registered. A medallion signature guarantee by an acceptable guarantor is required to redeem amounts greater than \$50,000 or to have proceeds sent to an address other than the address of record. The Transfer Agent has adopted standards and procedures pursuant to which medallion signature guarantees in proper form generally will be accepted from domestic banks, brokers, dealers, credit unions, national securities exchanges, registered securities associations, clearing agencies and savings associations, as well as from participants in the New York Stock Exchange Medallion Signature Program, the Securities Transfer Agents Medallion Program ("STAMP") and the Stock Exchanges Medallion Program. Shareholders with any questions regarding medallion signature guarantees should contact the Transfer Agent.

In certain instances, the Transfer Agent may require additional documents such as, but not limited to, trust instruments, death certificates, appointments as executor or administrator or certificates of corporate authority.

Checks for redemption proceeds will be mailed to the address of record within seven days of redemption.

*Redemption By Wire.* If redemption by wire has been elected in the Account Application, shares may be redeemed on any business day upon request made by telephone or letter. A shareholder or any authorized agent (so designated on the Account Application Form) must provide the Transfer Agent with the dollar or share amount to be redeemed, the account to which the redemption proceeds should be wired, the name of the shareholder and the shareholder's account number. Shareholders should note that their bank may charge a fee in connection with transferring money by wire.

A shareholder may change its authorized agent, the address of record or the account designated to receive redemption proceeds at any time by providing the Transfer Agent with written instructions and a medallion signature guaranteed as described above.

*Telephone Redemption.* A shareholder may request redemption by calling the Transfer Agent at 877.421.5078. Proceeds from telephone redemptions will be forwarded to the shareholder by check unless the shareholder has requested redemption by wire in the manner described above under "Redemption by Wire." The check will be made only payable to the registered shareholder and sent to the address of record on file with the Transfer Agent. Each Fund reserves the right to refuse a telephone request for redemption if it is believed advisable to do so. Procedures for redeeming shares by telephone may be modified or terminated at any time by a Fund. Neither the Fund nor the Transfer Agent will be liable for following redemption instructions received by telephone which are reasonably believed to be genuine, and the shareholder will bear the risk of loss in the event of unauthorized or fraudulent telephone instructions. Each Fund will employ reasonable procedures to confirm that instructions communicated by telephone are genuine. The Fund and/or the Transfer Agent may be liable for any losses due to unauthorized or fraudulent instructions if they do not follow such procedures. Each Fund may require personal identification codes.

#### **TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS**

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

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

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES

Name, Address* & Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office** and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years***	Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years***
<b>Mary K. Anstine,</b> 1940	Trustee	Since 1997	Ms. Anstine is Trustee/Director of AV Hunter Trust and Colorado Uplift Board.	15	Ms. Anstine is a Trustee of Reaves Utility Income Fund (1 fund). Ms. Anstine was a Trustee of ALPS ETF Trust through December 2024 (23 funds); ALPS Variable Investment Trust through December 2024 (7 funds); and Segall Bryant & Hamill Trust through December 2020 (14 funds).

Name, Address* & Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office** and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years***	Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years***
<b>Edmund J. Burke,</b> 1961	Trustee	Since 2009	Mr. Burke joined ALPS in 1991 and served as the President and Director of ALPS Holdings, Inc., and ALPS Advisors, Inc., and Director of ALPS Distributors, Inc., ALPS Fund Services, Inc. ("ALPS"), and ALPS Portfolio Solutions Distributor, Inc. (collectively, the "ALPS Companies"). Mr. Burke retired from the ALPS Companies in June 2019. Mr. Burke is currently a partner at ETF Action, a web-based system that provides data and analytics to registered investment advisers, (since 2020) and a Director of Blue Biofuels (since 2020) and Alliance Bioenergy Plus, Inc., a technology company focused on emerging technologies in the renewable energy, biofuels, and bioplastics technology sectors (since 2020).	41	Mr. Burke is a Trustee of ALPS ETF Trust (23 funds); Clough Global Dividend and Income Fund (1 fund); Clough Global Equity Fund (1 fund); Clough Global Opportunities Fund (1 fund); Liberty All-Star Equity Fund (1 fund); and Director of the Liberty All-Star Growth Fund, Inc. (1 fund).
<b>Jeremy W. Deems,</b> 1976	Trustee	Since 2009	Mr. Deems is the Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer of Green Alpha Advisors, LLC, a registered investment advisor, and Co-Portfolio Manager of the AXS Green Alpha ETF.	15	Mr. Deems is a Trustee of ALPS ETF Trust (23 funds); ALPS Variable Investment Trust (7 funds); and Reaves Utility Income Fund (1 fund).



Name, Address* & Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office** and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years***	Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years***
<b>Michael “Ross” Shell, 1970</b>	Trustee and Chairman	Since 2009; Chairman Since 2024	Mr. Shell is Founder and CEO of Red Idea, LLC, a strategic consulting/early stage venture firm (since June 2008). Mr. Shell is currently the CEO of TalkBox, a phone/privacy booth company and key venture of Red Idea, LLC (since 2023) and a board member of DLVR, a package security company (since 2018). Mr. Shell serves on the Finance Committee serving the Board of Directors of Children’s Hospital of Colorado (since 2023) and served on the Advisory Board, St. Vrain School District Innovation Center (from 2015-2018). Mr. Shell graduated with honors from Stanford University with a degree in Political Science.	15	None.

## OFFICERS

Name, Address* & Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office** and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years***
<b>Lucas Foss,</b> 1977	President	Since 2022	Mr. Foss rejoined ALPS in November 2017 and is currently Director, Fund Compliance and Governance. Prior to his current role, Mr. Foss served as the Director of Compliance at Transamerica Asset Management (2015-2017) and Deputy Chief Compliance Officer at ALPS (2012-2015). Mr. Foss is President of ALPS Series Trust and Chief Compliance Officer of Bluerock Total Income + Real Estate Fund; Bluerock High Income Institutional Credit Fund; SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust, SPDR® Dow Jones® Industrial Average ETF Trust, and SPDR® S&P MIDCAP 400® ETF Trust.

Name, Address* & Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office** and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years***
<b>Paul Holland,</b> 1966	Treasurer	Since 2025	Mr. Holland joined ALPS in July 2022 and is currently a Fund Controller of ALPS Fund Services, Inc. Prior to joining ALPS, Mr. Holland held the position of analyst/manager at JP Morgan Chase & Co., consultant/manager at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co., analyst/AVP at Wellington Management Company, LLP and controller at real estate firms John J. Flatley Company and The Revival Companies.
<b>Ted Uhl,</b> 1974	Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO")	Since 2010	Mr. Uhl joined ALPS in October 2006, and is currently Deputy Compliance Officer of ALPS. Prior to his current role, Mr. Uhl served as Senior Risk Manager for ALPS from October 2006 until June 2010. Before joining ALPS, Mr. Uhl served as Sr. Analyst with Enenbach and Associates (RIA), and as Sr. Financial Analyst at Sprint. Because of his position with ALPS, Mr. Uhl is deemed an affiliate of the Trust as defined under the 1940 Act. Mr. Uhl is also CCO of ALPS Interval Fund Platform, ALPS Series Trust, Centre Funds, GraniteShares ETF Trust, Axonic Funds, Accordant ODCI Index Fund and FS MVP Private Markets Fund. Mr. Uhl formerly served as CCO of the Boulder Growth & Income Fund, Inc., Index Funds, Reality Shares ETF Trust, Reaves Utility Income Fund and XAI Octagon Floating Rate and Alternative Income Trust.
<b>Brendan Hamill,</b> 1986	Secretary	Since 2024	Mr. Hamill rejoined ALPS in April 2024, and is currently Vice President and Principal Legal Counsel. Prior to his current role, Mr. Hamill was an Attorney-Adviser at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (October 2022-March 2024), Vice President and Principal Legal Counsel ALPS (August 2021-October 2022), and an attorney at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP (law firm) (December 2018-August 2021). Mr. Hamill also serves as Secretary of each of the ALPS ETF Trust, ALPS Variable Investment Trust, and the Principal Real Estate Income Fund.
<b>Sheri Zetterower,</b> 1963	Assistant Secretary	Since 2023	Ms. Zetterower rejoined ALPS in August 2022 and is currently a Senior Paralegal of ALPS Fund Services, Inc. Prior to her current role, Ms. Zetterower worked at Ultimus Fund Solutions, Inc. (November 2020 – August 2022) and ALPS Fund Services, Inc. (April 2013 – October 2020).

\* All communications to Trustees and Officers may be directed to Financial Investors Trust c/o PO Box 219788, Kansas City, MO 64121-9788.

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

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

\*\*\*\* The Fund Complex includes all series of the Trust, currently 15, and any other investment companies for which Disciplined Growth Investors, Inc. provides investment advisory services (currently none).

## **Additional Information About the Trustees' Qualifications and Experience**

The following is a brief discussion of the specific education, experience, qualifications, or skills that led to the conclusion, as of the date of this SAI, that each person identified below should serve as a Trustee for the Trust.

### **Mary K. Anstine**

Ms. Anstine has been an Independent Trustee of the Trust since March 21, 1997 and Chairman since June 6, 2017. Currently retired, Ms. Anstine has over 30 years of financial services experience. Most recently, she was President and CEO of HealthONE Alliance, Denver, Colorado from 1994 through 2004. From 1964 to 1994, Ms. Anstine held positions leading up to Executive Vice President of First Interstate Bank. She was selected to serve as a Trustee of the Trust based on her business and financial services experience.

### **Jeremy W. Deems**

Mr. Deems has been an Independent Trustee of the Trust since March 11, 2008. In 2007, Mr. Deems co-founded Green Alpha Advisors, LLC, a registered investment adviser, for which he currently serves as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer. He is also a co-portfolio manager of the AXS Green Alpha ETF. Prior to co-founding Green Alpha Advisors, Mr. Deems was CFO of Forward Management, LLC, investment advisor to the Forward Funds and Sierra Club Mutual Funds, where he was also co-portfolio manager to the Sierra Club Stock Fund. In addition, he was the CFO of ReFlow Management Co., LLC. Prior to joining Forward and ReFlow, he served as Regional Marketing Assistant within the Investment Consulting Services Group at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. Mr. Deems received a B.S. and a MBA in finance from Saint Mary's College of California and was a licensed Certified Public Accountant from 2001 to 2016. He was selected to serve as a Trustee of the Trust based on his business, financial services, accounting and investment management experience.

### **Michael "Ross" Shell**

Mr. Shell has been an Independent Trustee of the Trust since August 7, 2009. In 2008, Mr. Shell founded Red Idea, LLC, a strategic consulting/early stage venture firm, for which he currently serves as CEO. From 1999 to 2009, he was a part-owner and Director of Tesser, Inc., a brand agency, during which time he also served as Director, Marketing and Investor Relations, of Woodbourne, a REIT/real estate hedge fund and private equity firm. Prior to this, he worked as a business strategy consultant, he was on the Global Client Services team of IDEO, and he was President of Tesser, Inc. Mr. Shell graduated with honors from Stanford University with a degree in Political Science. He was selected to serve as a Trustee of the Trust based on his business, financial services and investment management experience.

### **Edmund J. Burke**

Mr. Burke has been an Independent Trustee of the Trust since June 14, 2022. Prior to that he served as an Interested Trustee of the Trust beginning August 7, 2009. Mr. Burke joined ALPS Fund Services, Inc., the Funds' administrator, in 1991 and retired in 2019. He previously served as Director of ALPS Holdings, Inc., ALPS Fund Services, Inc., ALPS Advisors, Inc., ALPS Distributors, Inc., the Funds' principal underwriter, and ALPS Portfolio Solutions Distributor, Inc. Mr. Burke has over 20 years of financial services and investment management experience. Before joining ALPS, Mr. Burke was a Regional Vice President for the Pioneer Funds in Boston and has also worked with Fidelity. Mr. Burke has a B.A. in Economics from the University of New Hampshire. He was selected to serve as a Trustee of the Trust based on his business, financial services and investment management experience.

## **Leadership Structure and Oversight Responsibilities**

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

The Board has appointed Michael “Ross” Shell, an Independent Trustee, to serve in the role of Chairman. The Chairman’s role is to preside at all meetings of the Board and to act as a liaison with the Adviser, other service providers, counsel and other Trustees generally between meetings. The Chairman may also perform such other functions as may be delegated by the Board from time to time. The Board reviews matters related to its leadership structure annually. The Board has determined that the Board’s leadership structure is appropriate given the Trust’s characteristics and circumstances. These characteristics include, but are not limited to, the Trust’s multiple series of fund shares, each fund’s single portfolio of assets, each fund’s net assets, the services provided by the funds’ service providers, the formal and informal functions of the various Independent Trustees both during and between Board meetings, the existence of the Trust for over 25 years and the long board service of some of the Independent Trustees, which in some cases dates back to the inception of the Trust.

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

None of the Independent Trustees own securities in the Adviser or the Distributor, nor do they own securities in any entity directly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser or the Distributor.

**Audit Committee.** The Board has an Audit Committee which considers such matters pertaining to the Trust’s books of account, financial records, internal accounting controls and changes in accounting principles or practices as the Trustees may from time to time determine. The Audit Committee also considers the engagement and compensation of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (“Firm”) and ensures receipt from the Firm of a formal written statement delineating relationships between the Firm and the Trust, consistent with Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Rule 3526. The Audit Committee also meets privately with the representatives of the Firm to review the scope and results of audits and other duties as set forth in the Audit Committee’s Charter. The Audit Committee members, each of whom are Independent Trustees are: Ms. Anstine and Messrs. Deems (Chairman), Shell, and Burke. The Audit Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended April 30, 2025.

**Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.** The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee meets periodically to advise and assist the Board in selecting nominees to serve as trustees of the Trust. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes the Board generally benefits from diversity of background, experience and views among its members, and considers this a factor in evaluating the composition of the Board, but has not adopted any specific policy in this regard. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also advises and assists the Board in establishing, implementing and executing policies, procedures and practices that assure orderly and effective governance of the Trust and effective and efficient management of all business and financial affairs of the Trust. Members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are currently: Ms. Anstine and Messrs. Deems, and Shell (Chairman). The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board met two times during the fiscal year ended April 30, 2025.

**Shareholder Nominations.** The Board will consider shareholder nominees for Trustees. All nominees must possess the appropriate characteristics, skills and experience for serving on the Board. In particular, the Board and its Independent Trustees will consider each nominee’s integrity, educational and professional background, understanding of the Trust’s business on a technical level and commitment to devote the time and attention necessary to fulfill a Trustee’s duties. All shareholders who wish to recommend nominees for consideration as Trustees shall submit the names and qualifications of the candidates to the Secretary of the Trust by writing to: Financial Investors Trust, PO Box 219788, Kansas City, MO 64121-9788.

As of December 31, 2024, the dollar range of equity securities in the Funds beneficially owned by Independent Trustees were as follows:

<b>Independent Trustees</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Funds</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies</b>
Mary K. Anstine	None	\$10,001 - \$50,000
Jeremy W. Deems	None	None
Jerry G. Rutledge <sup>1</sup>	None	None
Michael “Ross” Shell	None	\$10,001 - \$50,000
Edmund J. Burke	None	None

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Rutledge was a Trustee as of December 31, 2024. Mr. Rutledge passed away in January 2025.

#### **Remuneration of Trustees**

Effective April 1, 2025, the quarterly retainer received by all Trustees was reduced to \$30,000, plus \$12,500 for each regular quarterly Board meeting attended. Prior to April 1, 2025, all Trustees received a quarterly retainer of \$31,000. Trustees receive \$5,000 for each non-quarterly special Board meeting attended. Trustees receive \$5,000 for each non-quarterly special Committee meeting attended for which a corresponding non-quarterly special Board meeting is not held. The Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Audit Committee also receive an additional quarterly retainer of \$7,500 and \$6,000, respectively. The Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee receives an additional quarterly retainer of \$2,000. The Trustees are also reimbursed for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses relating to attendance at meetings. For the fiscal year ended April 30, 2025, the Trustees received the following compensation:

	Aggregate Compensation From the Trust	Pension Or Retirement Benefits Accrued As Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Aggregate Compensation From The Trust And Fund Complex Paid To Trustees*
Mary K. Anstine	\$11,374	-	-	\$174,000
Jeremy W. Deems	\$12,943	-	-	\$198,000
Jerry G. Rutledge**	\$8,776	-	-	\$118,000
Michael “Ross” Shell	\$13,859	-	-	\$212,000
Edmund J. Burke	\$11,374	-	-	\$174,000

\* The Fund Complex includes all series of the Trust ,currently 15, and any other investment companies for which any Trustee serves as trustee for and which Vulcan Value Partners provides investment advisory services (currently none).

\*\* Mr. Rutledge was a Trustee for the fiscal period ended April 30, 2025. Mr. Rutledge passed away in January 2025.

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

#### INVESTMENT MANAGER

Vulcan Value Partners, LLC (“Vulcan” or the “Adviser”), subject to the authority of the Board, is responsible for the overall management and administration of the Funds’ business affairs and is engaged to manage the investments of each of the Funds in accordance with its investment objective, policies and limitations and investment guidelines established by the Adviser and the Board. Formed in 2007, Vulcan managed approximately \$7.5 billion in client assets at June 30, 2025 and is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser. The Adviser’s principal address is Three Protective Center, 2801 Highway 280 South, Suite 300, Birmingham, AL 35223.

Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement (the “Advisory Agreement”), the Vulcan Value Partners Fund and the Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund pay the Adviser an annual management fee of 1.00% and 1.15%, respectively, based on the Fund’s average daily net assets. The management fee is paid on a monthly basis.

The current term of the Advisory Agreement is one year. The Board may extend the Advisory Agreement for additional one-year terms. The Board, shareholders of the Funds or the Adviser may terminate the Advisory Agreement upon sixty (60) days’ notice. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board’s approval of the Funds’ Advisory Agreement is available in the Funds’ reports filed on Form N-CSR for the period ended April 30, 2025.

	For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2025	For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2024	For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2023
<b>Vulcan Value Partners Fund</b>			
Gross Advisory Fees	\$5,124,874	\$8,125,821	\$10,303,874
Waiver of Advisory Fees	(\$1,257,958)	(\$1,693,410)	(\$2,092,143)
Reimbursement of other Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Recoupment of waived fees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Advisory Fees	\$3,866,916	\$6,432,411	\$8,211,731
<b>Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund</b>			
Gross Advisory Fees	\$2,426,304	\$4,290,227	\$7,071,928
Waiver of Advisory Fees	(\$749,921)	(\$1,020,502)	(\$1,502,425)
Recoupment of waived fees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Reimbursement of other Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Advisory Fees	\$1,676,383	\$3,269,725	\$5,569,503

As described in the Prospectus under “Fees and Expenses of Each Fund,” the Adviser has contractually agreed to limit the total amount of the Management Fee and Other Expenses that it is entitled to receive from each Fund through August 31, 2026.

With respect to the Funds’ Investor Class, to the extent each Fund’s total annual fund operating expenses (exclusive of Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses (if any), brokerage expenses, interest expense, taxes and extraordinary expenses) exceed 1.25% of such Fund’s average daily net assets for a particular fiscal year of the Fund, the Adviser will reduce the Management Fee and/or Other Expenses otherwise payable to the Adviser with respect to such Fund for such fiscal year by an amount equal to such excess, and/or the Adviser shall reimburse the Fund by the amount of such excess. This fee waiver and reimbursement agreement for each Fund (the “Investor Class Shares Expense Agreement”) shall continue through August 31, 2026. The Adviser will be permitted to recapture expenses it has borne through the Investor Class Shares Expense Agreement to the extent that a Fund’s expenses in later periods fall below the annual rates set forth in the Investor Class Shares Expense Agreement or in previous letter agreements; provided, however, that such recapture payments do not cause the Fund’s expense ratio (after recapture) to exceed the lesser of (i) the expense cap then in effect at the time of the waiver and (ii) the expense cap then in effect at the time of the recapture. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Funds will not pay any such deferred fees and expenses more than three years after the date on which the fee and expenses were deferred. The Adviser may not discontinue or modify this waiver prior to August 31, 2026 without the approval by the Fund’s Board of Trustees.

In addition, with respect to the Funds’ Institutional Class, to the extent the total annual fund operating expenses (exclusive of Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses (if any), brokerage expenses, interest expense, taxes and extraordinary expenses) exceed 0.85% and 1.00% of the Vulcan Value Partners Fund’s and the Vulcan Value Small Cap Fund’s average daily net assets, respectively for a particular fiscal year of the Fund, the Adviser will reduce the Management Fee and/or Other Expenses otherwise payable to the Adviser with respect to such Fund for such fiscal year by an amount equal to such excess, and/or the Adviser shall reimburse the Fund by the amount of such excess. This fee waiver and reimbursement agreement for each Fund (the “Institutional Share Class Expense Agreement”) shall continue through August 31, 2026. The Adviser will be permitted to recapture expenses it has borne through the Institutional Share Class Expense Agreement to the extent that a Fund’s expenses in later periods fall below the annual rates set forth in the Institutional Share Class Expense Agreement or in previous letter agreements; provided, however, that such recapture payments do not cause the Fund’s expense ratio (after recapture) to exceed the lesser of (i) the expense cap in effect at the time of the waiver and (ii) the expense cap then in effect at the time of the recapture. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Funds will not pay any such deferred fees and expenses more than three years after the date on which the fee and expenses were deferred. The Adviser may not discontinue or modify this waiver prior to August 31, 2026 without the approval by the Fund’s Board of Trustees.

Under the terms of the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser shall not be liable for losses or damages incurred by a Fund, unless such losses or damages are attributable to the willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Adviser or from reckless disregard by it of its obligations and duties under the Advisory Agreement (“disabling conduct”). In addition, each Fund will indemnify the Adviser and its affiliates and hold each of them harmless against any losses or damages not resulting from disabling conduct.



## ADMINISTRATOR

The Funds currently employ ALPS Fund Services, Inc. (an affiliate of ADI) (“ALPS” or the “Administrator”), located at 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, Colorado 80203, under an administration agreement to provide certain administrative services to the Funds. Information on the services provided by the Administrator is available in the Prospectus, which is incorporated by reference in this SAI.

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

	For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2025	For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2024	For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2023
Vulcan Value Partners Fund	\$278,166	\$315,789	\$344,740
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund	\$119,902	\$153,754	\$208,149

## DISTRIBUTOR

Shares of each Fund are offered on a continuous basis through ALPS Distributors, Inc. (an affiliate of ALPS) (“ADI” or the “Distributor”), located at 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, Colorado 80203, as distributor of the Funds pursuant to a distribution agreement between the Distributor and the Trust on behalf of each Fund. The Distributor is not obligated to sell any specific amount of Fund shares. During the period ended April 30, 2025, the Distributor did not receive any commissions or other compensation.

## CODE OF ETHICS

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

## PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Attached as Appendix B is the summary of the guidelines and procedures that the Adviser uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities, including the procedures that the Adviser uses when a vote presents a conflict between the interests of Fund shareholders, on the one hand, and those of the Adviser or any affiliated person of a Fund or the Adviser, on the other. This summary of the guidelines gives a general indication as to how the Adviser will vote proxies relating to portfolio securities on each issue listed. However, the guidelines do not address all potential voting issues or the intricacies that may surround individual proxy votes. For that reason, there may be instances in which votes may vary from the guidelines presented. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Adviser always endeavors to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities in accordance with a Fund’s investment objectives. When applicable, information on how each Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent prior 12-month period ended June 30 will be available without charge, (1) upon request, by calling 877.421.5078 and (2) on the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

## CONTROL PERSONS, PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS AND MANAGEMENT OWNERSHIP

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

A shareholder who owns beneficially 25% or more of the outstanding securities of a Fund is presumed to “control” a Fund as defined in the 1940 Act. Such control may affect the voting rights of other shareholders. The following table provides the name and address of any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of each Fund as of August 1, 2025:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Shareholder Name and Address</b>	<b>Percentage of Interest</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>
Vulcan Values Partners Fund - Institutional Class	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. San Francisco, CA	33.66%	Record
Vulcan Values Partners Fund Institutional - Class	National Financial Services, LLC Boston, MA	19.85%	Record
Vulcan Values Partners Fund Institutional - Class	J.P. Morgan Securities LLC Newark, DE	9.25%	Record
Vulcan Values Partners Fund Institutional - Class	Mulligan Holdings LP Madison, NJ	7.50%	Record
Vulcan Values Partners Fund – Investor Class	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. San Francisco, CA	27.74%	Record
Vulcan Values Partners Fund – Investor Class	National Financial Services, LLC Boston, MA	23.29%	Record
Vulcan Values Partners Fund – Investor Class	Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Wilmington, NC	5.83%	Record
Vulcan Values Partners Fund – Investor Class	Pershing LLC Vestavia, AL	5.74%	Record
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund – Institutional Class	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. San Francisco, CA	50.23%	Record
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund – Institutional Class	Reliance Trust Company Atlanta, GA	14.13%	Record
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund – Institutional Class	National Financial Services, LLC West Lake Hills, TX	8.26%	Record
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund – Institutional Class	United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes Rochester, NY	6.34%	Record
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund – Institutional Class	Reliance Trust Company Atlanta, GA	5.36%	Record
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund – Institutional Class	PNC Bank, N.A. Cleveland, OH	5.20%	Record
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund – Investor Class	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. San Francisco, CA	29.87%	Record
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund – Investor Class	National Financial Services, LLC Boston, MA	25.87%	Record
Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund – Investor Class	The Thompson Foundation MDT & LTM Ttees Birmingham, AL	5.54%	Record

The Trustees and Officers of the Trust as a group owned less than 1% of any Fund's shares.

#### **EXPENSES**

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

#### **PORTFOLIO MANAGER**

The following sections set forth certain additional information with respect to the portfolio manager for each Fund. Unless noted otherwise, all information is provided as of April 30, 2025.

##### **Other Accounts Managed by Portfolio Manager**

The table below identifies as of April 30, 2025, for the portfolio manager of each Fund, the number of accounts (other than the Funds with respect to which information is provided) for which he has day-to-day management responsibilities and the total assets in such accounts, within each of the following categories: registered investment companies, other pooled investment vehicles, and other accounts.

	Registered Investment Companies		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts	
	Number	Total Assets (in millions)	Number	Total Assets (in millions)	Number	Total Assets (in millions)
<b>Portfolio Manager</b>						
C.T. Fitzpatrick	0	\$0	5	\$608	292	\$5,603
McGavock Dunbar*	0	\$0	5	\$608	292	\$5,603
Stephen Simmons	0	\$0	5	\$608	292	\$5,603
Colin Casey	0	\$0	5	\$608	292	\$5,603
Taylor Cline	0	\$0	5	\$608	292	\$5,603
David Shelton	0	\$0	5	\$608	292	\$5,603

\* Mr. Dunbar resigned as Portfolio Manager effective June 30, 2025.

#### Portfolio Manager Compensation

Mr. Fitzpatrick is the majority equity owner of the Adviser and is entitled to receive distributions from the Adviser if and when made to the equity owners of the Adviser, pro rata in proportion to his equity interest. He does not receive a base salary and is not anticipated to receive a bonus.

Mr. Simmons, as a Principal, is entitled to receive distributions from the Adviser if and when made to the equity owners of the Adviser, pro rata in proportion to his equity interest. He does receive a base salary and has the potential for a bonus.

Mr. Casey, as a Principal, is entitled to receive distributions from the Adviser if and when made to the equity owners of the Adviser, pro rata in proportion to his equity interest. He does receive a base salary and has the potential for a bonus.

Mr. Cline, as a Principal, is entitled to receive distributions from the Adviser if and when made to the equity owners of the Adviser, pro rata in proportion to his equity interest. He does receive a base salary and has the potential for a bonus.

#### Ownership of Securities

The table below identifies ownership of Fund securities by the Portfolio Manager as of April 30, 2025.

Portfolio Manager	Fund	Dollar Range Of Ownership Of Securities
C.T. Fitzpatrick	Vulcan Value Partners Fund	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
	Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund	\$100,001 - \$500,000
McGavock Dunbar*	Vulcan Value Partners Fund	\$100,001 - \$500,000
	Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund	\$100,001 - \$500,000
Stephen Simmons	Vulcan Value Partners Fund	\$100,001 - \$500,000
	Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
Colin Casey	Vulcan Value Partners Fund	\$100,001 - \$500,000
	Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund	None
Taylor Cline	Vulcan Value Partners Fund	\$50,001 - \$100,000
	Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund	\$100,001 - \$500,000
David Shelton	Vulcan Value Partners Fund	\$100,001 - \$500,000
	Vulcan Value Partners Small Cap Fund	< \$100,000

\* Mr. Dunbar resigned as Portfolio Manager effective June 30, 2025.

## Potential Conflicts of Interest

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

The Adviser and the Funds have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are designed to address various conflicts of interest that may arise for the Adviser and the individuals that it employs. For example, the Adviser may seek to minimize the effects of competing interests for the time and attention of portfolio managers by assigning portfolio managers to manage funds and accounts that share a similar investment style. The Adviser has also adopted trade allocation procedures that are designed to facilitate the fair allocation of limited investment opportunities among multiple funds and accounts. There is no guarantee, however, that the policies and procedures adopted by the Adviser and the Funds will be able to detect and/or prevent every situation in which an actual or potential conflict may appear.

These potential conflicts include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Adviser and the Funds have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are designed to address various conflicts of interest that may arise for the Adviser and the individuals that it employs. For example, the Adviser seeks to minimize the effects of competing interests for the time and attention of portfolio managers by assigning portfolio managers to manage funds and accounts that share a similar investment style. The Adviser has also adopted trade allocation procedures that are designed to facilitate the fair allocation of limited investment opportunities among multiple funds and accounts. There is no guarantee, however, that the policies and procedures adopted by the Adviser and the Funds will be able to detect and/or prevent every situation in which an actual or potential conflict may appear.

#### NET ASSET VALUE

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

In calculating net asset value, equity securities listed or traded on national securities exchanges are valued at the last sale price or, if there have been no sales on that day, at the mean of the current bid and ask price which represents the current value of the security. OTC securities are valued at the mean of the current bid and ask price.

Portfolio securities listed on the NASDAQ National Market System for which market quotations are available are valued at the official closing price. If there is no official closing price, the securities are valued at the last sale price or, if there have been no sales that day, at the mean of the current bid and ask price which represents the current value of the security.

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

## **FEDERAL INCOME TAXES**

This section provides additional information concerning U.S. federal income taxes. It is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), applicable Treasury Regulations, judicial authority, and the administrative rulings and practice, all as of the date of this SAI, and all of which are subject to change, including changes with retroactive effect. The following does not address any state, local or foreign or estate or gift tax matters.

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

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

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

Neither Fund has requested and will not request an advance ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) as to the U.S. federal income tax matters described below. The IRS could adopt positions contrary to those discussed below and such positions could be sustained. In addition, the foregoing discussion only addresses some of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally affecting investments in the Funds. Prospective shareholders are urged to consult with their own tax advisers as to the particular U.S. federal tax consequences to them of an investment in the Funds, as well as the applicability and effect of any state, local or foreign laws, and the effect of possible changes in applicable tax laws.

### **General Policies**

In general, it is each Fund’s policy to distribute to its shareholders as “ordinary income dividends” substantially all of its net investment income and short-term capital gains. It is also each Fund’s policy to distribute annually all of its net realized long-term capital gains, if any, after offsetting any capital loss carryovers as “capital gains dividends.”

Ordinary income dividends and capital gain distributions are payable in full and fractional shares of the relevant class of each Fund based upon the net asset value determined as of the close of the Exchange on the record date for each dividend or distribution. Shareholders, however, may elect to receive their ordinary income dividends or capital gain dividends, or both, in cash. The election may be made at any time by submitting a written request directly to the applicable Fund. In order for a change to be in effect for any dividend or distribution, it must be received by such Fund on or before the record date for such dividend or distribution.

If you elect to receive your dividends in cash and the dividend checks sent to you are returned “undeliverable” to the applicable Fund or remain uncashed for six months, your cash election will automatically be changed and your future dividends will be reinvested. No interest will accrue on amounts represented by uncashed dividend or redemption checks.

Detailed U.S. federal tax information will be furnished to each shareholder for each calendar year as required by federal law.

### **Taxation of the Funds**

Each Fund intends to elect to be treated and qualify each year as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. Each Fund also intends to be treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. This discussion assumes that the Funds will qualify under Subchapter M of the Code as separate RICs and will satisfy distribution requirements for taxation as RICs (as described below), although there can be no assurance that this assumption will be correct.



The provisions of the Code applicable to regulated investment companies generally will apply separately to each Fund even though each Fund is a series of the Trust. Furthermore, each Fund will separately determine its income, gain, losses and expenses for federal income tax purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

If future capital gains are offset by carried-forward capital losses, such future capital gains are not subject to Fund-level federal income tax, regardless of whether they are distributed to shareholders. However, distributions of gains that are offset by carried-forward capital losses are generally treated as return of capital distributions. The Funds cannot carry back or carry forward any net operating losses.

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

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

If a Fund fails to distribute in a calendar year at least an amount equal to the sum of 98% of its ordinary income for such year and 98.2% of its net capital gain income for the one-year period ending on October 31 of such year, plus any retained amount for any prior year, such a Fund will be subject to a non-deductible 4% excise tax on the undistributed amounts. For these purposes, ordinary gains and losses from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of property that would be properly taken into account after October 31 are treated as arising on January 1 of the following calendar year. For purposes of the excise tax, a Fund will be treated as having distributed any amount on which it has been subject to corporate income tax in the taxable year ending within the calendar year. A dividend paid to shareholders in January of a year generally is deemed to have been paid on December 31 of the preceding year, if the dividend is declared and payable to the shareholders of record on a date in October, November or December of that preceding year.

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

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

### **Equalization Accounting**

Under current law, a Fund is permitted to treat on its tax return as dividends paid the portion of redemption proceeds paid to redeeming shareholders that represents the redeeming shareholders' portion of the Fund's accumulated earnings and profits. This practice, called tax "equalization," would reduce the amount of income and/or gains that a Fund is required to distribute as dividends to non-redeeming shareholders. This practice is not available for a Fund for any taxable year in which the Fund is a "personal holding company" for federal income tax purposes. If the IRS were to determine that a Fund's equalization method is improper and that the Fund has under-distributed its income and gain for any taxable year, the Fund may be liable for federal income and/or excise tax.

### **Taxation of Fund Distributions**

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, distributions of investment company taxable income are generally taxable as ordinary income to the extent of a Fund's current or accumulated "earnings and profits." Taxes on distributions of capital gains are determined by how long a Fund owned the investments that generated them, rather than how long a shareholder has owned the shareholder's shares. Distributions of net capital gains from the sale of investments that a Fund owned for more than one year and that are properly designated by such Fund as capital gain dividends (i.e., "capital gain dividends") will be taxable to Fund shareholders as long-term capital gains. The maximum long-term capital gain rate applicable to individuals is generally 20% (in addition to the 3.8% Medicare surtax described below). Generally, distributions of gains from the sale of investments that a Fund owned for one year or less will be taxable as ordinary income.

A Fund may designate certain dividends as derived from “qualified dividend income,” which, when received by an individual or other non-corporate shareholder, will be taxed at the same maximum federal income tax rate applicable to long-term capital gain. Dividend income distributed to individual or other non-corporate shareholders will qualify as “qualified dividend income” as that term is defined in section 1(h)(11)(B) of the Code to the extent such distributions are attributable to income from the applicable Fund’s investments in common and preferred stock of U.S. companies and stock of certain qualified foreign corporations provided that certain holding period and other requirements are met by both such Fund (with respect to the dividend paying corporation’s stock) and its shareholders (with respect to the Fund’s shares). Neither Fund expects a significant portion of distributions to be derived from qualified dividend income.

Under the Code, the Funds will be required to report to the IRS all distributions of taxable income and net realized capital gains. Distributions of earnings and gains are taxable to shareholders even if they are paid from income or gains earned by a Fund before a shareholder invested in that Fund (and thus were included in the price the shareholder paid) and whether shareholders receive them in cash or reinvest them in additional shares (other than distributions, if any, designated by the Fund as “exempt-interest dividends,” a designation which the Funds generally do not expect to make). Any gain resulting from the sale or exchange of Fund shares generally will be taxable as capital gains. Dividends or distributions declared in October, November or December as of a record date in such a month, if any, will be deemed to have been received by shareholders on December 31st, if paid during the following January.

Dividends received by corporate shareholders that are reported by a Fund in a written statement furnished to shareholders may qualify for the 50% dividends-received deduction to the extent of the amount of qualifying dividends received by a Fund from domestic corporations and to the extent (if any) a portion of interest paid or accrued on certain high yield discount obligations owned by the Fund are treated as dividends subject (in either case) to certain holding period requirements and debt-financing limitations.

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

Section 163(j) of the Code generally limits the deductibility of business interest to the sum of the taxpayer’s business interest income and 30% of its adjusted taxable income. Certain small businesses are exempt from such limitations. If a Fund, as a regulated investment company, earns business interest income, the Fund would be permitted to pay Code Section 163(j) interest dividends to its shareholders. A shareholder that receives a Code Section 163(j) interest dividend generally may treat the dividend as interest income for purposes of Code Section 163(j) if certain holding period requirements are met. Generally, the shareholder must have held the fund shares for more than 180 days during the 361-day window beginning 180 days before the ex-dividend date, and the shareholder must not be obligated (under a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to substantially similar or related property.

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

The sale or redemption of Fund shares may give rise to a gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount received for shares and the shareholder’s adjusted tax basis in the shares. In general, any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of Fund shares will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than 12 months. Otherwise, such gain or loss will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. However, any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term, rather than short-term, to the extent of any long-term capital gain distributions received (or deemed received) by the shareholder with respect to the shares. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitation.

All or a portion of any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of Fund shares will be disallowed if other substantially identical shares of such Fund are purchased within 30 days before or after the disposition. In such a case, the basis of the newly purchased shares will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss.

#### **Transfers between Classes of a Fund**

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

#### **Special Tax Considerations**

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

#### **Passive Foreign Investment Companies**

Funds that invest in non-U.S. securities may own shares in certain foreign investment entities, referred to as “passive foreign investment companies” (“PFICs”). In order to avoid U.S. federal income tax and an additional charge on any “excess distribution” from PFICs or gain from the disposition of PFIC shares, a Fund may elect to “mark-to-market” annually its investments in such entities, which will result in such Fund being treated as if it had sold and repurchased all the PFIC stock at the end of each year. As a result of a mark-to-market election, a Fund would report any such gains as ordinary income and would deduct such losses as ordinary losses to the extent of previously recognized gains. By making the mark-to-market election, a Fund could potentially mitigate the adverse tax consequences with respect to its ownership of shares in a PFIC, but in any particular year it may be required to recognize income in excess of the distributions it receives from PFICs and its proceeds from dispositions of PFIC stock. As a regulated investment company, an electing Fund may have to distribute this “phantom” income and gain to satisfy the distribution requirement and to avoid imposition of the excise tax described above.

Alternatively, a Fund may elect to treat a PFIC as a “qualified electing fund” (a “QEF election”), in which case the Fund must include its share of the company’s income and net capital gains annually, regardless of whether it receives distributions from the PFIC. As with the mark-to-market election, these amounts would be taken into account by a Fund for purposes of satisfying the distribution requirement and the excise tax distribution requirement. Amounts included in income under a QEF election would be qualifying dividend income for a regulated investment company if either (i) the earnings attributable to the inclusions are distributed in the taxable year of the inclusion, or (ii) such earnings are derived with respect to the regulated investment company’s business of investing in stock, securities or currencies. In order to make a QEF election, a Fund must obtain certain annual information from the PFICs in which it invests, which may be difficult or impossible to obtain. Dividends paid by PFICs or foreign corporations that were PFICs in the year preceding the payment of the dividend will not be eligible to be treated as qualified dividend income.

If a Fund is unable to identify an investment as a PFIC and thus does not make a mark-to-market election or a QEF election, the Fund may be subject to U.S. federal income tax and an interest charge on distributions with respect to such shares, or gain from the disposition of such shares, under punitive tax rules that apply to so-called “excess distributions” from PFICs, even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by the Fund to its shareholders.

### **Controlled Foreign Corporations**

The Funds may invest in entities known as “controlled foreign corporations” (“CFCs”). A CFC is a foreign corporation in which more than 50% of the stock, by vote or value, is owned by U.S. persons each of whom own, directly or constructively, 10% or more of the stock of a foreign corporation by vote or by value. If a Fund is such a 10% shareholder with respect to a CFC, the Fund generally must annually include in income its allocable share of the CFC’s (i) “subpart F income” and (ii) “net CFC tested income” (“NCTI”) (previously known as global intangible low-tax income (“GILTI”) before changes to the Code introduced in 2025), both as defined by the Code, regardless of whether or not the CFC distributes such amounts to the Fund. Amounts included in gross income by a Fund as subpart F income of a CFC are qualifying income for the Fund under Code Section 851(b) if either (i) such amounts are distributed to the Fund in the taxable year in which they are earned by the CFC, or (ii) such income is derived with respect to the Fund’s business of investing in stock, securities or currencies. Treasury Regulations provide that GILTI inclusions are treated in the same manner for purposes of Code Section 851(b) as subpart F inclusions.

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

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

Alternatively, if a Fund were to qualify as a “qualified fund of funds,” the Fund could be entitled to elect to pass-through its foreign tax credits without regard to the above described 50% requirement. For this purpose, the term “qualified fund of funds” means a regulated investment company if (at the close of each quarter of the taxable year) at least 50% of the value of its total assets is represented by interests in other regulated investment companies. The Funds make no assurances as to either the availability of any election discussed in this section or their willingness to make any such election.

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

Transactions in non-U.S. currencies, non-U.S.-currency denominated debt obligations and certain non-U.S. currency options, future contracts, and forward contracts (and similar instruments) may give rise to ordinary income or loss to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the non-U.S. currency concerned and may increase the amount and affect the timing and character of taxes payable by shareholders of the Funds. Certain foreign currency contracts may be subject to Code Section 1256, with the result that such contracts generally must be “marked to market” annually, and gains and losses with respect to such contracts would generally be treated as 60% long-term capital gain or loss and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. See “Financial Products”, below. Certain of a Fund’s transactions, if any, in foreign currencies and foreign currency denominated instruments are likely to result in a difference between the Fund’s book income and taxable income. This difference may cause a portion of such Fund’s income distributions to constitute a return of capital or capital gain for tax purposes or require the Fund to make distributions exceeding book income to avoid excise tax liability and to qualify as a regulated investment company, which may have the effect of accelerating taxable distributions to shareholders of the Fund.

## Financial Products

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

Some of a Fund's investments, such as certain option transactions as well as futures transactions in foreign currency contracts that are traded in the interbank market, may be "section 1256 contracts." Gains and losses on section 1256 contracts are generally treated as 60% long-term capital and 40% short-term capital, although certain foreign currency gains and losses from such contracts may be treated as entirely ordinary in character. Section 1256 contracts held by a Fund at the end of a taxable year are "marked to market" for income tax purposes, meaning that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized (and treated on the 60/40 basis described above).

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Fund may acquire debt obligations that have original issue discount. “Original issue discount” is the excess of a debt obligation’s stated redemption price at maturity over the obligation’s issue price. A taxpayer that acquires an obligation with original issue discount generally must include the original issue discount in income on a constant yield-to-maturity basis without regard to when, or whether, payments are made on the obligation. Obligations owned by a Fund that have original issue discount may include investments in payment-in-kind securities, and certain other obligations. Obligations with original issue discount owned by a Fund will give rise to income that a Fund must distribute to shareholders who will be taxed on them as ordinary income (unless such dividends qualify as exempt-interest dividends) even though the Fund does not receive an interest payment in cash on the obligation during the year and may never receive such payment. To generate cash to satisfy those distribution requirements, the Fund may have to sell portfolio securities that it otherwise might have continued to hold or to use cash flows from other sources such as the sale of Fund shares.

Some debt obligations that are acquired by a Fund in the secondary market may be treated as having market discount. Market discount is generally the excess of an obligation’s stated redemption price at maturity over the basis in the security immediately after acquisition by the taxpayer. Generally, any gain recognized on the receipt of principal payments or on the disposition of a debt security having market discount has been treated as ordinary income to the extent the gain does not exceed the “accrued market discount” on such debt security. Market discount generally accrues in equal daily installments. Each Fund may make certain elections applicable to debt obligations having market discount, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

### **High-Risk Securities**

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

### **Real Estate Investment Trusts**

Investments by a Fund in real estate investment trusts (“REITs”) equity securities may require a Fund to accrue and distribute income not yet received. To generate sufficient cash to make the required distributions, the Fund may be required to sell securities in its portfolio (including when it is not advantageous to do so) that it otherwise would have continued to hold.

A Fund’s investment in REIT equity securities could result in such Fund’s receipt of cash in excess of the REIT’s earnings. If a Fund receives such distributions all or a portion of these distributions will constitute a return of capital to such Fund. Receiving a return of capital distribution from a REIT will reduce the amount of income available to be distributed to Fund shareholders. Income from REIT securities generally will not be eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income.



A deduction of up to 20% is available to taxpayers other than corporations for qualified business income from certain pass-through businesses, including “qualified REIT dividends” from REITs (i.e., ordinary REIT dividends other than capital gains dividends and REIT dividends designated as qualified dividend income). A regulated investment company may pay and report “section 199A dividends” to its shareholders with respect to its qualified REIT dividends. The amount of section 199A dividends that the Fund may pay and report to its shareholders is limited to the excess of the “qualified REIT dividends” that the Fund receives from REITs for a taxable year over the Fund’s expenses allocable to such dividends. A shareholder may treat section 199A dividends received on a share of the Fund as “qualified REIT dividends” if the shareholder has held the share for more than 45 days during the 91-day period beginning 45 days before the date on which the share becomes ex-dividend, but only to the extent that the shareholder is not under an obligation (under a short-sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. A shareholder may include 20% of the shareholder’s “qualified REIT dividends” in the computation of the shareholder’s “combined qualified business income amount” under Code Section 199A. Code Section 199A allows a taxpayer (other than a corporation) a deduction equal to the lesser of (A) the taxpayer’s “combined qualified business income amount” or (B) 20% of the excess of the taxpayer’s taxable income over the taxpayer’s net capital gain for the year.

### **Tax-Exempt Shareholders**

Under current law, each Fund serves to “block” (that is, prevent the attribution to shareholders of) unrelated business taxable income (“UBTI”) from being realized by its tax-exempt shareholders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a tax-exempt shareholder could realize UBTI by virtue of its investment in a Fund. For example, a tax-exempt shareholder could realize UBTI by virtue of its investment in a Fund if either: (1) the applicable Fund invests in REITs that hold residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits (“REMICs”) or taxable mortgage pools (“TMPs”), in which event any related UBTI may not be offset by net operating losses; or (2) shares in the applicable Fund constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholder within the meaning of section 514(b) of the Code. If a charitable remainder trust (as defined in section 664 of the Code) realizes any UBTI for a taxable year, it will be subject to an excise tax equal to the amount of such UBTI. Tax-exempt investors should consult with their own tax advisors concerning the impact of these rules and other tax considerations that may apply to their particular circumstances before investing in a Fund. A Fund may invest in REITs that hold residual interests in REMICs or TMPs.

### **Backup Withholding**

Each Fund generally is required to withhold and remit to the U.S. Treasury a percentage of the taxable distributions and redemption proceeds paid to any non-corporate shareholder who (i) fails to properly furnish such Fund with a correct taxpayer identification number (“TIN”), (ii) is identified by the IRS as otherwise subject to back-up withholding, or (iii) fails to timely certify to such Fund that it is a U.S. person who is not subject to such withholding. Under current law, the backup withholding tax rate is 24%.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a shareholder generally may be refunded or credited against the shareholder’s federal income tax liability, if any, provided that certain required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. If a shareholder fails to furnish a valid TIN upon request, the shareholder can be subject to IRS penalties.

## **Cost Basis Reporting**

The Funds (or their administrative agents) must report to the IRS and furnish to fund shareholders the cost basis information for Fund shares purchased on or after January 1, 2012, and subsequently redeemed, exchanged or otherwise sold and whether these shares had a short-term or long-term holding period. In addition, the Funds are required to report the gross proceeds from the sale of all Fund shares (regardless of when such shares were purchased).

The Funds will allow shareholders to elect from among several IRS-accepted cost basis methods to calculate the cost basis of their covered shares. In the absence of such an election, the Funds will use their default cost basis method. The cost basis method elected or applied may not be changed after the settlement date of a sale of Funds shares. Fund shareholders should consult with their tax advisers concerning the most desirable IRS-accepted cost basis method for their tax situation.

## **Medicare Surtax on Net Investment Income**

A Medicare surtax of 3.8% applies to net investment income of an individual taxpayer and to the undistributed net investment income of certain estates and trusts, in each case to the extent that such taxpayer's gross income, as adjusted, exceeds a threshold amount. Net investment income for this purpose includes interest, dividends, royalties, rents, gross income from a trade or business involving passive activities, and net gain from disposition of property (other than property held in a non-passive trade or business). Net investment income also includes ordinary income and capital gain distributions received by a Fund shareholder from a Fund, as well as the shareholder's net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of Fund shares. Net investment income is reduced by deductions properly allocable to such income.

## **Shares Held Through Foreign Accounts**

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

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

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

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

#### **Other Tax Matters**

Special tax rules not described in this discussion apply to investments through defined contribution plans and other tax-qualified plans as well as investments by tax-exempt entities. Shareholders should consult their tax advisor to determine the suitability of shares of a Fund as an investment through such plans and entities and the precise effect of an investment in the Funds would have on their particular tax situation. An investment in a Fund generally would be inappropriate for Trump accounts authorized in legislation enacted in 2025.

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

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

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

The Trust was organized as a Delaware business trust on November 30, 1993 and consists of multiple separate portfolios or series. The Board may establish additional series in the future. The capitalization of the Trust consists solely of an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest with no par value.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDS**

*Custodian.* The Bank of New York Mellon (the "Custodian"), located at One Wall Street, New York, NY 10286, serves as the custodian for each Fund. As such, the Custodian holds in safekeeping certificated securities and cash belonging to the Funds and, in such capacity, is the registered owner of securities in book-entry form belonging to the Funds. Upon instruction, the Custodian receives and delivers cash and securities of the Funds in connection with Fund transactions and collects all dividends and other distributions made with respect to Fund portfolio securities. The Custodian also maintains certain accounts and records of the Funds.

*Transfer Agent.* ALPS, 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, CO 80203, pursuant to a Transfer Agency and Service Agreement, serves as transfer agent for each Fund. As Transfer Agent, ALPS has, among other things, agreed to: (a) issue and redeem shares of the Funds; (b) make dividend and other distributions to shareholders of the Funds; (c) effect transfers of shares; (d) mail communications to shareholders of the Funds, including account statements, confirmations, and dividend and distribution notices; (e) facilitate the electronic delivery of shareholder statements and reports and (f) maintain shareholder accounts. Under the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement, ALPS receives from the Trust an annual minimum fee and a fee based upon the number of shareholder accounts and is also reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses. As described above, ALPS is an affiliate of ADI.

*Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.* Cohen & Company, Ltd. (“Cohen & Co”) serves as the Funds’ Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. Cohen & Co is located at 1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 800, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

*Counsel.* Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP serves as counsel to the Funds and is located at 3400 Walnut Street, Suite 700, Denver, Colorado 80205.

## PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements and financial highlights in the April 30, 2025 [Annual Report](#) (the “Annual Report”) of each Fund are incorporated in this SAI by reference. The information presented for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2025 and April 30, 2024 have been audited by Cohen & Co, the Funds’ Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, whose reports, along with the Funds’ financial statements, are included in the Funds’ annual report, which is available by calling 1-877-421-5078. The information for the fiscal years ended April 30, 2023, and prior, was audited by another auditor.

## APPENDIX A

### DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES RATINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Issue Credit Rating Definitions**

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

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

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

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

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



## **Corporate and Municipal Bond Ratings**

### **Investment-grade**

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

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

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

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

### **Speculative Grade**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Commercial Paper Rating Definitions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Fitch Investor Services, Inc**

### **Credit Ratings**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Investment Grade**

#### **AAA**

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

#### **AA**

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

#### **A**

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

#### **BBB**

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

### **Speculative Grade**

#### **BB**

#### **Speculative**

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

## B

### Highly speculative

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

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

## CCC

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

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

## CC

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

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

## C

For issuers and performing obligations, default is imminent.

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

## RD

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

## D

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

- failure of an obligor to make timely payment of principal and/or interest under the contractual terms of any financial obligation;
- the bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other winding-up or cessation of business of an obligor; or
- the distressed or other coercive exchange of an obligation, where creditors were offered securities with diminished structural or economic terms compared with the existing obligation.

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

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

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

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

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

F1

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

F2

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

F3

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

B

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

C

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

RD

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

D

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Interest Only**

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

**Principal Only**

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

**Rate of Return**

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

‘PIF’

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


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

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



**Appendix B**  
**PROXY VOTING AND CLASS ACTIONS**

**Vulcan Value Partners – Compliance Policies and Procedures**  
**July 1, 2024**

	
Proxy Voting and Class Actions	
<b>Functional Area / Compliance Topic</b>	Proxy Voting and Class Actions
<b>Oversight Responsibility</b>	Compliance
<b>Source of Requirements</b>	<p>Rule 206(4)-6 under the Advisers Act of 1940</p> <p>Investment Advisers Act Release No. 2106 (January 31, 2003) <a href="https://www.sec.gov/rules/final/ia-2106.htm">https://www.sec.gov/rules/final/ia-2106.htm</a></p>
<b>Requirements</b>	<p>In Proxy Voting by Investment Advisers, Investment Advisers Act Release No. 2106 (January 31, 2003), the SEC noted that, “The federal securities laws do not specifically address how an adviser must exercise its proxy voting authority for its clients. Under the Advisers Act, however, an adviser is a fiduciary that owes each of its clients a duty of care and loyalty with respect to all services undertaken on the client’s behalf, including proxy voting. The duty of care requires an adviser with proxy voting authority to monitor corporate events and to vote the proxies.”</p> <p>Rule 206(4)-6 under the Advisers Act requires each registered investment adviser that exercises proxy voting authority with respect to client securities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the adviser votes client securities in the clients’ best interests. Such policies and procedures must address the manner in which the adviser will resolve material conflicts of interest that can arise during the proxy voting process;</li> <li>• Disclose to clients how they may obtain information from the adviser about how the adviser voted with respect to their securities; and</li> <li>• Describe to clients the adviser’s proxy voting policies and procedures and, upon request, furnish a copy of the policies and procedures.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, paragraph (c)(2) of Rule 204-2 imposes additional recordkeeping requirements on investment advisers that execute proxy voting authority, as described in the <i>Maintenance of Books and Records</i> section of this Manual.</p> <p>The Advisers Act lacks specific guidance regarding an adviser’s duty to direct clients’ participation in class actions. However, many investment advisers adopt policies and procedures regarding class actions.</p>

<b>Policy</b>	<p>Proxies are assets of Vulcan’s Clients that must be voted with diligence, care, and loyalty. Vulcan will vote each proxy in accordance with its fiduciary duty to its Clients. Vulcan will generally seek to vote proxies in a way that maximizes the value of Clients’ assets. However, Vulcan will document cases in which it chooses to follow any specific proxy voting recommendations conveyed by a Client with respect to that Client’s securities. The Operations and Research Departments coordinate Vulcan’s proxy voting process while the Chief Compliance Officer reviews Vulcan’s elections for any conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Paragraph (c)(ii) of Rule 204-2 under the Advisers Act requires Vulcan to maintain certain books and records associated with its proxy voting policies and procedures. The Chief Compliance Officer will ensure that Vulcan complies with all applicable recordkeeping requirements associated with proxy voting.</p> <p>This policy applies to all client accounts, including private funds for which Vulcan or Enduring Equity Enduring Equity Holdings, LLC (“Affiliate”) serves as general partner. Any reference to Vulcan or its Supervised Persons is intended to include those of the Affiliate unless otherwise stated.</p>
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<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PROCESS SUMMARY</b>
<b>Voting Procedures</b>	Research, Operations	<p>Absent specific Client instructions, Vulcan has adopted the following proxy voting procedures designed to ensure that proxies are properly identified and voted, and that any conflicts of interest are addressed appropriately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any proxy materials received on behalf of clients are forwarded to the Operations Department;</li> <li>The Operations Department will determine which client accounts hold the security to which the proxy relates;</li> <li>Absent material conflicts, the Research Department determines how Vulcan should vote the proxy in accordance with the voting guidelines noted below, and provides instructions on how to vote the proxy to the Operations Department. The Operations Department completes the proxy and vote the proxy in a timely and appropriate manner.</li> <li>Vulcan generally utilizes ProxyEdge, an electronic voting service, to manage the process of meeting notification, voting, tracking, reporting and record maintenance. ProxyEdge provides an automated electronic interface directly to the custodian, bank or broker-dealer. For custodians that are not established in ProxyEdge, Vulcan will vote manually via paper ballot or through other online systems such as the custodian’s website or ProxyVote.com.</li> </ul>

For the Affiliate, the investment personnel will notify the Chief Compliance Officer upon receipt of proxy materials with its intended vote for review. Absent material conflicts, the Affiliate will complete the proxy and vote in a timely and appropriate manner. Generally, the affiliate will vote manually via paper ballot or through other systems such as the custodian's website or ProxyVote.com

**Voting Guidelines**

Research, Compliance

- Vulcan will use its best judgment to vote proxies in the best interests of each client. Vulcan's policy is to vote all proxies from a specific issuer the same way for each client absent qualifying restrictions from a client.
- Vulcan will generally vote in favor of routine corporate governance proposals such as the election of directors, change in state of incorporation or capital structure and selection of auditors absent conflicts of interest raised by an auditor's non-audit services.
- Vulcan will generally vote in favor of management on non-routine corporate governance issues unless voting with management would limit shareholder rights or have a negative impact on shareholder value. Non-routine issues may include, but not be limited to, corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, proposals affecting shareholder rights, anti-takeover issues, executive compensation, and social and political issues.
- Vulcan may further consider the recommendations of management and the effect on management, and the effect on shareholder value and the issuer's business practices.

**Conflicts of Interest**

Compliance

- Vulcan will identify any conflicts that exist between its interests and those of the client by reviewing Vulcan's relationship with the issuer of each security to determine if Vulcan or any of its employees has any financial, business, or personal relationship with the issuer.
- If a material conflict of interest exists, the CCO will determine whether it is appropriate to disclose the conflict to the affected client, to give the client an opportunity to vote the proxies themselves, or to address the voting issue through other objective means such as abstaining, voting in a manner consistent with a predetermined voting policy or receiving an independent third party voting recommendation.

- Any decision to override a vote due to a conflict of interest will be made by the Research Team and reported to the CCO who will record in writing the basis for any such determination.
- Vulcan will maintain a record of the resolution of any conflict of interest concerning voting.
- Vulcan will not neglect its proxy voting responsibilities, but the Company may abstain from voting if it deems that abstaining is in its Clients' best interests. For example, Vulcan may be unable to vote securities that have been lent by the custodian. Also, proxy voting in certain countries involves "share blocking," which limits Vulcan's ability to sell the affected security during a blocking period that can last for several weeks. Vulcan believes that the potential consequences of being unable to sell a security usually outweigh the benefits of participating in a proxy vote, so Vulcan may elect to abstain from voting when share blocking is required. Vulcan will maintain records of the rationale for any instance in which Vulcan does not vote a Client's proxy. Vulcan is only responsible for proxy materials received in a timely manner.
- ProxyEdge will retain the following information in connection with each proxy vote:
  - The Issuer's name;
  - The security's ticker symbol or CUSIP, as applicable;
  - The shareholder meeting date;
  - The number of shares that Vulcan voted;
  - A brief identification of the matter voted on;
  - Whether the matter was proposed by the Issuer or a security-holder;
  - Whether Vulcan cast a vote;
  - How Vulcan cast its vote (for the proposal, against the proposal, or abstain); and
  - Whether Vulcan cast its vote with or against management.
- If Vulcan votes the same proxy in two directions, the Chief Compliance Officer will maintain documentation describing the reasons for each vote (e.g., Vulcan believes that voting with management is in Clients' best interests, but one Client gave specific instructions to vote against management).

- Any attempt to influence the proxy voting process by Issuers or others not identified in these policies and procedures should be promptly reported to the Chief Compliance Officer. Similarly, any Client's attempt to influence proxy voting with respect to other Clients' securities should be promptly reported to the Chief Compliance Officer.
- Proxies received after a Client terminates its advisory relationship with Vulcan will not be voted.

<b>Class Actions</b>	Compliance	<p>As a fiduciary, Vulcan always seeks to act in Clients' best interests with good faith, loyalty, and due care. If within Vulcan's discretion, the Chief Compliance Officer will determine whether Clients will (a) participate in a recovery achieved through a class actions, or (b) opt out of the class action or (c) separately pursue their own remedy. Vulcan utilizes a third party that oversees the completion of Proof of Claim forms and any associated documentation, the submission of such documents to the claim administrator, and the receipt of any recovered monies. The Chief Compliance Officer will maintain documentation associated with Clients' participation in class actions.</p> <p>Employees must notify the Chief Compliance Officer if they are aware of any material conflict of interest associated with Clients' participation in class actions. The Chief Compliance Officer will evaluate any such conflicts and determine an appropriate course of action for Vulcan.</p> <p>Vulcan generally does not serve as the lead plaintiff in class actions because the costs of such participation typically exceed any extra benefits that accrue to lead plaintiffs.</p>
<b>Disclosures to Clients</b>	Compliance	<p>Vulcan includes a description of its policies and procedures regarding proxy voting and class actions in Part 2 of Form ADV, along with a statement that Clients can contact the Chief Compliance Officer to obtain a copy of these policies and procedures and information about how Vulcan voted with respect to the Client's securities.</p>

		As a matter of policy, Vulcan does not disclose how it expects to vote on upcoming proxies. Additionally, Vulcan does not disclose the way it voted proxies to unaffiliated third parties without a legitimate need to know such information.
<b>Recordkeeping</b>	Compliance	<p>The Chief Compliance Officer shall retain the following proxy records in accordance with the SEC's five-year retention requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These policies and procedures and any amendments;</li> <li>• Each proxy statement that Vulcan receives;</li> <li>• A record of each vote that Vulcan casts;</li> <li>• Any document Vulcan created that was material to making a decision how to vote proxies, or that memorializes that voting decision.</li> <li>• A copy of each written request from a client for information on how Vulcan voted such client fund's proxies, and a copy of any written response.</li> </ul>
<b>Periodic Reviews</b>	Operations completes a proxy vote checklist and submits the checklist to the Chief Compliance Officer for review and approval.	
<b>Related Information</b>	Annual 206(4)-7 Compliance Program Review Report, Compliance Calendar	