



## Statement of Additional Information

March 30, 2018

**Gerstein Fisher Multi-Factor<sup>®</sup> Growth Equity Fund**  
(GFMGX)

**Gerstein Fisher Multi-Factor<sup>®</sup> International  
Growth Equity Fund**  
(GFIGX)

**Gerstein Fisher Multi-Factor<sup>®</sup> Global Real Estate  
Securities Fund**  
(GFMRX)

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) provides general information about the Gerstein Fisher Multi-Factor<sup>®</sup> Growth Equity Fund (the “Growth Equity Fund”), the Gerstein Fisher Multi-Factor<sup>®</sup> International Growth Equity Fund (the “International Growth Equity Fund”), and the Gerstein Fisher Multi-Factor<sup>®</sup> Global Real Estate Securities Fund (the “Global Real Estate Securities Fund”) (each, a “Fund,” and collectively, the “Funds” or the “Gerstein Fisher Funds”), each a series of Trust for Professional Managers (the “Trust”). This SAI is not a prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Funds’ current prospectus dated March 30, 2018 (the “Prospectus”), as supplemented and amended from time to time, which is incorporated herein by reference. The Funds’ audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017 are incorporated herein by reference to the Funds’ 2017 Annual Report to Shareholders. To obtain a copy of the Prospectus and/or the Funds’ 2017 Annual Report to Shareholders, free of charge, please write or call the Funds at the address or telephone number below, or visit the Funds’ website at [www.gersteinfisherfunds.com](http://www.gersteinfisherfunds.com).

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An investment in the Funds is not a deposit of People’s United Bank, N.A. or any of its affiliates, is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “FDIC”) or any other government agency and may lose value.

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## **The Trust**

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust organized on May 29, 2001, and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) as an open-end management investment company. Each Fund is one series, or mutual fund, formed by the Trust. Each Fund is a diversified series and has its own investment objective and policies. As of the date of this SAI, shares of twenty-seven other series of the Trust are offered in separate prospectuses and SAIs. The Trust may start additional series and offer shares of a new fund under the Trust at any time.

The Trust is authorized to issue an unlimited number of interests (or shares). Interests in the Funds are represented by shares of beneficial interest each with a par value of \$0.001. Each share of the Trust has equal voting rights and liquidation rights, and are voted in the aggregate and not by the series except in matters where a separate vote is required by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), or when the matters affect only the interests of a particular series. When matters are submitted to shareholders for a vote, each shareholder is entitled to one vote for each full share owned and fractional votes for fractional shares owned. The Trust does not normally hold annual meetings of shareholders. The Trust’s Board of Trustees (the “Board” or the “Board of Trustees”) shall promptly call and give notice of a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of voting upon removal of any trustee when requested to do so in writing by shareholders holding 10% or more of the Trust’s outstanding shares.

Each share of the Funds represents an equal proportionate interest in the assets and liabilities belonging to the Funds and is entitled to such distributions out of the income belonging to the Funds as are declared by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has the authority from time to time to divide or combine the shares of any series into a greater or lesser number of shares of that series so long as the proportionate beneficial interests in the assets belonging to that series and the rights of shares of any other series are in no way affected. Additionally, in case of any liquidation of a series, the shareholders of the series being liquidated are entitled to receive a distribution out of the assets, net of the liabilities, belonging to that series. Expenses attributable to any series are borne by that series. Any general expenses of the Trust not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular series are allocated by, or under the direction of, the Board of Trustees on the basis of relative net assets, the number of shareholders or another equitable method. No shareholder is liable to further calls or to assessment by the Trust without his or her express consent.

The assets of a Fund received for the issue or sale of its shares, and all income, earnings, profits and proceeds thereof, subject only to the rights of creditors, shall constitute the underlying assets of the Fund. In the event of the dissolution or liquidation of a Fund, the shareholders of the Fund are entitled to share pro rata in the net assets of the Fund available for distribution to shareholders.

People’s Securities, Inc., doing business as Gerstein Fisher or Gerstein Fisher Asset Management (the “Advisor”), serves as the investment advisor for the Funds and the Gerstein Fisher Municipal CRA Qualified Investment Fund, a separate series of the Trust. Effective on or about April 1, 2018, People’s Securities, Inc. d/b/a Gerstein Fisher intends to transfer the investment advisory agreement for the Fund to its affiliate, People’s United Advisors, Inc., a Connecticut corporation and registered investment adviser, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of People’s United Bank, N.A. (“People’s United”).

## **Investment Policies, Strategies and Associated Risks**

### ***Investment Objective***

The investment objective of the Growth Equity Fund and the International Growth Equity Fund is long-term capital appreciation. The investment objective of the Global Real Estate Securities Fund is total return (a combination of long-term capital appreciation and current income). Each Fund’s investment objective may be changed without the approval of each Fund’s shareholders upon 60 days’ prior written notice to shareholders.

### ***Diversification***

The Funds are diversified. Under applicable federal laws, to qualify as a diversified fund, a Fund, with respect to 75% of its total assets, may not invest greater than 5% of its total assets in any one issuer and may not hold greater than 10% of the securities of one issuer. The remaining 25% of a Fund's total assets does not need to be "diversified" and may be invested in the securities of a single issuer, subject to other applicable laws. The diversification of a Fund's holdings is measured at the time the Fund purchases a security. However, if a Fund purchases a security and holds it for a period of time, the security may become a larger percentage of the Fund's total assets due to movements in the financial markets. If the market affects several securities held by a Fund, that Fund may have a greater percentage of its assets invested in securities of fewer issuers. Because the Funds are diversified, the Funds are less subject to the risk that their performance may be hurt disproportionately by the poor performance of relatively few securities.

### ***General Market Risks***

Global economies and financial markets are increasingly interconnected, which increases the probabilities that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact issues in a different country or region. In some cases, the stock prices of individual companies have been negatively impacted even though there may be little or no apparent degradation in the financial condition or prospects of that company. As a result of this volatility, many of the risks associated with an investment in the Funds may be increased. Continuing market problems may have adverse effects on the Funds.

### ***Investment Strategies and Related Risks***

There is no assurance that a Fund will achieve its investment objective. The following discussion supplements the description of the Funds' investment objectives and principal investment strategies set forth in the Prospectus. Except for the fundamental investment restrictions listed below (see "Investment Restrictions"), the Funds' investment strategies and policies are not fundamental and may be changed by sole action of the Board of Trustees, without shareholder approval. While the Funds are permitted to hold securities and engage in various strategies as described hereafter, it is not obligated to do so. The Funds' investment objectives and strategies may be changed without the approval of the Funds' shareholders upon 60 days' written notice to shareholders.

Whenever an investment policy or investment restriction states a maximum percentage of a Fund's assets that may be invested in any security, or other asset, or sets forth a policy regarding quality standards, such standard or percentage limitation will be determined immediately after and as a result of a Fund's acquisition or sale of such security or other asset. Accordingly, any subsequent change in values, net assets or other circumstances will not be considered when determining whether an investment complies with a Fund's investment policies and investment restrictions set forth herein or in the Prospectus. In addition, if a bankruptcy or other extraordinary event occurs concerning a particular investment by a Fund, that Fund may receive stock, real estate or other investments that the Fund would not, or could not, buy. If this happens, that Fund will sell such investments as soon as practicable while trying to maximize the return to its shareholders. Please note, however, that the guidance referenced in the first two sentences of this paragraph does not apply to a Fund's limitation as to the borrowing of money or purchase of illiquid securities.

### ***Equity Securities***

Under normal market conditions, at least 80% of the Growth Equity Fund and the International Growth Equity Fund's net assets will be invested in equity securities. Should the Advisor determine that a Fund would benefit from reducing the percentage of assets invested in equity securities from 80% to a lesser amount, the Fund will provide you with at least 60 days' notice of such change.

An equity security (such as a stock, partnership interest or other beneficial interest in an issuer) represents a proportionate share of the ownership of a company. Its value is based on the success of the company's business, any income paid to stockholders, the value of its assets and general market conditions. Common stocks and preferred stocks are examples of equity securities. Preferred stocks are equity securities that often

pay dividends at a specific rate and have a preference over common stocks in dividend payments and liquidation of assets. Some preferred stocks may be convertible into common stock. Convertible securities are securities (such as debt securities or preferred stock) that may be converted into or exchanged for a specified amount of common stock of the same or different issuer within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. More information regarding common stock, preferred stock and convertible securities appears below.

The risks of investing in companies in general include business failure and reliance on erroneous reports. Larger, more established companies may be unable to respond quickly to new competitive challenges such as changes in consumer tastes or innovative smaller competitors. Also, large-cap companies are sometimes unable to attain the high growth rates of successful, smaller companies, especially during extended periods of economic expansion.

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

Preferred Stock. Preferred stock is an equity security that often pay dividends at a specific rate and has a preference over common stocks in dividend payments and liquidation of assets. Preferred stock is a blend of the characteristics of a bond and common stock. It can offer the higher yield of a bond and has priority over common stock in equity ownership, but does not have the seniority of a bond and, unlike common stock, its participation in the issuer's growth may be limited. Although the dividend is set at a fixed annual rate, in some circumstances it can be changed or omitted by the issuer.

Convertible Securities. The Funds may invest in convertible securities. Convertible securities (such as debt securities or preferred stock) 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 dividends paid on preferred stock until the convertible stock matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. While no securities investment is without some risk, investments in convertible securities generally entail less risk than the issuer's common stock. However, the extent to which such risk is reduced depends in large measure upon the degree to which the convertible security sells above its value as a fixed income security. In addition to the general risk associated with equity securities discussed above, the market value of convertible securities is also affected by prevailing interest rates, the credit quality of the issuer and any call provisions. While convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than nonconvertible debt securities of similar quality, they do enable the investor to benefit from increases in the market price of the underlying common stock.

### ***Foreign Investments and Currencies***

The Funds may invest in securities of foreign issuers that are publicly traded in the United States, including American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), and on foreign exchanges, including European Depositary Receipts ("EDRs"). The Funds may also purchase and sell foreign currency on a spot basis and enter into forward currency contracts (see "Forward Currency Contracts," below). The International Equity Fund may invest in securities of issuers located in emerging markets as a principal investment strategy. The Growth Equity Fund and Global Real Estate Securities Fund may invest in emerging market securities only as a non-principal strategy.

Depository Receipts. The Funds may invest its assets in securities of foreign issuers in the form of depository receipts, such as ADRs and EDRs, which are securities representing securities of foreign issuers. A purchaser of unsponsored depository receipts may not have unlimited voting rights and may not receive as much information about the issuer of the underlying securities as with a sponsored depository receipt. Generally, ADRs, in registered form, are denominated in U.S. dollars and are designed for use in the U.S. securities markets, while EDRs, in bearer form, may be denominated in other currencies and are designed for use in European securities markets. ADRs are receipts typically issued by a U.S. bank or trust company evidencing ownership of the underlying securities. EDRs are European receipts evidencing similar arrangements. For purposes of the Funds' investment policies, ADRs and EDRs are deemed to have the same classification as the underlying securities they represent. Thus, an ADR or EDR representing ownership of common stock will be treated as common stock.

Risks of Investing in Foreign Securities. Investments in foreign securities involve certain inherent risks, including the following:

Political and Economic Factors. Individual foreign economies of certain countries may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency, diversification and balance of payments position. The internal politics of certain foreign countries may not be as stable as those of the United States. Governments in certain foreign countries also continue to participate to a significant degree, through ownership interest or regulation, in their respective economies. Action by these governments could include restrictions on foreign investment, nationalization, expropriation of goods or imposition of taxes, and could have a significant effect on market prices of securities and payment of interest. The economies of many foreign countries are heavily dependent upon international trade and are accordingly affected by the trade policies and economic conditions of their trading partners. Enactment by these trading partners of protectionist trade legislation could have a significant adverse effect upon the securities markets of such countries.

Currency Fluctuations. The Funds may invest in securities denominated in foreign currencies. Accordingly, a change in the value of any such currency against the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding change in the U.S. dollar value of the Funds' assets denominated in that currency. Such changes will also affect the Funds' income. The value of a Fund's assets may also be affected significantly by currency restrictions and exchange control regulations enacted from time to time.

Market Characteristics. The Advisor expects that many foreign securities in which the Funds invest will be purchased in over-the-counter markets or on exchanges located in the countries in which the principal offices of the issuers of the various securities are located, if that is the best available market. Foreign exchanges and markets may be more volatile than those in the United States. While growing in volume, they usually have substantially less volume than U.S. markets, and the Funds' foreign securities may be less liquid and more volatile than U.S. securities. Moreover, settlement practices for transactions in foreign markets may differ from those in United States markets, and may include delays beyond periods customary in the United States. Foreign security trading practices, including those involving securities settlement where Fund assets may be released prior to receipt of payment or securities, may expose the Funds to increased risk in the event of a failed trade or the insolvency of a foreign broker-dealer.

Legal and Regulatory Matters. Certain foreign countries may have less supervision of securities markets, brokers and issuers of securities, and less financial information available from issuers, than is available in the United States.

Taxes. The interest and dividends payable on certain of the Funds' foreign portfolio securities may be subject to foreign withholding taxes, thus reducing the net amount of income available for distribution to Fund shareholders.

Costs. To the extent that the Funds invest in foreign securities, its expense ratio is likely to be higher than those of investment companies investing only in domestic securities, since the cost of maintaining the custody of foreign securities is higher.

Emerging Markets. Some of the securities in which the Funds may invest may be of issuers located in developing or emerging markets, which entail additional risks, including less social, political and economic stability; smaller securities markets and lower trading volume, which may result in less liquidity and greater price volatility; national policies that may restrict the Funds' investment opportunities, including restrictions on investments in issuers or industries, or expropriation or confiscation of assets or property; and less developed legal structures governing private or foreign investment.

In considering whether to invest in the securities of a foreign company, the Advisor considers such factors as the characteristics of the particular company, differences between economic trends and the performance of securities markets within the U.S. and those within other countries, and also factors relating to the general economic, governmental and social conditions of the country or countries where the company is located. The extent to which the Funds will be invested in foreign companies and countries and depositary receipts will fluctuate from time to time within the limitations described in the Prospectus, depending on the Advisor's assessment of prevailing market, economic and other conditions.

Forward Currency Contracts. The Funds may enter into forward currency contracts in anticipation of changes in currency exchange rates. A forward currency contract is an obligation to purchase or sell a specific currency at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties, at a price set at the time of the contract. For example, a Fund might purchase a particular currency or enter into a forward currency contract to preserve the U.S. dollar price of securities it intends to or has contracted to purchase. Alternatively, it might sell a particular currency on either a spot or forward basis to hedge against an anticipated decline in the dollar value of securities it intends to or has contracted to sell. Although this strategy could minimize the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, it could also limit any potential gain from an increase in the value of the currency.

#### ***Other Investment Companies and Exchange-Traded Funds***

The Funds may invest its assets in shares of other investment companies, including money market funds, other mutual funds or exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). The Funds' investments in money market funds may be used for cash management purposes and to maintain liquidity in order to satisfy redemption requests or pay unanticipated expenses. The Funds limit their investments in securities issued by other investment companies in accordance with the 1940 Act. Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act precludes the Funds from acquiring: (i) more than 3% of the total outstanding shares of another investment company; (ii) shares of another investment company having an aggregate value in excess of 5% of the value of the total assets of the Fund; or (iii) shares of another registered investment company and all other investment companies having an aggregate value in excess of 10% of the value of the total assets of the Funds. However, Section 12(d)(1)(F) of the 1940 Act provides that the provisions of paragraph 12(d) shall not apply to securities purchased or otherwise acquired by the Funds if: (i) immediately after such purchase or acquisition not more than 3% of the total outstanding shares of such investment company is owned by the Funds and all affiliated persons of the Funds; and (ii) the Funds have not offered or sold, and is not proposing to offer or sell its shares through a principal underwriter or otherwise at a public or offering price that includes a sales load of more than 1 1/2%.

If the Funds invest in investment companies, including ETFs, pursuant to Section 12(d)(1)(F), they must comply with the following voting restrictions: when the Funds exercise voting rights, by proxy or otherwise, with respect to investment companies owned by the Funds, the Funds will either seek instruction from the Funds' shareholders with regard to the voting of all proxies and vote in accordance with such instructions, or vote the shares held by the Funds in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of such security. In addition, an investment company purchased by the Funds pursuant to Section 12(d)(1)(F) shall not be required to redeem its shares in an amount exceeding 1% of such investment company's total outstanding

shares in any period of less than thirty days. In addition to the advisory and operational fees the Funds bear directly in connection with their own operation, the Funds also bear their pro rata portion of the advisory and operational expenses of each other investment company.

Exchange-Traded Funds. The Funds may also invest in shares of ETFs. ETFs are typically open-end investment companies that are bought and sold on a national securities exchange. However, there can be no assurance that an active trading market for such shares will develop or be maintained by market makers or authorized participants. An ETF is similar to a traditional mutual fund, but trades at different prices during the day on a securities exchange like a stock. Similar to investments in other investment companies discussed above, the Funds' investments in ETFs will involve duplication of advisory fees and other expenses since the Funds will be investing in another investment company. In addition, the Funds' investment in ETFs is also subject to its limitations on investments in investment companies discussed above. To the extent the Funds invest in ETFs which focus on a particular market segment or industry, the Funds will also be subject to the risks associated with investing in those sectors or industries. The shares of the ETFs in which the Funds will invest will be listed on a national securities exchange and the Funds will purchase and sell these shares on the secondary market at their current market price, which may be more or less than their net asset value. Investors in the Funds should be aware that ETFs that seek to replicate a particular benchmark index are subject to "tracking risk," which is the risk that an ETF will not be able to replicate exactly the performance of the index it tracks.

As a purchaser of ETF shares on the secondary market, the Funds will be subject to the market risk associated with owning any security whose value is based on market price. ETF shares historically have tended to trade at or near their net asset value, but there is no guarantee that they will continue to do so. In addition, in times of market stress, market makers or authorized participants may step away from their roles in making a market in shares of the ETF and in executing purchase or redemption orders, and this could in turn lead to variances between the market price of the ETF's shares and the underlying value of those shares. Unlike traditional mutual funds, shares of an ETF may be purchased and redeemed directly from the Funds only in large blocks (typically 50,000 shares or more) and only through participating organizations that have entered into contractual agreements with the ETF. The Funds do not expect to enter into such agreements and therefore will not be able to purchase and redeem its ETF shares directly from the ETF.

### ***Options, Futures and Other Strategies***

The Funds may invest in options on equities, debt and stock indices (collectively, "options"). At any one time, the combined value of options may be up to 5% of a Fund's net assets. The Funds may also invest in futures contracts and options on futures contracts (collectively, "futures"). The Funds may make these investments as a substitute for a comparable market position in the underlying security, to attempt to hedge or limit the exposure of a Fund's position, to create a synthetic money market position for certain tax-related purposes and to effect closing transactions. The Funds will not invest in futures for speculative purposes.

The use of futures and options (collectively, "Financial Instruments") is subject to applicable regulations of the SEC, the several exchanges upon which they are traded and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. In addition, the Funds' ability to use Financial Instruments will be limited by tax considerations (see "Federal Tax Matters" below).

In addition to the instruments, strategies and risks described below and in the Prospectus, the Advisor may discover additional opportunities in connection with Financial Instruments and other similar or related techniques. These new opportunities may become available as the Advisor develops new techniques, as regulatory authorities broaden the range of permitted transactions and as new Financial Instruments or other techniques are developed. The Advisor may utilize these opportunities to the extent that they are consistent with the Funds' investment objectives and permitted by the Funds' investment restrictions and applicable regulatory authorities. The Prospectus or this SAI will be supplemented to the extent that new products or techniques involve materially different risks than those described below or in the Prospectus.

The use of Financial Instruments involves special considerations and risks which include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Successful use of most Financial Instruments depends upon the Advisor's ability to predict movements of the overall securities markets, which requires different skills than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. The ordinary spreads between prices in the cash and futures markets, due to the differences in the natures of those markets, are subject to distortion. Due to the possibility of distortion, a correct forecast of stock market trends by the Advisor may still not result in a successful transaction. The Advisor may be incorrect in its expectations as to the extent of market movements or the time span within which the movements take place, which, thus, may result in the strategy being unsuccessful.

(2) Options and futures prices can diverge from the prices of their underlying instruments. Options and futures prices are affected by such factors as current and anticipated short-term interest rates, changes in volatility of the underlying instrument and the time remaining until expiration of the contract, which may not affect security prices the same way. Imperfect or no correlation also may result from differing levels of demand in the options and futures markets and the securities markets, from structural differences in how options and futures and securities are traded, and from imposition of daily price fluctuation limits or trading halts.

(3) As described below, the Funds might be required to maintain assets as "cover," maintain segregated accounts or make margin payments when it takes positions in Financial Instruments involving obligations to third parties (e.g., Financial Instruments other than purchased options). If the Funds were unable to close out its positions in such Financial Instruments, they might be required to continue to maintain such assets or accounts or make such payments until the position expired or matured. These requirements might impair the Funds' ability to sell a portfolio security or make an investment when it would otherwise be favorable to do so or require that the Funds sell a portfolio security at a disadvantageous time. The Funds' ability to close out a position in a Financial Instrument prior to expiration or maturity depends on the existence of a liquid secondary market or, in the absence of such a market, the ability and willingness of the other party to the transaction (the "counter-party") to enter into a transaction closing out the position. Therefore, there is no assurance that any position can be closed out at a time and price that is favorable to the Funds.

The Funds will not enter into any transactions using Financial Instruments (except for purchased options) unless they own either (1) an offsetting ("covered") position in securities or other options or futures contracts or (2) cash and liquid assets with a value, marked-to-market daily, sufficient to cover its potential obligations to the extent not covered as provided in (1) above. The Funds will comply with SEC guidelines regarding cover for these instruments and will, if the guidelines so require, set aside cash or liquid assets in an account with its custodian in the prescribed amount as determined daily.

Assets used as cover or held in an account cannot be sold while the position in the corresponding Financial Instrument is open, unless they are replaced with other appropriate assets. As a result, the commitment of a large portion of the Funds' assets to cover or held in accounts could impede portfolio management or the Funds' ability to meet redemption requests or other current obligations.

(4) Losses may arise due to unanticipated market price movements, lack of a liquid secondary market for any particular instrument at a particular time or due to losses from premiums paid by the Funds on options transactions.

Options on Securities and Securities Indices. The Funds normally will purchase call options in anticipation of an increase in the market value of securities of the type in which they may invest or a positive change in the currency in which such securities are denominated. The purchase of a call option would entitle the Funds, in return for the premium paid, to purchase specified securities or a specified amount of a foreign currency at a specified price during the option period. The Funds normally will purchase put options in anticipation of a decrease in the market value of securities of the type in which they may invest or a negative change in the

currency in which such securities are denominated. The purchase of a put option would entitle the Funds, in return for the premium paid, to sell specified securities or a specified amount of a foreign currency at a specified price during the option period.

The Funds may purchase and sell options traded on U.S. and foreign exchanges and “over-the-counter” with other parties. Although the Funds will generally purchase only those options for which there appears to be an active secondary market, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an exchange or “over-the-counter” will exist for any particular option or at any particular time. For some options, no secondary market on an exchange or “over-the-counter” may exist. In such event, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options, with the result that the Funds would have to exercise its options in order to realize any profit and would incur transaction costs upon the purchase or sale of the underlying securities.

Secondary markets on an exchange may not exist or may not be liquid for a variety of reasons including: (i) insufficient trading interest in certain options; (ii) restrictions on opening transactions or closing transactions imposed by an exchange; (iii) trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options; (iv) unusual or unforeseen circumstances which interrupt normal operations on an exchange; (v) inadequate facilities of an exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation to handle current trading volume at all times; or (vi) discontinuance in the future by one or more exchanges for economic or other reasons, of trading of options (or of a particular class or series of options), in which event the secondary market on that exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist, although outstanding options on that exchange that had been issued by the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

The Funds may write (*i.e.*, sell) covered put and call options on securities, securities indices and currencies in which they may invest. A covered call option involves the Funds’ giving another party, in return for a premium, the right to buy specified securities owned by the Funds at a specified future date and price set at the time of the contract. A covered call option serves as a partial hedge against a price decline of the underlying security. However, by writing a covered call option, the Funds give up the opportunity, while the option is in effect, to realize gain from any price increase (above the option exercise price) in the underlying security. In addition, the Funds’ ability to sell the underlying security is limited while the option is in effect unless the Funds effect a closing purchase transaction.

The Funds may also write covered put options that give the holder of the option the right to sell the underlying security to the Funds at the stated exercise price. The Funds will receive a premium for writing a put option, but will be obligated for as long as the option is outstanding to purchase the underlying security at a price that may be higher than the market value of that security at the time of exercise. In order to “cover” put options they have written, the Funds will cause its custodian to segregate cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities or other liquid equity or debt securities with at least the value of the exercise price of the put options.

There is no assurance that higher than anticipated trading activity or other unforeseen events might not, at times, render certain of the facilities of the Options Clearing Corporation inadequate, and result in the institution by an exchange of special procedures that may interfere with the timely execution of the Funds’ option orders.

Futures and Options on Futures. Futures contracts provide for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of a specific security or currency at a specified future time at a specified price. An option on a futures contract gives the purchaser the right, in exchange for a premium, to assume a position in a futures contract at a specified exercise price during the term of the option. Although some futures contracts call for making or taking delivery of the underlying securities, generally these obligations are closed out prior to delivery by offsetting purchases or sales of matching futures contracts (contracts traded on the same exchange, on the same underlying security or index, and with the same delivery month). If an

offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, the Funds realize a capital gain; if it is more, the Funds realize a capital loss. Conversely, if an offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, the Funds realize a capital gain; if it is less, the Funds realize a capital loss. The transaction costs must also be included in these calculations. The Funds may use futures contracts and related options for bona fide hedging purposes, such as to offset changes in the value of securities held or expected to be acquired or be disposed of or to minimize fluctuations in foreign currencies. The Funds will minimize the risk that they will be unable to close out a futures contract by only entering into futures contracts that are traded on national futures exchanges.

An index futures contract is a bilateral agreement pursuant to which two parties agree to take or make delivery of an amount of cash equal to a specified dollar amount times the difference between the index value at the close of trading of the contract and the price at which the futures contract is originally struck. No physical delivery of the securities comprising the index is made; generally contracts are closed out prior to their expiration date.

In order to avoid leveraging and related risks, when the Funds invest in futures contracts, the Funds will cover positions by depositing an amount of cash or liquid securities equal to the market value of the futures positions held, less margin deposits, in a segregated account and that amount will be marked-to-market on a daily basis.

There are risks associated with these activities, including the following: (1) the success of a hedging strategy may depend on an ability to predict movements in the prices of individual securities, fluctuations in markets and movements in interest rates; (2) there may be an imperfect or lack of correlation between the changes in market value of the securities held and the prices of futures and options on futures; (3) there may not be a liquid secondary market for a futures contract or option; (4) trading restrictions or limitations may be imposed by an exchange; and (5) government regulations may restrict trading in futures contracts and options on futures.

The Funds may buy and sell futures contracts and related options to manage exposure to changing interest rates and securities prices. Some strategies reduce the Funds' exposure to price fluctuations, while others tend to increase market exposure. Futures and options on futures can be volatile instruments and involve certain risks that could negatively impact a Fund's return. No price is paid upon entering into futures contracts. Instead, the Funds would be required to deposit an amount of cash or U.S. Treasury securities known as "initial margin." Subsequent payments, called "variation margin," to and from the broker, would be made on a daily basis as the value of the future position varies (a process known as "marked to market"). The margin is in the nature of performance bond or good-faith deposit on a futures contract. Futures and options on futures are taxable instruments.

***Short Sales (Growth Equity Fund and Global Real Estate Fund Only)***

The Funds may engage in short sales of securities, provided the securities are fully listed on a national securities exchange. In a short sale, a Fund sells a security it does not own, in anticipation of a decline in the market value of the security. To complete the transaction, the Funds must borrow the security to make delivery to the buyer. The Funds are then obligated to replace the security borrowed by purchasing it at the market price at the time of replacement. This price may be more or less than the price at which the security was sold by the Funds. The Funds will incur a loss on a short sale if the price of the security increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the Funds replace the borrowed security. The Funds will realize a gain if the security declines in price between those dates. The amount of any gain will be decreased, and the amount of any loss increased, by the amount of the premium, dividends, interest or expenses the Funds may be required to pay in connection with the short sale.

Typically, the Funds will segregate liquid assets, which are marked-to-market daily, equal to the difference between (a) the market value of the securities sold short at the time they were sold short and (b) the value of the collateral deposited with the broker in connection with the short sale (not including the proceeds from

the short sale). While the short position is open, the Funds must maintain segregated assets at such a level that the amount segregated plus the amount deposited with the broker as collateral equal the current market value of the securities sold short.

### ***Securities Lending***

The Funds may lend securities from their portfolios to brokers, dealers and financial institutions (but not individuals) in order to increase the return on its portfolio. The value of the loaned securities may not exceed one-third of a Fund's total net assets and loans of portfolio securities are fully collateralized based on values that are marked-to-market daily. The Funds will not enter into any portfolio security lending arrangement having a duration of longer than one year. The principal risk of portfolio lending is potential default or insolvency of the borrower. In either of these cases, the Funds could experience delays in recovering securities or collateral or could lose all or part of the value of the loaned securities. The Funds may pay reasonable administrative and custodial fees in connection with loans of portfolio securities and may pay a portion of the interest or fee earned thereon to the borrower or a placing broker.

In determining whether or not to lend a security to a particular broker, dealer or financial institution, the Advisor considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including the size, creditworthiness and reputation of the broker, dealer or financial institution. Any loans of portfolio securities are fully collateralized based on values that are marked-to-market daily. Any securities that the Funds may receive as collateral will not become part of the Funds' investment portfolio at the time of the loan and, in the event of a default by the borrower, the Funds will, if permitted by law, dispose of such collateral except for such part thereof that is a security in which the Funds are permitted to invest. During the time securities are on loan, the borrower will pay the Funds any accrued income on those securities, however, such payments of accrued income will not constitute qualified dividend income and will be taxable as ordinary income. For loaned securities, the Funds may invest the cash collateral and earn income or receive an agreed-upon fee from a borrower that has delivered cash-equivalent collateral. The Funds will be responsible for the risks associated with the investment of the cash collateral, including the risk that the Funds may lose money on the investment or may fail to earn sufficient income to meet its obligations to the borrower. While the Funds do not have the right to vote securities on loan, it would terminate the loan and regain the right to vote if that were considered important with respect to the investment.

### ***Cash or Similar Investments***

For temporary defensive purposes, the Advisor may invest up to 100% of a Fund's total assets in high-quality, short-term debt securities and money market instruments. These short-term debt securities and money market instruments include shares of other mutual funds, commercial paper, certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, U.S. Government securities and repurchase agreements. Taking a temporary defensive position may result in a Fund not achieving its investment objective. Furthermore, to the extent that a Fund invests in money market mutual funds for its cash position, there will be some duplication of expenses because the Fund would bear its pro rata portion of such money market funds' management fees and operational expenses.

The Funds may invest in any of the following securities and instruments:

Money Market Mutual Funds. The Funds may invest in money market mutual funds in connection with their management of daily cash positions or as a temporary defensive measure. Generally, money market mutual funds seek to earn income consistent with the preservation of capital and maintenance of liquidity. They primarily invest in high quality money market obligations, including securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies and instrumentalities, bank obligations and high-grade corporate instruments. These investments generally mature within 397 days from the date of purchase. An investment in a money market mutual fund is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any government agency. The Funds' investments in money market mutual funds may be used for cash management purposes and to maintain liquidity in order to satisfy redemption requests or pay unanticipated expenses.

Your cost of investing in a Fund will generally be higher than the cost of investing directly in the underlying money market mutual fund shares. You will indirectly bear fees and expenses charged by the underlying money market mutual funds in addition to the Funds' direct fees and expenses. Furthermore, the use of this strategy could affect the timing, amount and character of distributions to you and therefore may increase the amount of taxes payable by you.

Bank Certificates of Deposit, Bankers' Acceptances and Time Deposits. The Funds may acquire certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and time deposits. Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates issued against monies deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers' acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are "accepted" by a bank, meaning in effect that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity. Certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances acquired by the Funds will be dollar-denominated obligations of domestic or foreign banks or financial institutions which at the time of purchase have capital, surplus and undivided profits in excess of \$100 million (including assets of both domestic and foreign branches), based on latest published reports, or less than \$100 million if the principal amount of such bank obligations are fully insured by the U.S. Government.

Domestic banks and foreign banks are subject to different governmental regulations with respect to the amount and types of loans that may be made and interest rates that may be charged. In addition, the profitability of the banking industry depends largely upon the availability and cost of funds for the purpose of financing lending operations under prevailing money market conditions. General economic conditions as well as exposure to credit losses arising from possible financial difficulties of borrowers play an important part in the operations of the banking industry.

As a result of federal and state laws and regulations, domestic banks are, among other things, required to maintain specified levels of reserves, limited in the amount which they can loan to a single borrower and subject to other regulations designed to promote financial soundness. However, such laws and regulations do not necessarily apply to foreign bank obligations that the Funds may acquire.

In addition to purchasing certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances, to the extent permitted under the investment objective and policies stated above and in the Prospectus, the Funds may make interest-bearing time or other interest-bearing deposits in commercial or savings banks. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained at a banking institution for a specified period of time at a specified interest rate.

Savings Association Obligations. The Funds may invest in certificates of deposit (interest-bearing time deposits) issued by savings banks or savings and loan associations that have capital, surplus and undivided profits in excess of \$100 million, based on latest published reports, or less than \$100 million if the principal amount of such obligations is fully insured by the U.S. Government.

Commercial Paper, Short-Term Notes and Other Corporate Obligations. The Funds may invest a portion of their assets in commercial paper and short-term notes. Commercial paper consists of unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations. Issues of commercial paper and short-term notes will normally have maturities of less than nine months and fixed rates of return, although such instruments may have maturities of up to one year.

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

Corporate obligations include bonds and notes issued by corporations to finance longer-term credit needs than supported by commercial paper. While such obligations generally have maturities of ten years or more, the Funds may purchase corporate obligations which have remaining maturities of one year or less from the date of purchase and which are rated “A” or higher by S&P Global Ratings (“S&P”) or “A” or higher by Moody’s.

### ***Government Obligations***

The Funds may make short-term investments in U.S. government obligations. Such obligations include Treasury bills, certificates of indebtedness, notes and bonds, and issues of such entities as the Government National Mortgage Association (“GNMA”). Some of these obligations, such as those of the GNMA, are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury.

### ***Agency Obligations***

The Funds may make short-term investments in agency obligations, such as the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Tennessee Valley Authority, Resolution Funding Corporation, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, Federal Farm Credit Banks, Federal Land Banks, Federal Housing Administration, Federal National Mortgage Association (“FNMA”), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“FHLMC”), and the Student Loan Marketing Association. Some, such as those of the Export-Import Bank of United States, are supported only by the right of the issuer to borrow from the Treasury; others, such as those of the FNMA and FHLMC, are supported by only the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase the agency’s obligations; still others, such as those of the Student Loan Marketing Association, are supported only by the credit of the instrumentality. No assurance can be given that the U.S. government would provide financial support to U.S. government-sponsored instrumentalities because they are not obligated by law to do so.

### ***Fixed-Income Securities (Growth Equity Fund and International Growth Equity Fund only)***

The Funds may invest in a wide range of fixed-income securities as a non-principal strategy.

The Funds may invest in investment grade corporate debt securities. Investment grade corporate bonds are those rated BBB or better by S&P or Baa or better by Moody’s. Securities rated BBB by S&P are considered investment grade, but Moody’s considers securities rated Baa to have speculative characteristics. See Appendix A for a description of corporate bond ratings. The Fund may also invest in unrated securities.

Corporate Debt Securities. Corporate debt securities are fixed-income securities issued by businesses to finance their operations, although corporate debt instruments may also include bank loans to companies. Notes, bonds, debentures and commercial paper are the most common types of corporate debt securities, with the primary difference being their maturities and secured or unsecured status. Commercial paper has the shortest term and is usually unsecured.

The broad category of corporate debt securities includes debt issued by domestic or foreign companies of all kinds, including those with small-, mid- and large-capitalizations. Corporate debt may be rated investment-grade or below investment-grade and may carry variable or floating rates of interest.

Because of the wide range of types and maturities of corporate debt securities, as well as the range of creditworthiness of its issuers, corporate debt securities have widely varying potentials for return and risk profiles. For example, commercial paper issued by a large established domestic corporation that is rated investment-grade may have a modest return on principal, but carries relatively limited risk. On the other hand, a long-term corporate note issued by a small foreign corporation from an emerging market country that has not been rated may have the potential for relatively large returns on principal, but carries a relatively high degree of risk.

Corporate debt securities carry both credit risk and interest rate risk. Credit risk is the risk that the Fund could lose money if the issuer of a corporate debt security is unable to pay interest or repay principal when it is due. The credit risk of a particular issuer's debt security may vary based on its priority for repayment. For example, higher ranking (senior) debt securities have a higher priority than lower ranking (subordinated) securities. This means that the issuer might not make payments on subordinated securities while continuing to make payments on senior securities. In addition, in the event of bankruptcy, holders of higher-ranking senior securities may receive amounts otherwise payable to the holders of more junior securities. Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of certain corporate debt securities will tend to fall when interest rates rise. In general, corporate debt securities with longer terms tend to fall more in value when interest rates rise than corporate debt securities with shorter terms.

Zero-Coupon Securities. Zero-coupon securities make no periodic interest payments, but are sold at a deep discount from their face value. The buyer recognizes a rate of return determined by the gradual appreciation of the security, which is redeemed at face value on a specified maturity date. The discount varies depending on the time remaining until maturity, as well as market interest rates, liquidity of the security and the issuer's perceived credit quality. If the issuer defaults, the holder may not receive any return on its investment. Because zero-coupon securities bear no interest and compound semiannually at the rate fixed at the time of issuance, their value generally is more volatile than the value of other fixed-income securities. Since zero-coupon bondholders do not receive interest payments, when interest rates rise, zero-coupon securities fall more dramatically in value than bonds paying interest on a current basis. When interest rates fall, zero-coupon securities rise more rapidly in value because the bonds reflect a fixed rate of return. An investment in zero-coupon and delayed interest securities may cause a Fund to recognize income before it receives cash payments, and therefore such Fund may be required to make required distributions to shareholders before it receives any cash payments on its investment. A Fund may have to accordingly dispose of its portfolio investments under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate cash sufficient to satisfy the distribution requirements for maintaining its status as a regulated investment company ("RIC") under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

Unrated Debt Securities. Unrated debt, while not necessarily lower in quality than rated securities, may not have as broad a market. Because of the size and perceived demand for the issue, among other factors, certain issuers may decide not to pay the cost of getting a rating for their bonds. The creditworthiness of the issuer, as well as any financial institution or other party responsible for payments on the security, will be analyzed to determine whether to purchase unrated bonds.

***Real Estate Investment Trusts and Real Estate Operating Companies (Global Real Estate Securities Fund only)***

Equity REITs invest primarily in real property and earn rental income from leasing those properties. They also may realize gains or losses from the sale of properties. Equity REITs generally exercise some degree of control over the operational aspects of their real estate investments, lease terms and property maintenance and repair. Mortgage REITs invest primarily in mortgages and similar real estate interests and receive interest payments from the owners of the mortgaged properties and are paid interest by the owners of the financed properties. Hybrid REITs invest both in real property and in mortgages.

A REIT generally is not taxed on income distributed to its shareholders if it complies with certain federal income tax requirements relating primarily to its organization, ownership, assets and income and, further, if it distributes at least 90% of its taxable income to shareholders each year. Consequently, REITs tend to focus on income-producing real estate investments. Like REITs, Real Estate Operating Companies ("REOCs") may invest, own and manage real estate properties. REOCs do not, however, elect to qualify for the federal income tax treatment accorded REITs. Consequently, REOCs generally offer investment potential more from capital growth and less from dividend income than REITs offer.

The Global Real Estate Securities Fund's investments in REITs and REOCs may be adversely affected by deteriorations of the real estate rental market in the case of REITs and REOCs that primarily own real estate, or by deteriorations in the creditworthiness of property owners and changes in interest rates in the case of REITs that primarily hold mortgages. Equity and mortgage REITs and REOCs also are dependent upon specialized management skills, may not be diversified in their holdings and are subject to the risks of financing projects. REITs also may be subject to heavy cash flow dependency, defaults by borrowers and self-liquidation. Under certain circumstances, a REIT may fail to qualify for pass-through of its income, which would subject the REIT to federal income taxes at the REIT level and adversely affect the value of the Global Real Estate Securities Fund's investments in such REIT. See "Real Estate-Related Companies" below.

REITs are subject to a highly technical and complex set of provisions in the Code. A real estate company in which the Global Real Estate Securities Fund invests that purports to be a REIT could unexpectedly fail to qualify as a REIT. In the event of any such unexpected failure to qualify as a REIT, the company would be subject to corporate-level taxation, significantly reducing the return to the Global Real Estate Securities Fund's investment in such company. REITs could also possibly fail to maintain their exemptions from registration under the 1940 Act. The above enumerated risks may also adversely affect a borrower's or a lessee's ability to meet its obligations to the REIT. If a REIT's borrowers or lessees default, the REIT may experience delays in enforcing its rights as a mortgagee or lessor and may incur substantial costs associated with protecting its investments.

***Real Estate-Related Companies (Global Real Estate Securities Fund only)***

Under normal market conditions, at least 80% of the Global Real Estate Securities Fund's net assets will be invested in income-producing common stocks and other real estate securities, including REITs.

Risks of real estate-related companies include: declines in the value of real estate; adverse general, regional or local economic conditions; overbuilding and increased competition; increases in property taxes and operating expenses; changes in zoning laws; casualty or condemnation losses; variations in rental income, neighborhood values or the appeal of properties to tenants; and changes in interest rates. Real estate-related companies also may be subject to liabilities under environmental and hazardous waste laws, which could negatively affect their value. Property values may fall due to increasing vacancies or declining rents resulting from economic, legal, cultural or technological developments. The price of real estate-related investments also may drop because of the failure of borrowers to pay their loans and poor management. Real estate-related companies may be affected by a high level of continuing capital expenditures, competition or increases in operating costs, which may not be offset by increases in revenues. The value and successful operation of certain types of commercial properties may be affected by a number of factors, such as the location of the property, the knowledge and experience of the management team, mortgage rates, presence of competing properties and adverse local economic conditions. Many real estate-related companies use leverage. In addition to the risks normally associated with debt financing, the use of leverage increases investment risk and could adversely affect a company's operations and market value in periods of rising interest rates.

***Special Real Estate-Related Companies Risks (Global Real Estate Securities Fund only).***

In addition, there are risks associated with investing in particular types of real estate-related companies:

Retail Properties. Retail properties are affected by the overall health of the applicable sector of the economy and may be adversely affected by the growth of alternative forms of retailing, bankruptcy, departure or cessation of operations of a tenant, a shift in consumer demand due to demographic changes, spending patterns and lease terminations.

Office Properties. Office properties are affected by the overall health of the economy and other factors such as a downturn in the businesses operated by their tenants, obsolescence and noncompetitiveness.

Lodging and Hotel Properties. The risks of lodging and hotel properties include, among other things, the necessity of a high level of continuing capital expenditures, competition, increases in operating costs, which may not be offset by increases in revenues, dependence on business and commercial travelers and tourism, increases in fuel costs and other expenses of travel and adverse effects of general and local economic conditions. Lodging and hotel properties tend to be more sensitive to adverse economic conditions and competition than many other commercial properties.

Healthcare Properties. Healthcare properties and healthcare providers are affected by several significant factors, including: federal, state and local laws governing licenses, certification, adequacy of care, pharmaceutical distribution, rates, equipment, personnel and other factors regarding operations; continued availability of revenue from government reimbursement programs (primarily Medicaid and Medicare); and competition on a local and regional basis. The failure of any healthcare operator to comply with governmental laws and regulations may affect its ability to operate its facility or receive government reimbursements.

Multifamily Properties. The value and successful operation of a multifamily property may be affected by a number of factors such as the location of the property, the ability of the management team, the level of mortgage rates, presence of competing properties, adverse economic conditions in the locale, oversupply and rent control laws or other laws affecting such properties.

Homebuilding. Homebuilding businesses are affected by several significant factors, including: rising costs and decreased availability of suitable land; costs of construction labor and materials; overbuilding and price competition; consumer demand and confidence; labor availability, including strikes; availability of construction financing and residential mortgages; and related interest rates and availability of credit.

Gaming. The risks of gaming businesses include, among other things, state and local laws governing gaming licenses, risks similar to those of lodging and hotel properties, general and local economic conditions and consumer confidence.

Restaurant. Restaurant businesses are more sensitive to adverse economic conditions and competition than many other businesses, changing consumer tastes, and commodity and labor costs and, in some instances, risks similar to those of the lodging and hotel properties.

Natural Resources. Natural resources business are affected by several significant factors, including: demand and price fluctuations for the natural resource products; the time and expenses of exploration, acquisition and development; the necessity of a high level of continuing capital expenditures, competition, increases in operating costs which may not be offset by increases in revenues; national, regional, state and local laws governing licenses and permits; political and community opposition; energy costs and other required commodities; and environmental and hazardous waste issues, including costs of regulatory compliance and remediation.

Utility Companies. Utility companies are subject to a variety of risk factors that may adversely affect their business or operations, including: high interest costs in connection with capital construction and improvement programs; difficulty in raising capital in adequate amounts on reasonable terms in periods of high inflation and unsettled capital markets; governmental regulation of rates charged to customers; costs associated with the reduced availability of certain types of fuel, occasionally reduced availability and high costs of natural gas for resale, and the effects of energy conservation policies; and inexperience with and potential losses resulting from a developing deregulatory environment.

Insurance Issues. Certain of the portfolio companies may carry comprehensive liability, fire, flood, earthquake, extended coverage and rental loss insurance with various policy specifications, limits and deductibles. Should any type of uninsured loss occur, the portfolio company could lose its investment in, and anticipated profits and cash flows from, a number of properties, which would, as a result, impact the Fund's investment performance.

Financing and Credit. Real estate-related companies may be adversely affected by a lack of available financing or tightening of credit.

Financial Leverage. Real estate-related companies may be highly leveraged and financial covenants may affect the ability of such companies to operate effectively.

Environmental Issues. In connection with the ownership (direct or indirect), operation, management and development of real properties that may contain hazardous or toxic substances, a real estate-related company may be considered an owner, operator or responsible party of such properties and, therefore, may be potentially liable for removal or remediation costs, as well as certain other costs, including governmental fines and liabilities for injuries to persons and property. The existence of any such material environmental liability could have a material adverse effect on the results of operations and cash flow of any such portfolio company and, as a result, the amount available to make distributions on shares of the Global Real Estate Securities Fund could be reduced.

#### ***Debt Securities (Global Real Estate Securities Fund only)***

The Global Real Estate Securities Fund may invest in up to 20% of its net assets in debt securities, either investment grade or below investment grade. Investment grade corporate bonds are those rated BBB or better by S&P or Baa or better by Moody's. Securities rated BBB by S&P are considered investment grade, but Moody's considers securities rated Baa to have speculative characteristics. See Appendix A for a description of corporate bond ratings. The Global Real Estate Securities Fund may also invest in unrated securities.

Corporate Debt Securities. Corporate debt securities are fixed-income securities issued by businesses to finance their operations, although corporate debt instruments may also include bank loans to companies. Notes, bonds, debentures and commercial paper are the most common types of corporate debt securities, with the primary difference being their maturities and secured or unsecured status. Commercial paper has the shortest term and is usually unsecured.

The broad category of corporate debt securities includes debt issued by domestic or foreign companies of all kinds, including those with small-, mid- and large-capitalizations. Corporate debt may be rated investment-grade or below investment-grade and may carry variable or floating rates of interest.

Because of the wide range of types and maturities of corporate debt securities, as well as the range of creditworthiness of its issuers, corporate debt securities have widely varying potentials for return and risk profiles. For example, commercial paper issued by a large established domestic corporation that is rated investment-grade may have a modest return on principal, but carries relatively limited risk. On the other hand, a long-term corporate note issued by a small foreign corporation from an emerging market country that has not been rated may have the potential for relatively large returns on principal, but carries a relatively high degree of risk.

Corporate debt securities carry both credit risk and interest rate risk. Credit risk is the risk that the Global Real Estate Securities Fund could lose money if the issuer of a corporate debt security is unable to pay interest or repay principal when it is due. The credit risk of a particular issuer's debt security may vary based on its priority for repayment. For example, higher ranking (senior) debt securities have a higher priority than lower ranking (subordinated) securities. This means that the issuer might not make payments on

subordinated securities while continuing to make payments on senior securities. In addition, in the event of bankruptcy, holders of higher-ranking senior securities may receive amounts otherwise payable to the holders of more junior securities. Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of certain corporate debt securities will tend to fall when interest rates rise. In general, corporate debt securities with longer terms tend to fall more in value when interest rates rise than corporate debt securities with shorter terms.

High-Yield Bonds. High yield bonds (also known as “junk bonds”) generally offer a higher current yield than that available for higher-grade issues. However, lower-rated securities involve higher risks, in that they are especially subject to adverse changes in general economic conditions and in the industries in which the issuers are engaged, to changes in the financial condition of the issuers and to price fluctuations in response to changes in interest rates. During periods of economic downturn or rising interest rates, highly leveraged issuers may experience financial stress that could adversely affect their ability to make payments of interest and principal and increase the possibility of default. In addition, the market for lower-rated debt securities has expanded rapidly in recent years, and its growth paralleled a long economic expansion. At times in recent years, the prices of many lower-rated debt securities declined substantially, reflecting an expectation that many issuers of such securities might experience financial difficulties. As a result, the yields on lower-rated debt securities rose dramatically, but such higher yields did not reflect the value of the income stream that holders of such securities expected, but rather, the risk that holders of such securities could lose a substantial portion of their value as a result of the issuers’ financial restructuring or default. There can be no assurance that such declines will not recur. The market for lower-rated debt issues generally is thinner and less active than that for higher quality securities, which may limit the Global Real Estate Securities Fund’s ability to sell such securities at fair value in response to changes in the economy or financial markets. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may also decrease the values and liquidity of lower-rated securities, especially in a thinly traded market. Changes by recognized rating services in their rating of a fixed-income security may affect the value of these investments. The Global Real Estate Securities Fund will not necessarily dispose of a security when its rating is reduced below its rating at the time of purchase. However, the Advisor will monitor the investment to determine whether continued investment in the security will assist in meeting the Global Real Estate Securities Fund’s investment objective.

Zero-Coupon Securities. Zero-coupon securities make no periodic interest payments, but are sold at a deep discount from their face value. The buyer recognizes a rate of return determined by the gradual appreciation of the security, which is redeemed at face value on a specified maturity date. The discount varies depending on the time remaining until maturity, as well as market interest rates, liquidity of the security and the issuer’s perceived credit quality. If the issuer defaults, the holder may not receive any return on its investment. Because zero-coupon securities bear no interest and compound semiannually at the rate fixed at the time of issuance, their value generally is more volatile than the value of other fixed-income securities. Since zero-coupon bondholders do not receive interest payments, when interest rates rise, zero-coupon securities fall more dramatically in value than bonds paying interest on a current basis. When interest rates fall, zero-coupon securities rise more rapidly in value because the bonds reflect a fixed rate of return. An investment in zero-coupon and delayed interest securities may cause the Global Real Estate Securities Fund to recognize income and make required distributions to shareholders before it receives any cash payments on its investment. The Global Real Estate Securities Fund may have to accordingly dispose of its portfolio investments under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate sufficient cash to satisfy the distribution requirements for maintaining its status as a RIC.

Unrated Debt Securities. Unrated debt, while not necessarily lower in quality than rated securities, may not have as broad a market. Because of the size and perceived demand for the issue, among other factors, certain issuers may decide not to pay the cost of getting a rating for their bonds. The creditworthiness of the issuer, as well as any financial institution or other party responsible for payments on the security, will be analyzed to determine whether to purchase unrated bonds.

### ***Convertible Securities (Global Real Estate Securities Fund only)***

Convertible securities include fixed income securities that may be exchanged or converted into a predetermined number of shares of the issuer's underlying common stock or other equity security at the option of the holder during a specified period. Convertible securities may take the form of convertible preferred stock, convertible bonds or debentures, units consisting of "usable" bonds and warrants or a combination of the features of several of these securities. The investment characteristics of each convertible security vary widely, which allows convertible securities to be employed for a variety of investment strategies. The Global Real Estate Securities Fund will exchange or convert convertible securities into shares of underlying common stock when, in the opinion of the Advisor, the investment characteristics of the underlying common stock or other equity security will assist the Fund in achieving its investment objectives. The Global Real Estate Securities Fund may also elect to hold or trade convertible securities. In selecting convertible securities, the Advisor evaluates the investment characteristics of the convertible security as a fixed income instrument, and the investment potential of the underlying equity security for capital appreciation. In evaluating these matters with respect to a particular convertible security, the Advisor considers numerous factors, including the economic and political outlook, the value of the security relative to other investment alternatives, trends in the determinants of the issuer's profits, and the issuer's management capability and practices. Convertible securities are senior to common stock in an issuer's capital structure, but are subordinated to any senior debt securities. Consequently, the issuer's convertible securities generally may be viewed as having more risk than its senior debt securities but less risk than its common stock.

### ***Warrants (Global Real Estate Securities Fund only)***

The Global Real Estate Securities Fund may invest in warrants. A warrant gives the holder a right to purchase at any time during a specified period a predetermined number of shares of common stock at a fixed price. Unlike convertible debt securities or preferred stock, warrants do not pay a fixed coupon or dividend. Investments in warrants involve certain risks, including the possible lack of a liquid market for resale of the warrants, potential price fluctuations as a result of speculation or other factors and failure of the price of the underlying security to reach or have reasonable prospects of reaching a level at which the warrant can be prudently exercised (in which event the warrant may expire without being exercised, resulting in a loss of the Global Real Estate Securities Fund's entire investment therein).

### ***Securities Issued in PIPE Transactions (Global Real Estate Securities Fund only)***

The Global Real Estate Securities Fund may invest in securities that are purchased in private investment in public equity ("PIPE") transactions. Securities acquired by the Global Real Estate Securities Fund in such transactions are subject to resale restrictions under the federal securities laws. While issuers in PIPE transactions typically agree that they will register the securities for resale by the Global Real Estate Securities Fund after the transaction closes (thereby removing resale restrictions), there is no guarantee that the securities will in fact be registered. In addition, a PIPE issuer may require the Global Real Estate Securities Fund to agree to other resale restrictions as a condition to the sale of such securities. Thus, the Global Real Estate Securities Fund's ability to resell securities acquired in PIPE transactions may be limited, and even though a public market may exist for such securities, the securities held by the Global Real Estate Securities Fund may be deemed illiquid.

### ***Non-Principal Investment Strategies, Policies and Risks***

#### ***Swap Agreements***

The Funds may enter into swap agreements. Swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for periods ranging from a day to more than one year. In a standard "swap" transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments. The gross returns to be exchanged or "swapped" between the parties are calculated with respect to a "notional amount," *i.e.*, the return on or increase in value of a particular dollar amount invested in a "basket" of securities representing a particular index.

Most swap agreements entered into by the Funds calculate the obligations of the parties to the agreement on a “net basis.” Consequently, the Funds’ current obligations (or rights) under a swap agreement will generally be equal only to the net amount to be paid or received under the agreement based on the relative values of the positions held by each party to the agreement (the “net amount”). Payments may be made at the conclusion of a swap agreement or periodically during its term.

Swap agreements do not involve the delivery of securities or other underlying assets. Accordingly, if a swap is entered into on a net basis, if the other party to a swap agreement defaults, the Funds’ risk of loss consists of the net amount of payments that such Fund is contractually entitled to receive, if any.

The net amount of the excess, if any, of the Funds’ obligations over their entitlements with respect to a swap agreement entered into on a net basis will be accrued daily and an amount of cash or liquid asset having an aggregate NAV at least equal to the accrued excess will be maintained in an account with the Custodian that satisfies the 1940 Act. The Funds will also establish and maintain such accounts with respect to their total obligations under any swaps that are not entered into on a net basis. Obligations under swap agreements so covered will not be construed to be “senior securities” for purposes of the Funds’ investment restriction concerning senior securities.

Because they are two-party contracts and may have terms of greater than seven days, swap agreements may be considered to be illiquid for the Funds’ illiquid investment limitations. The Funds will not enter into any swap agreement unless the Advisor believes that the other party to the transaction is creditworthy. The Funds bear the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a swap agreement in the event of the default or bankruptcy of a swap agreement counterparty.

The Funds may enter into a swap agreement in circumstances where the Advisor believes that it may be more cost effective or practical than buying the underlying securities or a futures contract or an option on such securities. The counterparty to any swap agreement will typically be a bank, investment banking firm or broker/dealer. The counterparty will generally agree to pay the Funds the amount, if any, by which the notional amount of the swap agreement would have increased in value had it been invested in the particular stocks represented in the index, plus the dividends that would have been received on those stocks. The Funds will agree to pay to the counterparty a floating rate of interest on the notional amount of the swap agreement plus the amount, if any, by which the notional amount would have decreased in value had it been invested in such stocks. Therefore, the return to the Funds on any swap agreement should be the gain or loss on the notional amount plus dividends on the stocks less the interest paid by the Funds on the notional amount.

The swap market has grown substantially in recent years with a large number of banks and investment banking firms acting both as principals and as agents utilizing standardized swap documentation. As a result, the swap market has become relatively liquid in comparison with the markets for other similar instruments that are traded in the OTC market. The Advisor, under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, is responsible for determining and monitoring the liquidity of Fund transactions in swap agreements.

The use of equity swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions.

### ***Borrowing***

The Funds may borrow money for investment purposes, which is a form of leveraging, to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act. Leveraging investments, by purchasing securities with borrowed money, is a speculative technique that increases investment risk while increasing investment opportunity. Leverage will magnify changes in the Funds’ net asset value and on the Funds’ investments. Although the principal of such borrowings will be fixed, the Funds’ assets may change in value during the time the borrowing is outstanding. Leverage also creates interest expenses for the Funds. To the extent the income derived from securities

purchased with borrowed funds exceeds the interest the Funds will have to pay, the Funds' net income will be greater than it would be if leverage were not used. Conversely, if the income from the assets obtained with borrowed funds is not sufficient to cover the cost of leveraging, the net income of the Funds will be less than it would be if leverage were not used, and therefore the amount available for distribution to shareholders will be reduced. The use of derivatives in connection with leverage creates the potential for significant loss.

The Funds may also borrow funds to meet redemptions or for other emergency purposes. Such borrowings may be on a secured or unsecured basis at fixed or variable rates of interest. The 1940 Act requires the Funds to maintain continuous asset coverage of not less than 300% with respect to all borrowings. If such asset coverage should decline to less than 300% due to market fluctuations or other reasons, the Funds may be required to dispose of some of its portfolio holdings within three days in order to reduce the Funds' debt and restore the 300% asset coverage, even though it may be disadvantageous from an investment standpoint to dispose of assets at that time.

The Funds also may be required to maintain minimum average balances in connection with such borrowing or to pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit. Either of these requirements would increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate.

Borrowing by the Funds creates an opportunity for increased net income, but at the same time, creates special risk considerations. For example, leveraging may exaggerate the effect on net asset value of any increase or decrease in the market value of the Funds' portfolio.

### ***Illiquid Securities***

The Funds may invest up to 15% of their net assets in securities that are illiquid at the time of purchase, which means that there may be legal or contractual restrictions on their disposition, or that there are no readily available market quotations for such a security. Illiquid securities present the risks that the Funds may have difficulty valuing these holdings and/or may be unable to sell these holdings at the time or price desired. There are generally no restrictions on the Funds' ability to invest in restricted securities (that is, securities that are not registered pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act")), except to the extent such securities may be considered illiquid. Securities issued pursuant to Rule 144A of the Securities Act will be considered liquid if determined to be so under procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. The Advisor is responsible for making the determination as to the liquidity of restricted securities (pursuant to the procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees). The Funds will determine a security to be illiquid if it cannot be sold or disposed of in the ordinary course of business within seven days at the value at which the Funds have valued the security. Factors considered in determining whether a security is illiquid may include, but are not limited to: the frequency of trades and quotes for the security; the number of dealers willing to purchase and sell the security and the number of potential purchasers; the number of dealers who undertake to make a market in the security; the nature of the security, including whether it is registered or unregistered, and the market place; whether the security has been rated by an NRSRO; the period of time remaining until the maturity of a debt instrument or until the principal amount of a demand instrument can be recovered through demand; the nature of any restrictions on resale; and with respect to municipal lease obligations and certificates of participation, there is reasonable assurance that the obligation will remain liquid throughout the time the obligation is held and, if unrated, an analysis similar to that which would be performed by an NRSRO is performed. If a restricted security is determined to be liquid, it will not be included within the category of illiquid securities, which may not exceed 15% of the Funds' net assets. Investing in Rule 144A securities could have the effect of increasing the level of the Funds' illiquidity to the extent that the Funds, at a particular point in time may be unable to find qualified institutional buyers interested in purchasing the securities. The Funds are permitted to sell restricted securities to qualified institutional buyers.

### ***Cybersecurity Risk***

With the increased use of technologies such as the Internet to conduct business, the Funds are susceptible to operational, information security, and related risks. In general, cyber incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. Cyber attacks include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to digital systems (*e.g.*, through “hacking” or malicious software coding) for purposes 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 on websites (*i.e.*, efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users). Cyber incidents affecting the Funds or their service providers may cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, interference with a Fund’s ability to calculate its NAV, impediments to trading, the inability of shareholders to transact business, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, or additional compliance costs. Similar adverse consequences could result from cyber incidents affecting issuers of securities in which a Fund invests, counterparties with which a Fund engages in transactions, governmental and other regulatory authorities, exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, insurance companies and other financial institutions (including financial intermediaries and service providers for shareholders) and other parties. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred in order to prevent any cyber incidents in the future. While the Funds’ service providers have established business continuity plans in the event of, and risk management systems to prevent, such cyber incidents, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified. Furthermore, the Funds cannot control the cyber security plans and systems put in place by their service providers or any other third parties whose operations may affect the Funds or their shareholders. As a result, the Funds and their shareholders could be negatively impacted.

## **Investment Restrictions**

### **Fundamental Investment Restrictions**

The Trust (on behalf of the Funds) has adopted the following restrictions as fundamental policies, which may not be changed without the favorable vote of the holders of a “majority of the outstanding voting securities” of a Fund, as defined under the 1940 Act. Under the 1940 Act, the vote of the holders of a “majority of the outstanding voting securities” means the vote of the holders of the lesser of (i) 67% of the shares of the Funds represented at a meeting at which the holders of more than 50% of its outstanding shares are represented; or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Funds.

Each Fund may not:

1. Issue senior securities, borrow money or pledge its assets, except that (i) a Fund may borrow from banks in amounts not exceeding one-third of its total assets (including the amount borrowed); and (ii) this restriction shall not prohibit a Fund from engaging in options transactions or short sales in accordance with its objectives and strategies;
2. Act as underwriter (except to the extent a Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter in connection with the sale of securities in its investment portfolio);
3. Invest more than 25% of its net assets, calculated at the time of purchase and taken at market value, in securities of issuers in any one industry (other than U.S. Government securities);
4. Purchase or sell real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities (although a Fund may purchase and sell securities which are secured by real estate and securities of companies that invest or deal in real estate);

5. Purchase or sell commodities, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments and provided that this restriction does not prevent a Fund from engaging in transactions involving currencies and futures contracts and options thereon or investing in securities or other instruments that are secured by commodities;
6. Make loans of money (except for the lending of its portfolio securities, purchases of debt securities consistent with the investment policies of a Fund and except for repurchase agreements); or
7. With respect to 75% of its total assets, invest more than 5% of its total assets, computed at the time of investment, in securities of a single issuer or hold more than 10% of the voting securities of such issuer (with the exception that these restrictions do not apply to a Fund's investments in the securities of the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities or other investment companies).

### **Non-Fundamental Investment Restrictions**

The following lists the non-fundamental investment restrictions applicable to each Fund. These restrictions can be changed by the Board of Trustees, but the change will only be effective after prior written notice is given to shareholders of a Fund.

Each Fund may not:

1. Invest more than 15% of the value of its net assets, computed at the time of investment, in illiquid securities. Illiquid securities are those securities without readily available market quotations, including repurchase agreements having a maturity of more than seven days. Illiquid securities may include restricted securities not determined by the Board of Trustees to be liquid, non-negotiable time deposits, over-the-counter options, and repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice.
2. Make any change in its investment policy of investing at least 80% of net assets in investments suggested by a Fund's name without first changing a Fund's name and providing shareholders with at least 60 days' prior written notice.

## **Management of the Funds**

### **Board of Trustees**

The management and affairs of the Funds are supervised by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees consists of four individuals. The Trustees are fiduciaries for the Funds' shareholders and are governed by the laws of the State of Delaware in this regard. The Board of Trustees establishes policies for the operation of the Funds and appoints the officers who conduct the daily business of the Funds.

### **Trustees and Officers**

The Trustees and the officers of the Trust are listed below with their addresses, present positions with the Trust and principal occupations over at least the last five years.

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in the Trust Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years</b>
<b><i>Independent Trustees</i></b>					
Michael D. Akers, Ph.D. 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1955	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since August 22, 2001	30	Professor Department of Accounting, Marquette University (2004-present); Chair, Department of Accounting, Marquette University (2004-2017).	Independent Trustee, USA MUTUALS (an open-end investment company with three portfolios).
Gary A. Drska 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1956	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since August 22, 2001	30	Pilot, Frontier/Midwest Airlines, Inc. (airline company) (1986-present).	Independent Trustee, USA MUTUALS (an open-end investment company with three portfolios).
Jonas B. Siegel 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1943	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since October 23, 2009	30	Retired (2011 – present); Managing Director, Chief Administrative Officer (“CAO”) and Chief Compliance Officer (“CCO”), Granite Capital International Group, L.P. (an investment management firm) (1994-2011).	Independent Trustee, Gottex Trust (an open-end investment company with one portfolio) (2010-2016); Independent Manager, Ramius IDF fund complex (two closed-end investment companies) (2010-2015); Independent Trustee, Gottex Multi-Asset Endowment fund complex (three closed-end investment companies) (2010-2015); Independent Trustee, Gottex Multi-Alternatives fund complex (three closed-end investment companies) (2010-2015).
<b><i>Interested Trustee and Officers</i></b>					
Joseph C. Neuberger* 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1962	Chairperson and Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since August 22, 2001	30	President (2017-present); Chief Operating Officer (2016-present); Executive Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (1994-2017).	Trustee, Buffalo Funds (an open-end investment company with ten portfolios) (2003-2017); Trustee, USA MUTUALS (an open-end investment company with three portfolios) (2001-2018).

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in the Trust Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years</b>
John P. Buckel 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1957	President and Principal Executive Officer	Indefinite Term; Since January 24, 2013	N/A	Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2004-present).	N/A
Jennifer A. Lima 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1974	Vice President, Treasurer and Principal Financial and Accounting Officer	Indefinite Term; Since January 24, 2013	N/A	Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2002-present).	N/A
Elizabeth B. Scalf 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1985	Chief Compliance Officer, Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Officer	Indefinite Term; Since July 1, 2017	N/A	Senior Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (February 2017-present); Vice President and Assistant CCO, Heartland Advisors, Inc. (December 2016-January 2017); Vice President and CCO, Heartland Group, Inc. (May 2016-November 2016); Vice President, CCO and Senior Legal Counsel (May 2016-November 2016), Assistant CCO and Senior Legal Counsel (January 2016-April 2016), Senior Legal and Compliance Counsel (2013-2015), Legal and Compliance Counsel (2011-2013), Heartland Advisors, Inc.	N/A
Adam W. Smith 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1981	Secretary	Indefinite Term; Since May 29, 2015	N/A	Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (April 2012-present).	N/A
Cullen O. Small 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1987	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Since January 22, 2015	N/A	Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2010-present).	N/A

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in the Trust Overseen by Trustee	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years
Kelly A. Burns 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1987	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Since April 23, 2015	N/A	Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2011- present).	N/A
Melissa Aguinaga 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1987	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Since July 1, 2015	N/A	Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2010- present).	N/A

\* Mr. Neuberger is an “interested person” of the Trust as defined by the 1940 Act by virtue of the fact that he is a board member and an interested person of Quasar Distributors, LLC, the Funds’ principal underwriter.

### Role of the Board

The Board of Trustees provides oversight of the management and operations of the Trust. Like all mutual funds, the day-to-day responsibility for the management and operation of the Trust is the responsibility of various service providers to the Trust and its individual series, such as the Advisor, Distributor, administrator, custodian, and transfer agent, each of whom are discussed in greater detail in this SAI. The Board approves all significant agreements with the Advisor, Distributor, and the Trust’s administrator, custodian and transfer agent. The Board has appointed various individuals of certain of these service providers as officers of the Trust, with responsibility to monitor and report to the Board on the Trust’s day-to-day operations. In conducting this oversight, the Board receives regular reports from these officers and service providers regarding the Trust’s operations. The Board has appointed a CCO who reports directly to the Board and who administers the Trust’s compliance program and regularly reports to the Board as to compliance matters, including an annual compliance review. Some of these reports are provided as part of formal “Board Meetings,” which are held five times per year, in person, and such other times as the Board determines is necessary, and involve the Board’s review of recent Trust operations. From time to time, one or more members of the Board may also meet with Trust officers in less formal settings, between formal Board Meetings to discuss various topics. In all cases, however, the role of the Board and of any individual Trustee is one of oversight and not of management of the day-to-day affairs of the Trust, and its oversight role does not make the Board a guarantor of the Trust’s investments, operations or activities.

### Board Leadership Structure

The Board has structured itself in a manner that it believes allows it to effectively perform its oversight function. The Board of Trustees is composed of three Independent Trustees – Dr. Michael D. Akers, Mr. Gary A. Drska and Mr. Jonas B. Siegel – and one Trustee who is an “interested person” (as defined by the 1940 Act) of the Trust (the “Interested Trustee”) – Mr. Joseph C. Neuberger. Accordingly, 75% of the members of the Board are Independent Trustees, Trustees who are not affiliated with the Advisor or its affiliates, or any other investment advisor or other service provider to the Trust or any underlying fund. The Board of Trustees has established three standing committees, an Audit Committee, a Nominating Committee and a Valuation Committee, which are discussed in greater detail under “Board Committees” below. Each of the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee are composed entirely of Independent Trustees. The Independent Trustees have engaged their own independent counsel to advise them on matters relating to their responsibilities in connection with the Trust.

The Trust's Chairperson, Mr. Neuberger, is an "interested person" of the Trust, as defined by the 1940 Act, by virtue of the fact that he is a board member and an interested person of the Distributor, which acts as principal underwriter to the Funds and to many of the Trust's underlying funds. Mr. Neuberger also serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, the Funds' administrator (the "Administrator" or "USBFS"). The Trust has not appointed a lead Independent Trustee.

In accordance with the fund governance standards prescribed under the 1940 Act, the Independent Trustees on the Nominating Committee select and nominate all candidates for Independent Trustee positions. Each Trustee was appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees because of his experience, qualifications, attributes and skills as set forth in the subsection "Trustee Qualifications" below.

The Board reviews its structure regularly in light of the characteristics and circumstances of the Trust, including: the unaffiliated nature of each investment advisor and the fund(s) managed by such advisor; the number of funds that comprise the Trust; the variety of asset classes that those funds reflect; the net assets of the Trust; the committee structure of the Trust; and the independent distribution arrangements of each of the Trust's underlying funds.

The Board has determined that the function and composition of the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee are appropriate to address any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from the Chairperson's status as an Interested Trustee. In addition, the inclusion of all Independent Trustees as members of the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee allows all such Trustees to participate in the full range of the Board's oversight duties, including oversight of risk management processes discussed below. Given the specific characteristics and circumstances of the Trust as described above, the Trust has determined that the Board's leadership structure is appropriate.

### **Board Oversight of Risk Management**

As part of its oversight function, the Board receives and reviews various risk management reports and assessments and discusses these matters with appropriate management and other personnel, including personnel of the Trust's service providers. Because risk management is a broad concept composed of many elements (such as, for example, investment risk, issuer and counterparty risk, compliance risk, operational risks, business continuity risks, etc.) the oversight of different types of risks is handled in different ways. For example, the CCO regularly reports to the Board during Board Meetings and meets in executive session with the Independent Trustees and their legal counsel to discuss compliance and operational risks. In addition, the Independent Trustee designated as the Audit Committee's "audit committee financial expert" meets with the Treasurer and the Funds' independent public accounting firm to discuss, among other things, the internal control structure of the Trust's financial reporting function. The full Board receives reports from the investment advisors to the underlying funds and the portfolio managers as to investment risks as well as other risks that may be discussed during Audit Committee meetings.

### **Trustee Qualifications**

The Board believes that each of the Trustees has the qualifications, experience, attributes and skills appropriate to their continued service as a Trustee of the Trust in light of the Trust's business and structure. The Trustees have substantial business and professional backgrounds that indicate they have the ability to critically review, evaluate and assess information provided to them. Certain of these business and professional experiences are set forth in detail in the table above. In addition, the Trustees have substantial board experience and, in their service to the Trust, have gained substantial insight as to the operation of the Trust. The Board annually conducts a "self-assessment" wherein the effectiveness of the Board and the individual Trustees is reviewed.

In addition to the information provided in the table above, below is certain additional information concerning each individual Trustee. The information provided below, and in the table above, is not all-inclusive. Many of the Trustees' qualifications to serve on the Board involve intangible elements, such as intelligence,

integrity, work ethic, the ability to work together, the ability to communicate effectively, the ability to exercise judgment, the ability to ask incisive questions, and commitment to shareholder interests. In conducting its annual self-assessment, the Board has determined that the Trustees have the appropriate attributes and experience to continue to serve effectively as Trustees of the Trust.

*Michael D. Akers, Ph.D., CPA.* Dr. Akers has served as a Trustee of the Trust since 2001. Dr. Akers has also served as an independent trustee of USA Mutuals, an open-end investment company, since 2001. Dr. Akers has been a Professor of Accounting at Marquette University since 2004, was Chair of the Department of Accounting at Marquette University from 2004 to 2017, and was Associate Professor of Accounting of Marquette University from 1996 to 2004. Dr. Akers is a certified public accountant, a certified fraud examiner, a certified internal auditor and a certified management accountant. Through his experience as a trustee of mutual funds and his employment experience, Dr. Akers is experienced with financial, accounting, regulatory and investment matters.

*Gary A. Drska.* Mr. Drska has served as a Trustee of the Trust since 2001. Mr. Drska has also served as an independent trustee of USA Mutuals since 2001. Mr. Drska has served as a Pilot of Frontier/Midwest Airlines, Inc., an airline company, since 1986. Through his experience as a trustee of mutual funds, Mr. Drska is experienced with financial, accounting, regulatory and investment matters.

*Jonas B. Siegel, CPA.* Mr. Siegel has served as a Trustee of the Trust since 2009. Mr. Siegel has previously served as an Independent Manager of the Ramius IDF fund complex from 2010-2015, which was composed of two closed-end investment companies. Mr. Siegel previously served as an independent trustee of Gottex Trust, an open-end investment company from 2010-2016. Mr. Siegel previously served as a trustee of the Gottex Multi-Asset Endowment fund complex from 2010 to 2015, and as a trustee of the Gottex Multi-Alternatives fund complex from 2010 to 2015, each of which was composed of three closed-end investment companies. He also served as the Managing Director, CAO and CCO of Granite Capital International Group, LP, an investment management firm, from 1994 to 2011, as Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and CCO of Granum Series Trust, an open-end investment company, from 1997 to 2007, and as President, CAO and CCO of Granum Securities, LLC, a broker-dealer, from 1997 to 2007. Mr. Siegel is a certified public accountant. Through his experience as a trustee of mutual funds and his employment experience, Mr. Siegel is experienced with financial, accounting, regulatory and investment matters.

*Joseph C. Neuberger.* Mr. Neuberger has served as a Trustee of the Trust since 2001. Mr. Neuberger previously served as a trustee of USA Mutuals, an open-end investment company, from 2001 to 2018, and as a trustee of Buffalo Funds, an open-ended investment company from 2003 to 2017. Mr. Neuberger has served as President of the Administrator, a multi-line service provider to mutual funds since 2017, and as Chief Operating Officer of the Administrator since 2016. Mr. Neuberger previously served as Executive Vice President of the Administrator from 1994 to 2017. Through his experience as a trustee of mutual funds and his employment experience, Mr. Neuberger is experienced with financial, accounting, regulatory and investment matters.

### **Trustee Ownership of Fund Shares**

As of December 31, 2017, no Trustee or officer of the Trust beneficially owned shares of the Funds or any other series of the Trust.

Furthermore, as of December 31, 2017, neither the Trustees who are not “interested” persons of the Funds, nor members of their immediate families, owned securities beneficially, or of record, in the Advisor, the Distributor or any of its affiliates. Accordingly, neither the Trustees who are not “interested” persons of the Funds nor members of their immediate families, have a direct or indirect interest, the value of which exceeds \$120,000, in the Advisor, the Distributor or any of their affiliates. In addition, during the two most recently completed calendar years, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate families have conducted any transactions (or series of transactions) in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and to which the Advisor, the Distributor or any affiliate thereof was a party.

## **Board Committees**

Audit Committee. The Trust has an Audit Committee, which is composed of the Independent Trustees, Dr. Michael D. Akers, Mr. Gary A. Drska and Mr. Jonas B. Siegel. The Audit Committee reviews financial statements and other audit-related matters for the Fund. The Audit Committee also holds discussions with management and with the Funds' independent auditors concerning the scope of the audit and the auditor's independence. Dr. Akers is designated as the Audit Committee's chairman and serves as the Audit Committee's "audit committee financial expert," as stated in the annual reports relating to the series of the Trust. During the past fiscal year, the Audit Committee has met twice with respect to the Funds.

Nominating Committee. The Trust has a Nominating Committee, which is composed of the Independent Trustees, Dr. Michael D. Akers, Mr. Gary A. Drska and Mr. Jonas B. Siegel. The Nominating Committee is responsible for seeking and reviewing candidates for consideration as nominees for the position of trustee and meets only as necessary. As part of this process, the Nominating Committee considers criteria for selecting candidates sufficient to identify a diverse group of qualified individuals to serve as trustees.

The Nominating Committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders for vacancies on the Board of Trustees. Recommendations for consideration by the Nominating Committee should be sent to the President of the Trust in writing together with the appropriate biographical information concerning each such proposed nominee, and such recommendation must comply with the notice provisions set forth in the Trust's By-Laws. In general, to comply with such procedures, such nominations, together with all required information, must be delivered to and received by the Secretary of the Trust at the principal executive office of the Trust not later than 60 days prior to the shareholder meeting at which any such nominee would be voted on. Shareholder recommendations for nominations to the Board of Trustees will be accepted on an ongoing basis and such recommendations will be kept on file for consideration when there is a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. The Nominating Committee's procedures with respect to reviewing shareholder nominations will be disclosed as required by applicable securities laws. The Nominating Committee met once during the Funds' prior fiscal year.

Valuation Committee. The Trust has a Valuation Committee. The Valuation Committee is responsible for the following: (1) monitoring the valuation of Funds' securities and other investments; and (2) as required, when the Board of Trustees is not in session, for determining the fair value of illiquid securities and other holdings after consideration of all relevant factors, which determinations are reported to the Board. The Valuation Committee is currently composed of Mr. John Buckel, Ms. Jennifer Lima and Mr. Cullen Small, who each serve as an officer of the Trust. The Valuation Committee meets as necessary when a price for a portfolio security is not readily available. During the past fiscal year, the Valuation Committee met once with respect to the Growth Equity Fund, six times with respect to the International Growth Equity Fund and ten times with respect to the Global Real Estate Securities Fund.

## **Trustee Compensation**

For their service as Trustees, the Independent Trustees receive from the Trust a retainer fee of \$50,000 per year, \$3,750 for each in-person Board meeting attended and \$1,000 for each telephonic Board meeting attended, as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with attendance at board meetings. Members of the Audit Committee receive \$1,500 for each meeting of the Audit Committee attended. The chairman of the Audit Committee receives an annual retainer of \$2,500. Interested Trustees do not receive any compensation for their service as Trustee. For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, the Trustees received the following compensation:

Name of Person/Position	Aggregate Compensation from the Funds <sup>(1)</sup>	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from Funds and the Trust <sup>(2)</sup> Paid to Trustees
Dr. Michael D. Akers Independent Trustee <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	\$6,825	None	None	\$86,000
Gary A. Drska, Independent Trustee <sup>(3)</sup>	\$6,612	None	None	\$83,500
Jonas B. Siegel, Independent Trustee <sup>(3)</sup>	\$6,612	None	None	\$80,750
Joseph C. Neuberger, Interested Trustee	None	None	None	None

<sup>(1)</sup> Trustees' fees and expenses are allocated among the Funds and any other series comprising the Trust.

<sup>(2)</sup> There are currently twenty-seven other series comprising the Trust.

<sup>(3)</sup> Audit Committee member.

<sup>(4)</sup> Audit Committee chairman.

### Control Persons and Principal Shareholders

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of a Fund. A control person is one who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of a Fund or acknowledges the existence of control. A controlling person possesses the ability to control the outcome of matters submitted for shareholder vote by a Fund. As of March 1, 2018, no person was a control person of a Fund, and all Trustees and officers as a group owned beneficially (as the term is defined in Section 13(d) under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934) less than 1% of each Fund's shares. As of March 1, 2018, the following shareholders were considered to be principal shareholders of the Funds:

#### Growth Equity Fund

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership	Parent Company	Jurisdiction
Pershing LLC 1 Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399-0002	47.59%	Record	Pershing Group LLC	DE
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1905	19.66%	Record	N/A	N/A
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Boulevard, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	16.31%	Record	N/A	N/A
SEI Private Trust Company One Freedom Valley Drive Oaks, PA 19456-9989	10.91%	Record	N/A	N/A

**International Growth Equity Fund**

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>% Ownership</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
Pershing LLC 1 Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399-0002	36.05%	Record	Pershing Group LLC	DE
EGAP & Co. Two Burlington Square P.O. Box 820 Burlington, VT 05402-0820	28.76%	Record	N/A	VT
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1905	13.74%	Record	N/A	N/A
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Boulevard, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	11.73%	Record	N/A	N/A
SEI Private Trust Company One Freedom Valley Drive Oaks, PA 19456-9989	6.50%	Record	N/A	N/A

**Global Real Estate Securities Fund**

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>% Ownership</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
Pershing LLC 1 Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399-0002	43.47%	Record	Pershing Group LLC	DE
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1905	16.11%	Record	N/A	N/A
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Boulevard, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	16.11%	Record	N/A	N/A
EGAP & Co. Two Burlington Square P.O. Box 820 Burlington, VT 05402-0820	11.32%	Record	N/A	N/A
SEI Private Trust Company One Freedom Valley Drive Oaks, PA 19456-9989	7.30%	Record	N/A	N/A

## Investment Advisor

As stated in the Prospectus, investment advisory services are provided to the Funds by the Advisor, People's Securities, Inc., doing business as Gerstein Fisher or Gerstein Fisher Asset Management, pursuant to an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement"). People's United Bank is considered to be the control person of the Advisor due to its ownership of 100% of the Advisor. Effective on or about April 1, 2018, the Advisor intends to transfer the investment advisory agreement for the Fund to its affiliate, People's United Advisors, Inc., a Connecticut corporation and registered investment adviser, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of People's United.

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

In consideration of the services provided by the Advisor pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Advisor is entitled to receive from each Fund a management fee computed daily and paid monthly, based on an annual rate equal to 0.85% of the Growth Equity Fund and the International Growth Equity Fund's average daily net assets, and 0.65% of the Global Real Estate Securities Fund's average net assets, as specified in the Prospectus. However, the Advisor may voluntarily agree to waive a portion of the management fees payable to it on a month-to-month basis, including additional fees above and beyond any contractual agreement the Advisor may have to waive its management fees and/or reimburse Fund expenses.

The tables below set forth, for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015, as applicable, the advisory fees accrued by the Funds under the Advisory Agreement, the amount of the advisory fees and Fund operating expenses waived or reimbursed by the Advisor, and the total advisory fees paid by the Funds to the Advisor under the Advisory Agreement:

### *Growth Equity Fund*

<b>Fiscal Year Ended</b>	<b>Advisory Fee</b>	<b>Recoupment / (Waiver)</b>	<b>Advisory Fee after Recoupment / (Waiver)</b>
November 30, 2017	\$2,408,257	(\$96,324)	\$2,311,933
November 30, 2016	\$2,038,416	(\$162,722)	\$1,875,694
November 30, 2015	\$1,981,277	(\$116,654)	\$1,864,623

### *International Growth Equity Fund*

<b>Fiscal Year Ended</b>	<b>Advisory Fee</b>	<b>Recoupment / (Waiver)</b>	<b>Advisory Fee after Recoupment / (Waiver)</b>
November 30, 2017	\$1,415,701	(\$35,951)	\$1,379,750
November 30, 2016	\$1,206,259	(\$88,536)	\$1,117,723
November 30, 2015	\$1,164,453	\$0	\$1,164,453

***Global Real Estate Securities Fund***

<b>Fiscal Year Ended</b>	<b>Advisory Fee</b>	<b>Recoupment / (Waiver)</b>	<b>Advisory Fee after Recoupment / (Waiver)</b>
November 30, 2017	\$753,202	\$42,932	\$796,134
November 30, 2016	\$637,155	(\$4,997)	\$632,158
November 30, 2015	\$562,749	(\$23,705)	\$539,044

**Fund Expenses.** Each Fund is responsible for its own operating expenses. However, pursuant to an operating expense limitation agreement between the Advisor and the Trust, on behalf of the Funds, the Advisor has agreed to waive management fees payable to it by the Funds and/or to pay Fund operating expenses to the extent necessary to limit each Fund's aggregate annual operating expenses (exclusive of front-end or contingent deferred loads, Rule 12b-1 plan fees, shareholder servicing plan fees, taxes, leverage (*i.e.*, any expenses incurred in connection with borrowings made by a Fund), interest (including interest incurred in connection with bank and custody overdrafts), brokerage commissions and other transactional expenses, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, dividends or interest on short positions, acquired fund fees and expenses or extraordinary expenses such as litigation) to the limit set forth in the "Fees and Expenses of the Fund" table in the Prospectus. The Advisor may request recoupment of previously waived fees and paid expenses from the Funds for up to three years from the date such fees and expenses were waived or paid, subject to the operating expense limitation agreement, if such reimbursements will not cause a Fund to exceed the lesser of: (1) the expense limitation in place at the time of the waiver and/or expense payment; or (2) the expense limitation in place at the time of the recoupment. Any such reimbursement is also contingent upon the Board of Trustees' subsequent review and ratification of the reimbursed amounts. Such reimbursement may not be paid prior to the Funds' payment of current ordinary operating expenses.

**Portfolio Manager**

As stated in the Prospectus, Gregg S. Fisher, is the Portfolio Manager (the "Portfolio Manager") for each Fund and is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund's portfolio.

The following provides information regarding other accounts managed by Mr. Fisher as of November 30, 2017:

<b>Category of Account</b>	<b>Total Number of Accounts Managed</b>	<b>Total Assets in Accounts Managed</b>	<b>Number of Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</b>	<b>Assets in Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</b>
Other Registered Investment Companies	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Accounts	6,528	\$2,091,195,506	0	\$0

***Portfolio Manager Compensation***

Mr. Fisher's compensation is paid by the Advisor and includes a fixed base salary as well as access to a retirement and profit sharing plan.

### *Material Conflicts of Interest*

The Advisor offers several separately managed accounts in addition to the Funds. Some of these offerings include portfolios of investments substantially identical to the Funds, which could create certain conflicts of interest. As the Funds and any separate accounts managed similarly to the Funds will be managed concurrently, all portfolio transactions will be implemented according to the Advisor's trade allocation procedures. These procedures, among other things, insure that all trades allocated to advisory clients (including the Funds) fulfill the Advisor's fiduciary duty to each client and otherwise allocate securities on a basis that is fair and nondiscriminatory. Such procedures are generally applied in numerous instances, including, among other things, block and bunched trades, cross transactions and private placements. In determining a fair allocation, the Advisor takes into account a number of factors, including among other things, the Advisor's fiduciary duty to each client, any potential conflicts of interest, the size of the transaction, the relative size of a client's portfolio, cash available for investment, suitability as well as each client's investment objectives.

### *Ownership of Securities in the Fund by the Portfolio Manager*

As of November 30, 2017, Gregg S. Fisher beneficially owned shares of the Funds as shown below:

<b>Name of Fund</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</b>
Growth Equity Fund	Over \$1,000,000
International Growth Equity Fund	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
Global Real Estate Securities Fund	\$100,001 - \$500,000

## **Service Providers**

### **Fund Administrator, Transfer Agent and Fund Accountant**

Pursuant to an administration agreement between the Trust and the Administrator, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53202, the Administrator acts as the Funds' administrator. The Administrator provides certain administrative services to the Funds, including, among other responsibilities, coordinating the negotiation of contracts and fees with, and the monitoring of performance and billing of, the Funds' independent contractors and agents; preparing for signature by an officer of the Trust all of the documents required to be filed for compliance by the Trust and the Funds with applicable laws and regulations excluding those of the securities laws of various states; arranging for the computation of performance data, including net asset value ("NAV") and yield; responding to shareholder inquiries; and arranging for the maintenance of books and records of the Funds, and providing, at its own expense, office facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to carry out its duties. In this capacity, the Administrator does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Funds, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of Fund shares. USBFS also acts as fund accountant ("Fund Accountant"), transfer agent ("Transfer Agent") and dividend disbursing agent under separate agreements with the Trust.

For the fiscal years indicated below, the Funds paid the following fees to the Administrator for administrative services:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Administration Fees</b>		
	<b>Paid During Fiscal Year Ended November 30,</b>		
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Growth Equity Fund	\$241,062	\$220,599	\$216,129
International Growth Equity Fund	\$149,117	\$137,872	\$146,597
Global Real Estate Securities Fund	\$106,966	\$98,996	\$96,150

## **Custodian**

U.S. Bank, N.A., the Custodian, an affiliate of USBFS (the “Custodian”), serves as the custodian of the Funds’ assets pursuant to a custody agreement between the Custodian and the Trust, on behalf of the Funds, whereby the Custodian charges fees on a transactional basis plus out-of-pocket expenses. The Custodian’s address is 1555 North River Center Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53212. The Custodian does not participate in decisions relating to the purchase and sale of securities by the Funds. The Custodian and its affiliates may participate in revenue sharing arrangements with service providers of mutual funds in which the Funds may invest.

## **Legal Counsel**

Godfrey & Kahn, S.C., 833 East Michigan Street, Suite 1800, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, serves as counsel to the Funds.

## **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Cohen & Company, Ltd., 1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 800, Cleveland, Ohio, 44115, serves as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Funds.

## **Distribution of Fund Shares**

The Trust has entered into a Distribution Agreement (the “Distribution Agreement”) with Quasar Distributors, LLC (the “Distributor”), 777 East Wisconsin Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202, pursuant to which the Distributor acts as the Funds’ principal underwriter, provides certain administration services and promotes and arranges for the sale of the Funds’ shares.” The offering of the Funds’ shares is continuous and the Distributor distributes the Funds’ shares on a best efforts basis. The Distributor is not obligated to sell any certain number of shares of the Funds. The Distributor, Administrator and Custodian are affiliated companies. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”).

The Distribution Agreement continues in effect only if its continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board of Trustees or by vote of a majority of the Funds’ outstanding voting securities and, in either case, by a majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the Distribution Agreement or “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of any such party. The Distribution Agreement is terminable without payment of any penalty by the Trust, on behalf of the Funds, on 60 days’ written notice when authorized either by a majority vote of the outstanding voting securities of the Funds or by vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act). The Distribution Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Distributor upon 60 days’ written notice to the Trust. The Distribution Agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its “assignment” (as defined in the 1940 Act), or by the Distributor on 60 days’ written notice.

During the last three fiscal years, the Distributor did not receive any net underwriting commissions on the sale of the Funds’ shares.

## **Sub-Accounting Service Fees**

In addition to the fees that a Fund may pay to its Transfer Agent, the Board has authorized the Funds to pay service fees to certain intermediaries such as banks, broker-dealers, financial advisers or other financial institutions for sub-administration, sub-transfer agency, recordkeeping (collectively, “sub-accounting services”) and other shareholder services associated with shareholders whose shares are held of record in omnibus, networked, or other group accounts or accounts traded through registered securities clearing agents, up to the following annual limits:

- 0.15% of applicable average net assets or \$20 per account for Omnibus Non-Institutional Accounts
- 0.10% of applicable average net assets or \$10 per account for Omnibus Institutional Accounts
- 0.10% of applicable average net assets or \$7 per account for Networked Accounts

Unless a Fund has adopted a specific shareholder servicing plan which is broken out as a separate expense, a sub-accounting fee paid by the Fund is included in the total amount of “Other Expenses” listed in the Fund’s Fees and Expenses table in the Prospectus.

### Securities Lending

The Trust, on behalf of the Funds, has entered into a securities lending agreement with U.S. Bank, N.A. (the “Securities Lending Agent”) to provide certain services related to the Funds’ securities lending program. Pursuant to the securities lending agreement, the Securities Lending Agent, on behalf of the Funds, is authorized to enter into securities loan agreements, negotiate loan fees and rebate payments, collect loan fees, deliver securities, manage and hold collateral, invest cash collateral, receive substitute payments, make interest and dividend payments (in cases where a borrower has provided non-cash collateral), and upon termination of a loan, liquidate collateral investments and return collateral to the borrower.

For the most recent fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, the Funds’ securities lending activities resulted in the following:

	<b>Growth Equity Fund</b>	<b>International Growth Equity Fund</b>	<b>Global Real Estate Securities Fund</b>
Gross income from securities lending activities:	\$354,296	\$18,886	\$19,114
Fees and/or compensation for securities lending activities and related services:			
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service (including fees deducted from a pooled cash collateral reinvestment vehicle) that are not included in the revenue split	(\$49,405)	(\$4,923)	(\$2,204)
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indemnification fee not included in revenue split	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rebates (paid to borrower)	(\$17,631)	(\$1,613)	(\$227)
Other fees not included in revenue split (specify)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities:	(\$67,036)	(\$6,536)	(\$2,431)
<b>Net income from securities lending activities:</b>	<b>\$287,260</b>	<b>\$12,350</b>	<b>\$16,683</b>

U.S. Bank, N.A. oversees the securities lending process, which includes the screening, selecting and ongoing review of borrowers, monitoring the availability of securities, negotiating rebates, daily marking to market of loans, monitoring and maintaining cash collateral levels, processing securities movements and reinvesting cash collateral as directed by the Advisor. U.S. Bank, N.A. does not receive any fees for this service.

### Portfolio Transactions and Brokerage

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Advisor determines which securities are to be purchased and sold by the Funds and which broker-dealers are eligible to execute the Funds’ portfolio transactions. Purchases and sales of securities in the over-the-counter market will generally be executed directly with a “market-maker” unless, in the opinion of the Advisor, a better price and execution can otherwise be obtained by using a broker for the transaction.

Purchases of portfolio securities for the Funds will be effected through broker-dealers (including banks) that specialize in the types of securities that the Funds will be holding, unless the Advisor believes that better executions are available elsewhere. Dealers usually act as principal for their own accounts. Purchases from dealers will include a spread between the bid and the asked price. If the execution and price offered by more than one dealer are comparable, the order may be allocated to a dealer that has provided research or other services as discussed below.

In placing portfolio transactions, the Advisor will use reasonable efforts to choose broker-dealers capable of providing the services necessary to obtain the most favorable price and execution available. The full range and quality of services available will be considered in making these determinations, such as the size of the order, the difficulty of execution, the operational facilities of the firm involved, the firm's risk in positioning a block of securities and other factors. In those instances where it is reasonably determined that more than one broker-dealer can offer the services needed to obtain the most favorable price and execution available, consideration may be given to those broker-dealers that furnish or supply research and statistical information to the Advisor that it may lawfully and appropriately use in its investment advisory capacities, as well as provide other brokerage services in addition to execution services. The Advisor considers such information, which is in addition to and not in lieu of the services required to be performed by it under its Advisory Agreement with the Funds, to be useful in varying degrees, but of indeterminable value. Portfolio transactions may be placed with broker-dealers who sell shares of the Funds subject to rules adopted by FINRA and the SEC. Portfolio transactions may also be placed with broker-dealers in which the Advisor has invested on behalf of the Funds and/or client accounts.

While it is the Funds' general policy to first seek to obtain the most favorable price and execution available in selecting a broker-dealer to execute portfolio transactions for the Funds, weight is also given to the ability of a broker-dealer to furnish brokerage and research services to the Funds or to the Advisor, even if the specific services are not directly useful to the Funds and may be useful to the Advisor in advising other clients. In negotiating commissions with a broker or evaluating the spread to be paid to a dealer, the Funds may pay a higher commission or spread than would be the case if no weight were given to the furnishing of these supplemental services, provided that the amount of such commission or spread has been determined in good faith by the Advisor to be reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research services provided by such broker-dealer. The standard of reasonableness is to be measured in light of the Advisor's overall responsibilities to the Funds.

Investment decisions for the Funds are made independently from those of other client accounts. Nevertheless, it is possible that at times identical securities will be acceptable for both the Funds and one or more of such client accounts. In such event, the position of the Funds and such client account(s) in the same issuer may vary and the length of time that each may choose to hold its investment in the same issuer may likewise vary. However, to the extent any of these client accounts seek to acquire the same security as the Funds at the same time, the Funds may not be able to acquire as large a portion of such security as they desire, or they may have to pay a higher price or obtain a lower yield for such security. Similarly, the Funds may not be able to obtain as high a price for, or as large an execution of, an order to sell any particular security at the same time. If one or more of such client accounts simultaneously purchases or sells the same security that the Funds are purchasing or selling, each day's transactions in such security will be allocated between the Funds and all such client accounts in a manner deemed equitable by the Advisor, taking into account the respective sizes of the accounts and the amount being purchased or sold. It is recognized that in some cases this system could have a detrimental effect on the price or value of the security insofar as the Funds are concerned. In other cases, however, it is believed that the ability of the Funds to participate in volume transactions may produce better executions for the Funds. Notwithstanding the above, the Advisor may execute buy and sell orders for accounts and take action in performance of its duties with respect to any of its accounts that may differ from actions taken with respect to another account, so long as the Advisor shall, to the extent practical, allocate investment opportunities to accounts, including the Funds, over a period of time on a fair and equitable basis and in accordance with applicable law.

The Funds are required to identify any securities of their “regular brokers or dealers” that the Funds have acquired during their most recent fiscal year. The Funds did not acquire any securities of their “regular brokers or dealers” during the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017.

The Funds are also required to identify any brokerage transactions during their most recent fiscal year that were directed to a broker because of research services provided, along with the amount of any such transactions and any related commissions paid by the Funds.

The following table shows the Funds’ total commissions and transactions paid for research services for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Commissions</b>	<b>Transactions</b>
Growth Equity Fund	\$95,384	\$127,065,972
International Growth Equity Fund	\$103,624	\$106,326,693
Global Real Estate Securities Fund	\$39,767	\$40,726,639

The following table shows the amounts paid by the Funds in brokerage commissions for the fiscal years indicated below:

<b>Brokerage Commissions</b>			
<b>Paid During Fiscal Year Ended November 30,</b>			
<b>Fund</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Growth Equity Fund	\$94,478	\$94,658	\$106,920
International Growth Equity Fund	\$102,102	\$94,572	\$80,282
Global Real Estate Securities Fund	\$41,525	\$41,170	\$18,267

## **Portfolio Turnover**

Although the Funds generally will not invest for short-term trading purposes, portfolio securities may be sold without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Advisor, investment considerations warrant such action. 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 portfolio securities owned during the fiscal year. A 100% turnover rate would occur if all the securities in a Fund’s portfolio, with the exception of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less, were sold and either repurchased or replaced within one year. A high rate of portfolio turnover (100% or more) generally leads to above-average transaction and brokerage commission costs and may generate capital gains, including short-term capital gains taxable to shareholders at ordinary income rates. To the extent that a Fund experiences an increase in brokerage commissions due to a higher portfolio turnover rate, the performance of the Fund could be negatively impacted by the increased expenses incurred by the Fund.

For the fiscal years indicated below, the portfolio turnover rates for the Funds were as follows:

<b>Portfolio Turnover</b>		
<b>During Fiscal Year Ended November 30,</b>		
<b>Fund</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Growth Equity Fund	20.81%	22.06%
International Growth Equity Fund	16.29%	36.19%
Global Real Estate Securities Fund	7.24%	20.09%

## **Code of Ethics**

The Funds, the Advisor and the Distributor have each adopted a Code of Ethics under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. These Codes of Ethics permit, subject to certain conditions, personnel of the Advisor and Distributor to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Funds.

## **Proxy Voting Procedures**

The Board of Trustees has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures (“Proxy Policies”) wherein the Trust has delegated to the Advisor the responsibility for voting proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Funds as part of its investment advisory services, subject to the supervision and oversight of the Board. The Proxy Voting Policies of the Advisor are described below. Notwithstanding this delegation of responsibilities, however, the Funds retain the right to vote proxies relating to their portfolio securities. The fundamental purpose of the Proxy Policies is to ensure that each vote will be in a manner that reflects the best interest of the Funds and their shareholders, taking into account the value of the Funds’ investments.

### **The Advisor’s Proxy Voting Guidelines**

The Advisor has adopted proxy voting guidelines with respect to its management of the Funds. The Advisor will vote proxies for all discretionary account portfolio company securities that are material holdings after carefully considering all proxy solicitation materials and other available facts and in light of the Advisor’s proxy voting policies. The Advisor will review all proxy solicitation materials it receives concerning securities held in a discretionary account and may seek additional information from the party soliciting the proxy and independent corroboration of such information when Advisor considers it appropriate and when it is reasonably available. The Advisor’s proxy voting procedures outline criteria the Advisor will examine when reviewing proxy materials, and contain specific voting policies for the Advisor to follow when certain proposals are solicited by proxy.

In general, the Advisor will vote “FOR” a proposal when it believes the proposal serves the best interests of the discretionary account whose proxy is solicited because, on balance, the following factors predominate:

- the proposal has a positive economic effect on shareholder value;
- the proposal poses no threat to existing rights of shareholders;
- the dilution, if any, of existing shares that would result from approval of the proposal is warranted by the benefits of the proposal; and
- the proposal does not limit or impair accountability to shareholders on the part of management and the board of directors.

In general, the Advisor will vote “AGAINST” a proposal if it believes that, on balance, the following factors predominate:

- the proposal has an adverse economic effect on shareholder value;
- the proposal limits the rights of shareholders in a manner or to an extent that is not warranted by the benefits of the proposal;
- the proposal causes significant dilution of shares that is not warranted by the benefits of the proposal;
- the proposal limits or impairs accountability to the shareholders on the part of management or the board of directors; or
- the proposal is a shareholder initiative that Advisor believes wastes time and resources of the company or reflects the grievance of one individual.

The Advisor will abstain from voting proxies when the Advisor believes that it is appropriate. Usually, this occurs when the Advisor believes that a proposal holds negative but non-quantifiable implications for shareholder value but may express a legitimate concern.

With respect to proxies for all discretionary account portfolio company securities that are not material positions, the Advisor will vote in accordance with the recommendation of the issuer's board of directors.

The Funds' actual voting records relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30<sup>th</sup> is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free, 800-473-1155 or by accessing the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### **Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program**

The Trust has established an Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program (the "Program") as required by the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (the "USA PATRIOT Act"). To ensure compliance with this law, the Trust's Program provides for the development of internal practices, procedures and controls, designation of anti-money laundering compliance officers, an ongoing training program and an independent audit function to determine the effectiveness of the Program. Ms. Elizabeth B. Scalf has been designated as the Trust's Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer.

Procedures to implement the Program include, but are not limited to: determining that the Distributor and the Transfer Agent have established proper anti-money laundering procedures; reporting suspicious and/or fraudulent activity; and a complete and thorough review of all new account applications. The Funds will not transact business with any person or legal entity whose identity and beneficial owners, if applicable, cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

As a result of the Program, the Funds may be required to "freeze" the account of a shareholder if the shareholder appears to be involved in suspicious activity or if certain account information matches information on government lists of known terrorists or other suspicious persons, or the Funds may be required to transfer the account or proceeds of the account to a governmental agency.

### **Portfolio Holdings Information**

The Trust, on behalf of the Funds, has adopted portfolio holdings disclosure policies (the "Disclosure Policies") that govern the timing and circumstances of disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Funds. Information about the Funds' portfolio holdings will not be distributed to any third party except in accordance with these Disclosure Policies. The Board of Trustees considered the circumstances under which the Funds' portfolio holdings may be disclosed under the Disclosure Policies, considering actual and potential material conflicts that could arise in such circumstances between the interests of the Funds' shareholders and the interests of the Advisor, Distributor or any other affiliated person of the Funds. After due consideration, the Board determined that the Funds have a legitimate business purpose for disclosing portfolio holdings to persons described in these Disclosure Policies.

Information about the Funds' portfolio holdings will not be distributed to any third party except as described below:

- the disclosure is required to respond to a regulatory request, court order or other legal proceedings;
- the disclosure is to a mutual fund rating or evaluation services organization (such as Factset, Morningstar and Lipper), or statistical agency or person performing similar functions, or due diligence department of a broker-dealer or wirehouse, who has, if necessary, signed a confidentiality agreement, or is bound by applicable duties of confidentiality imposed by law, with the Funds;
- the disclosure is made to the Funds' service providers who generally need access to such information in the performance of their contractual duties and responsibilities, and who are subject to duties of confidentiality imposed by law and/or contract, such as the Advisor, the Board of Trustees, the Funds' independent registered public accountants, regulatory authorities, counsel to the Funds or the Board of

Trustees, proxy voting service providers, financial printers involved in the reporting process, the fund administrator, fund accountant, transfer agent, or custodian of the Funds;

- the disclosure is made by the Advisor's trading desk to broker-dealers in connection with the purchase or sale of securities or requests for price quotations or bids on one or more securities; in addition, the Advisor's trading desk may periodically distribute a holdings list (consisting of names only) to broker-dealers so that such brokers can provide the Advisor with order flow information;
- the disclosure is made to institutional consultants evaluating the Funds on behalf of potential investors;
- the disclosure is (a) in connection with a quarterly, semi-annual or annual report that is available to the public or (b) relates to information that is otherwise available to the public (*e.g.* portfolio information that is available on the Funds' website at least one day prior to the disclosure); or
- the disclosure is made pursuant to prior written approval of the Trust's CCO, or other person so authorized, is for a legitimate business purpose and is in the best interests of the Funds' shareholders.

For purposes of the Disclosure Policies, portfolio holdings information does not include descriptive information if that information does not present material risks of dilution, arbitrage, market timing, insider trading or other inappropriate trading for the Funds. Information excluded from the definition of portfolio holdings information generally includes, without limitation: (i) descriptions of allocations among asset classes, regions, countries or industries/sectors; (ii) aggregated data such as average or median ratios, or market capitalization, performance attributions by industry, sector or country; or (iii) aggregated risk statistics. It is the policy of the Trust to prohibit any person or entity from receiving any direct or indirect compensation or consideration of any kind in connection with the disclosure of information about the Funds' portfolio holdings.

The Trust's CCO must document any decisions regarding non-public disclosure of portfolio holdings and the rationale therefor. In connection with the oversight responsibilities by the Board of Trustees, any documentation regarding decisions involving the non-public disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Funds to third parties must be provided to the full Board of Trustees or its authorized committee. In addition, on a quarterly basis, the Board will review any disclosures of portfolio holdings outside of the permitted disclosures described above to address any conflicts between the interests of Fund shareholders and those of the Advisor or any other Fund affiliate.

Currently, on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> calendar day following month end, the Funds provide their monthly portfolio holdings to rating and ranking organizations, including Lipper, a Thomson Reuters Company ("Lipper"), Morningstar, Inc. ("Morningstar"), Standard & Poor's Financial Services, LLC, Bloomberg L.P., Thomson Reuters Corporation, Vickers Stock Research Corporation and Capital-Bridge, Inc. Lipper and Morningstar then post a list of the Funds' top portfolio holdings to their respective websites. The Funds' top ten holdings are also available in the Funds' quarterly Fact Sheets posted to the Funds' website, [www.gersteinfisherfunds.com](http://www.gersteinfisherfunds.com). Portfolio holdings disclosure may be approved under the Disclosure Policies by the Trust's CCO. Disclosure of the Funds' complete holdings is required to be made quarterly within 60 days of the end of each fiscal quarter, in the annual and semi-annual reports to Fund shareholders, and in the quarterly holdings report on Form N-Q. These reports will be made available, free of charge, on the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

In no event shall the Advisor, its affiliates or employees, or the Funds receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Funds' portfolio holdings.

Any suspected breach of this policy must be reported immediately to the Trust's CCO, or to the chief compliance officer of the Advisor who is to report it to the Trust's CCO. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend the Disclosure Policies at any time without prior notice in its sole discretion.

## Determination of Net Asset Value

The NAV of a Fund's shares will fluctuate and is determined as of the close of trading on the NYSE (generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) each business day. The NYSE annually announces the days on which it will not be open for trading. The most recent announcement indicates that it will not be open on the following days: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. However, the NYSE may close on days not included in that announcement. If the NYSE closes early, the Funds will calculate the NAV at the closing time on that day. If an emergency exists as permitted by the SEC, the NAV may be calculated at a different time.

The NAV per share is computed by dividing the value of the securities held by a Fund plus any cash or other assets (including interest and dividends accrued but not yet received) minus all liabilities (including accrued expenses) by the total number of shares in the applicable Fund outstanding at such time.

$$\frac{\text{Net Assets}}{\text{Shares Outstanding}} = \text{Net Asset Value Per Share}$$

Generally, the Funds' investments are valued at market value or, in the absence of a market value, at fair value as determined in good faith by the Advisor and the Valuation Committee pursuant to procedures approved by or under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

Each security owned by the Funds that is listed on a national securities exchange, except for securities listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ") is valued at its last sale price on that exchange on the date as of which assets are valued. When the security is listed on more than one exchange, the Funds will use the price of the exchange that the Funds generally consider to be the principal exchange on which the stock is traded.

Portfolio securities listed on NASDAQ will be valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price, which may not necessarily represent the last sale price. If there has been no sale on such exchange or on NASDAQ on such day, or the security is valued at the mean between the bid and asked prices at the close of the exchange on such day or the security shall be valued at the latest sales price on the "composite market" for the day such security is being valued. The composite market is defined as a consolidation of the trade information provided by national securities and foreign exchanges and over-the-counter markets as published by a pricing service.

Debt securities, including short-term instruments having a maturity of 60 days or less, are valued at the mean in accordance with prices provided by an approved pricing service ("Pricing Service"). Pricing services may use various valuation methodologies such as the mean between the bid and the asked prices, matrix pricing and other analytical pricing models as well as market transactions and dealer quotations. If a price is not available from a pricing service, the most recent quotation obtained from one or more broker-dealers known to follow the issue will be obtained. Quotations will be valued at the mean between the bid and the offer. Fixed income securities purchased on a delayed-delivery basis are typically marked to market daily until settlement at the forward settlement date. Any discount or premium is accreted or amortized using the "constant yield 2" method until maturity.

In the case of foreign securities, the occurrence of certain events after the close of foreign markets, but prior to the time the Funds' NAVs are calculated (such as a significant surge or decline in the U.S. or other markets) often will result in an adjustment to the trading prices of foreign securities when foreign markets open on the following business day. If such events occur, the Funds will value foreign securities at fair value, taking into account such events in calculating the NAV. In such cases, use of fair valuation can reduce an investor's ability to seek to profit by estimating the Funds' NAV in advance of the time the NAV is calculated.

Exchange traded options are valued at the composite price, using the National Best Bid and Offer quotes (“NBBO”). NBBO consists of the highest bid price and lowest ask price across any of the exchanges on which an option is quoted, thus providing a view across the entire U.S. options marketplace. Specifically, composite pricing looks at the last trades on the exchanges where the options are traded. If there are no trades for the option on a given business day composite option pricing calculates the mean of the highest bid price and lowest ask price across the exchanges where the option is traded.

All other assets of the Funds are valued in such manner as the Board of Trustees in good faith deems appropriate to reflect their fair value.

## **Additional Purchase and Redemption Information**

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

### **How to Purchase Shares**

You may purchase shares of the Funds directly from the Funds, or from securities brokers, dealers or other financial intermediaries (collectively, “Financial Intermediaries”). Investors should contact their Financial Intermediary directly for appropriate instructions, as well as information pertaining to accounts and any service or transaction fees that may be charged. The Funds may enter into arrangements with certain Financial Intermediaries whereby such Financial Intermediaries (and other authorized designees) are authorized to accept your order on behalf of the Funds (each an “Authorized Intermediary”). If you transmit your purchase request to an Authorized Intermediary before the close of regular trading (generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) on a day that the NYSE is open for business, shares will be purchased at the next calculated NAV, after the Financial Intermediary receives the request. Investors should check with their Financial Intermediary to determine if it is an Authorized Intermediary.

Investors wishing to purchase Fund shares should contact the Funds toll free at 800-473-1155. Shares of the Funds are primarily offered through certain financial intermediaries (including broker-dealers) and their agents in fee based and other programs. In these programs, financial intermediaries have made arrangements with the Funds and are authorized to buy and sell shares of the Funds that charge their customers transaction or other distribution or service fees with respect to their customers’ investments in the Funds. If you are purchasing shares through financial intermediaries, you must follow the procedures established by your financial intermediary. Your financial intermediary is responsible for sending your purchase order and wiring payment to the Transfer Agent. Your financial intermediary holds the shares in your name and receives all confirmations of purchases and sales.

Shares are purchased at the next calculated NAV after the Transfer Agent or Authorized Intermediary receives your purchase request in good order. In most cases, in order to receive that day’s NAV, the Transfer Agent must receive your order in good order before the close of regular trading on the NYSE (generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time).

The Trust reserves the right in its sole discretion: (i) to suspend the continued offering of the Funds’ shares; (ii) to reject purchase orders in whole or in part when in the judgment of the Advisor or the Distributor such rejection is in the best interest of the Funds; and (iii) to reduce or waive the minimum for initial and subsequent investments for certain fiduciary accounts or under circumstances where certain economies can be achieved in sales of the Funds’ shares.

The Advisor reserves the right to reject any initial or additional investments.

## **How to Redeem Shares and Delivery of Redemption Proceeds**

You may redeem your Fund shares any day the NYSE is open for regular trading, either directly with the Funds or through your Financial Intermediary.

Payments to shareholders for shares of the Funds redeemed directly by the Funds will be made as promptly as possible, but no later than seven days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of the written request in proper form, with the appropriate documentation as stated in the Prospectus, except that the Funds may suspend the right of redemption or postpone the date of payment during any period when: (a) trading on the NYSE is restricted as determined by the SEC or the NYSE is closed for other than weekends and holidays; (b) an emergency exists as determined by the SEC making disposal of portfolio securities or valuation of net assets of the Funds not reasonably practicable; or (c) for such other period as the SEC may permit for the protection of the Funds' shareholders. Under unusual circumstances, the Funds may suspend redemptions, or postpone payment for more than seven days, but only as authorized by SEC rules.

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

## **Telephone Redemptions**

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

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

## **Redemption in Kind**

The Funds do not intend to redeem shares in any form except cash. The Trust, however, has filed a notice of election under Rule 18f-1 of the 1940 Act that allows the Funds to satisfy, in kind, redemption requests of a certain amount. Specifically, if the amount you are redeeming during any 90-day period is in excess of the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the net assets of a Fund, valued at the beginning of such period, the Fund has the right to redeem your shares by giving you the amount that exceeds \$250,000 or 1% of the net assets of the Fund in securities instead of cash. If a Fund pays your redemption proceeds by a distribution of securities, you could incur brokerage or other charges in converting the securities to cash, and you will bear any market risks associated with such securities until they are converted into cash. For federal income tax purposes, redemptions made in kind are taxed in the same manner as redemptions made in cash. In addition, sales of in-kind securities may generate taxable gains.

## **Federal Income Tax Matters**

Changes in income tax laws, potentially with retroactive effect, could impact a Fund's investments or the tax consequences to you of investing in a Fund. Some of the changes could affect the timing, amount and tax treatment of Fund distributions made to shareholders. Please consult your tax advisor before investing.

Each series of the Trust is treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. The Funds, each as a series of the Trust, intend to qualify and elect to be treated as RICs under Subchapter M of the Code, provided that each Fund complies with all applicable requirements regarding the source of its income, diversification of its assets and timing and amount of its distributions. Each Fund's policy is to distribute to its shareholders all of its investment company taxable income and any net capital gain for each fiscal year in a manner that complies with the distribution requirements of the Code, so that the Fund will not be subject to any federal income or excise taxes on amounts distributed. However, a Fund can give no assurances that its anticipated distributions will be sufficient to eliminate all Fund level taxes. If a Fund does not qualify as a RIC and is unable to obtain relief from such failure, it would be taxed as a regular corporation and, in such case, it would be more beneficial for a shareholder to directly own the Fund's underlying investments rather than indirectly owning them through the Fund.

To qualify as a RIC, a Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income from "qualifying income," which includes: (1) dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies; (2) other income (including but not limited to gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to the Fund's business of investing in such stock, securities or foreign currencies; and (3) net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership. Although foreign currency gains currently constitute qualifying income, the U.S. Treasury Department has the authority to issue regulations excluding from the definition of "qualifying income" a RIC's foreign currency gains not "directly related" to its "principal business" of investing in stock or securities (or options and futures with respect thereto). On September 28, 2016, the IRS issued proposed regulations that gains from the sale or other disposition of foreign currencies is qualifying income. However, these proposed regulations have not been finalized. There can be no assurance that a Fund will satisfy all requirements to be taxed as a RIC.

A Fund will be subject to a 4% federal excise tax if it fails to distribute (or be deemed to have distributed) by December 31 of each calendar year (i) at least 98% of its ordinary income for such year, (ii) at least 98.2% of its capital gain net income for the 12-month period generally ending on November 30 during such year (reduced by any net ordinary losses, but not below the Fund's net capital gain for that period) and (iii) any amounts from the prior calendar year that were not distributed and on which the Fund paid no federal income tax.

Investment company taxable income generally consists of interest, dividends, net short-term capital gain and net gain from foreign currency transactions, less expenses. Net capital gain is the excess of the net long-term gain from a Fund's sales or exchanges of capital assets over the net short-term loss from such sales or exchanges, taking into account any capital loss carryforward of the Fund. A Fund may elect to defer certain losses for tax purposes. At November 30, 2017, the International Growth Equity Fund had short-term capital losses of \$1,267,130, which will be carried forward indefinitely to offset future realized capital gains. The International Growth Equity Fund utilized \$1,175,873 of short-term and long-term capital losses in fiscal year 2017.

Distributions of investment company taxable income are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. For a non-corporate shareholder, a portion of a Fund's distributions of investment company taxable income may consist of "qualified dividend income" eligible for taxation at the reduced federal income tax rates applicable to net long-term capital gains to the extent that the amount distributed is attributable to and reported as "qualified dividend income" and the shareholder meets certain holding period requirements with respect to its Fund shares. For a corporate shareholder, a portion of a Fund's distributions of investment company taxable income may qualify for the intercorporate dividends-received deduction to the extent the Fund receives dividends directly or indirectly from a U.S. corporation, reports the amount distributed as eligible for deduction and the shareholder meets certain holding period requirements with respect to its shares. The aggregate amount so reported to either non-corporate or corporate shareholders cannot, however, exceed the aggregate amount of such dividends received by the Fund for its taxable year.

Distributions of net capital gain are taxable as long-term capital gain regardless of the length of time shares have been held. Distributions of net capital gain are not eligible for “qualified dividend income” treatment or the dividends-received deduction referred to in the previous paragraph.

Distributions of any investment company taxable income and net capital gain will be taxable as described above whether received in additional Fund shares or in cash. Shareholders who choose to receive distributions in the form of additional Fund shares will have a cost basis for federal income tax purposes in each share so received equal to the NAV of a share on the reinvestment date. Distributions are generally taxable when received. However, distributions declared in October, November or December to shareholders of record and paid the following January are taxable as if received on December 31. Distributions are generally includable in alternative minimum taxable income in computing a shareholder’s liability for the alternative minimum tax.

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

A sale, redemption or exchange of Fund shares, whether for cash or in-kind proceeds, may result in recognition of a taxable capital gain or loss. Gain or loss realized upon a sale, redemption or exchange will generally be treated as a long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year, and, if held for one year or less, as a short-term capital gain or loss. However, any loss realized upon a sale, redemption or exchange of shares held for six months or less will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any distributions of net capital gain received or deemed to be received with respect to such shares. In addition, any loss arising from the sale, exchange or redemption of shares held for six months or less will be disallowed to the extent of any tax-exempt distributions received with respect to such shares. In determining the holding period of such shares for this purpose, any period during which the shareholder’s risk of loss is offset by means of options, short sales, or similar transactions is not counted. Any loss realized upon a sale, redemption or exchange may be disallowed under certain wash sale rules to the extent shares of the same Fund are purchased (through reinvestment of distributions or otherwise) within 30 days before or after the sale, redemption or exchange. If a shareholder’s loss is disallowed under the wash sale rules, the basis of the new shares will be increased to preserve the loss until a future sale, redemption or exchange of the shares.

Under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (“FATCA”), a Fund may be required to withhold a generally nonrefundable 30% tax on (i) distributions of investment company taxable income and (ii) distributions of net capital gain and the gross proceeds of a sale, exchange, or redemption of Fund shares paid after December 31, 2018 to (A) certain “foreign financial institutions” unless such foreign financial institution agrees to verify, monitor, and report to the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) the identity of certain of its accountholders, among other items (or unless such entity is otherwise deemed compliant under the terms of an intergovernmental agreement between the United States and the entity’s country of residence), and (B) certain “non-financial foreign entities” unless such entity certifies to the Fund that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or provides the name, address, and taxpayer identification number of each substantial U.S. owner, among other items. This FATCA withholding tax could also affect a Fund’s return on its investments in foreign securities or affect a shareholder’s return if the shareholder holds its Fund shares through a foreign intermediary. You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the application of this FATCA withholding tax to your investment in a Fund and the potential certification, compliance, due diligence, reporting, and withholding obligations to which you may become subject in order to avoid this withholding tax.

If more than 50% of the value of a Fund's total assets at the close of its taxable year consists of stock and securities in foreign corporations, the Fund will be eligible to, and may, file an election with the IRS that would enable the Fund's shareholders, in effect, to receive the benefit of the foreign tax credit with respect to any income taxes paid by the Fund to foreign countries and U.S. possessions. Pursuant to the election, the Fund would treat those foreign taxes as distributions paid to its shareholders, and each shareholder would be required to (i) include in gross income, and treat as paid by him, his proportionate share of those taxes, (ii) treat his share of those taxes and of any distribution paid by the Fund that represents income from foreign countries or U.S. possessions as his own income from those sources, and (iii) either deduct the taxes deemed paid by him in computing his taxable income or, alternatively, claim the foreign tax credit against his federal income tax. If a Fund makes this election, it will report to its shareholders shortly after each taxable year their respective share of income from sources within, and taxes paid to, foreign countries and U.S. possessions. The Code may limit a shareholder's ability to claim a foreign tax credit. Shareholders who elect to deduct their portion of the Fund's foreign taxes rather than take the foreign tax credit must itemize deductions on their income tax returns.

Certain tax-exempt shareholders generally are exempt from federal income taxation except with respect to their unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI"). A Fund's distributions generally are not UBTI to tax-exempt shareholders. However, a tax-exempt shareholder could realize UBTI by virtue of an investment in the Fund where, for example, (i) the Fund invests in REITs that hold residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs") or (ii) shares in the Fund constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholder within the meaning of Section 514(b) of the Code. Charitable remainder trusts are subject to special rules and should consult their tax advisor. The IRS has issued guidance with respect to these issues, and prospective tax-exempt shareholders, especially charitable remainder trusts, are encouraged to consult with their tax advisor regarding these issues.

Except in the case of certain exempt shareholders, if a shareholder does not furnish the Funds with its correct Social Security Number or taxpayer identification number and certain certifications or the Funds receive notification from the IRS requiring backup withholding, the Funds are required by federal law to withhold federal income tax from the shareholder's distributions and redemption proceeds at a rate set under Section 3406 of the Code for U.S. residents.

Foreign taxpayers (including nonresident aliens) are generally subject to a flat withholding tax rate of 30% on U.S.-source income that is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. This withholding rate may be lower under the terms of a tax convention.

This section is not intended to be a full discussion of federal income tax laws and the effect of such laws on you. There may be other federal, state, foreign, or local tax considerations to a particular investor. This section is based on the Code, Treasury Regulations, judicial decisions, and IRS guidance on the date hereof, all of which are subject to change, and possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that legislative, judicial, or administrative changes will not be forthcoming which could affect the accuracy of any statements made in this section. You are urged to consult with your own tax adviser.

## **Distributions**

Each Fund will receive income primarily in the form of dividends and interest earned on the Fund's investments in securities. This income, less the expenses incurred in its operations, is a Fund's net investment income, substantially all of which will be distributed to the Fund's shareholders.

The amount of a Fund's distributions is dependent upon the amount of net investment income received by the Fund from its portfolio holdings, is not guaranteed and is subject to the discretion of the Board of Trustees. The Funds do not pay "interest" or guarantee any fixed rate of return on an investment in their shares.

Each Fund may realize capital gains or losses in connection with sales or other dispositions of its portfolio securities. Any net gain that a Fund may realize from transactions involving investments held less than the period required for long-term capital gain or loss recognition or otherwise producing short-term capital gains and losses (taking into account any capital loss carryforward), will be distributed with net investment income. If during any year a Fund realizes a net gain on transactions involving investments held for the period required for long-term capital gain or loss recognition or otherwise producing long-term capital gains and losses, the Fund will have a net long-term capital gain. After deduction of the amount of any net short-term capital loss, the balance (to the extent not offset by any capital loss carryforward) will be distributed and treated as long-term capital gains in the hands of the shareholders regardless of the length of time that the shares may have been held by the shareholder. Net capital losses realized by a Fund may be carried forward indefinitely, and will generally retain their character as short-term or long-term capital losses. For more information concerning applicable capital gains tax rates, please consult your tax advisor.

Any distribution paid by a Fund reduces that Fund's NAV per share on the date paid by the amount of the distribution per share. Accordingly, a distribution paid shortly after a purchase of shares by a shareholder would represent, in substance, a partial return of capital (to the extent it is paid on the shares so purchased), even though it would be subject to income taxes.

Distributions will be reinvested in additional shares of the distributing Fund unless the shareholder has otherwise indicated. Shareholders have the right to change their elections with respect to the reinvestment of distributions by notifying the Transfer Agent in writing. However, any such change will be effective only as to distributions for which the record date is five or more calendar days after the Transfer Agent has received the written request.

## **Cost Basis Reporting**

The Funds are required to report to certain shareholders and the IRS the cost basis of Fund shares acquired on or after January 1, 2012 ("covered shares") when the shareholder sells, redeems or exchanges such shares. These requirements do not apply to shares acquired before January 1, 2012, or to shares held through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an IRA, or to shares held by tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions, corporations (other than S corporations), banks, credit unions, and certain other entities and governmental bodies ("non-covered shares"). The Funds are not required to determine or report a shareholder's cost basis in non-covered shares and are not responsible for the accuracy or reliability of any information provided for non-covered shares.

The cost basis of a share is generally its purchase price adjusted for distributions, returns of capital, and other corporate actions. Cost basis is used to determine whether the sale, redemption or exchange of a share results in a gain or loss. If you sell, redeem or exchange covered shares during any year, then the Funds will report the gain or loss, cost basis, and holding period of such covered shares to the IRS and you on Form 1099.

A cost basis method is the method by which a Fund determines which specific covered shares are deemed to be sold, redeemed or exchanged when a shareholder sells, redeems or exchanges less than its entire holding of Fund shares and has made multiple purchases of Fund shares on different dates at differing net asset values. If a shareholder does not affirmatively elect a cost basis method, each Fund will use the high cost method, which deems covered shares with the highest cost basis to be sold, redeemed or exchanged first. Each shareholder may elect in writing (and not over the telephone) any alternate IRS-approved cost basis method to calculate the cost basis in its covered shares. The default cost basis method applied by the Funds or the alternate method elected by a shareholder may not be changed after the settlement date of a sale, redemption or exchange of covered shares.

If you hold Fund shares through a broker (or another nominee), please contact that broker or nominee with respect to the reporting of cost basis and available elections for your account.

You are encouraged to consult your tax advisor regarding the application of these cost basis reporting rules and, in particular, which cost basis calculation method you should elect.

### **Financial Statements**

The audited financial statements, accompanying notes and report of the independent registered public accounting firm appearing in the Funds' 2017 Annual Report to Shareholders, are incorporated by reference in this SAI. Financial statements audited by the independent registered public accounting firm will be submitted to shareholders at least annually.

## **Appendix A – Ratings Definitions**

### **S & P Global Ratings Issue Credit Rating Definitions**

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

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. Short-term ratings are also used to indicate the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to put features on long-term obligations. Medium-term notes are assigned long-term ratings.

#### **Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings**

##### **A-1**

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

##### **A-2**

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

##### **A-3**

A short-term obligation rated 'A-3' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken an obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

##### **B**

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

##### **C**

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

##### **D**

A short-term obligation rated 'D' is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within any stated grace period. However, any stated grace period longer than five business days will be treated as five business days. The 'D'

rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. An obligation's rating is lowered to 'D' if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer.

### **SPUR (S&P Underlying Rating)**

A SPUR is an opinion about the stand-alone capacity of an obligor to pay debt service on a credit-enhanced debt issue, without giving effect to the enhancement that applies to it. These ratings are published only at the request of the debt issuer or obligor with the designation SPUR to distinguish them from the credit-enhanced rating that applies to the debt issue. S&P Global Ratings maintains surveillance of an issue with a published SPUR.

### **Dual Ratings**

Dual ratings may be assigned to debt issues that have a put option or demand feature. The first component of the rating addresses the likelihood of repayment of principal and interest as due, and the second component of the rating addresses only the demand feature. The first component of the rating can relate to either a short-term or long-term transaction and accordingly use either short-term or long-term rating symbols. The second component of the rating relates to the put option and is assigned a short-term rating symbol (for example, 'AAA/A-1+' or 'A-1+/A-1'). With U.S. municipal short-term demand debt, the U.S. municipal short-term note rating symbols are used for the first component of the rating (for example, 'SP-1+/A-1+').

The analyses, including ratings, of S&P Global Ratings and its affiliates (together, S&P Global Ratings) are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or make any investment decisions. S&P Global Ratings assumes no obligation to update any information following publication. Users of ratings or other analyses should not rely on them in making any investment decision. S&P Global Ratings' opinions and analyses do not address the suitability of any security. S&P Global Ratings does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor except where registered as such. While S&P Global Ratings has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, it does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Ratings and other opinions may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn at any time.

### **Active Qualifiers**

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S&P Global Ratings uses the following qualifiers that limit the scope of a rating. The structure of the transaction can require the use of a qualifier such as a 'p' qualifier, which indicates the rating addresses the principal portion of the obligation only. A qualifier appears as a suffix and is part of the rating.

#### **1. Federal deposit insurance limit: 'L' qualifier**

Ratings qualified with 'L' apply only to amounts invested up to federal deposit insurance limits.

#### **2. Principal: 'p' qualifier**

This suffix is used for issues in which the credit factors, the terms, or both that determine the likelihood of receipt of payment of principal are different from the credit factors, terms, or both that determine the likelihood of receipt of interest on the obligation. The 'p' suffix indicates that the rating addresses the principal portion of the obligation only and that the interest is not rated.

#### **3. Preliminary ratings: 'prelim' qualifier**

Preliminary ratings, with the 'prelim' suffix, may be assigned to obligors or obligations, including financial programs, in the circumstances described below. Assignment of a final rating is conditional on the receipt by S&P Global Ratings of appropriate documentation. S&P Global Ratings reserves the right not to issue a final rating. Moreover, if a final rating is issued, it may differ from the preliminary rating.

- Preliminary ratings may be assigned to obligations, most commonly structured and project finance issues, pending receipt of final documentation and legal opinions.
- Preliminary ratings may be assigned to obligations that will likely be issued upon the obligor's emergence from bankruptcy or similar reorganization, based on late-stage reorganization plans, documentation, and discussions with the obligor. Preliminary ratings may also be assigned to the obligors. These ratings consider the anticipated general credit quality of the reorganized or post-bankruptcy issuer as well as attributes of the anticipated obligation(s).
- Preliminary ratings may be assigned to entities that are being formed or that are in the process of being independently established when, in S&P Global Ratings' opinion, documentation is close to final. Preliminary ratings may also be assigned to the obligations of these entities.
- Preliminary ratings may be assigned when a previously unrated entity is undergoing a well-formulated restructuring, recapitalization, significant financing, or other transformative event, generally at the point that investor or lender commitments are invited. The preliminary rating may be assigned to the entity and to its proposed obligation(s). These preliminary ratings consider the anticipated general credit quality of the obligor, as well as attributes of the anticipated obligation(s), assuming successful completion of the transformative event. Should the transformative event not occur, S&P Global Ratings would likely withdraw these preliminary ratings.
- A preliminary recovery rating may be assigned to an obligation that has a preliminary issue credit rating.

#### **4. Termination structures: 't' qualifier**

This symbol indicates termination structures that are designed to honor their contracts to full maturity or, should certain events occur, to terminate and cash settle all their contracts before their final maturity date.

#### **5. Counterparty instrument rating: 'cir' qualifier**

This symbol indicates a counterparty instrument rating (CIR), which is a forward-looking opinion about the creditworthiness of an issuer in a securitization structure with respect to a specific financial obligation to a counterparty (including interest rate swaps, currency swaps, and liquidity facilities). The CIR is determined on an ultimate payment basis; these opinions do not take into account timeliness of payment.

#### **Inactive Qualifiers**

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Inactive qualifiers are no longer applied or outstanding.

#### **1. Contingent upon final documentation: '\*' inactive qualifier**

This symbol indicated that the rating was contingent upon S&P Global Ratings' receipt of an executed copy of the escrow agreement or closing documentation confirming investments and cash flows. Discontinued use in August 1998.

#### **2. Termination of obligation to tender: 'c' inactive qualifier**

This qualifier was used to provide additional information to investors that the bank may terminate its obligation to purchase tendered bonds if the long-term credit rating of the issuer was lowered to below an investment-grade level and/or the issuer's bonds were deemed taxable. Discontinued use in January 2001.

#### **3. U.S. direct government securities: 'G' inactive qualifier**

The letter 'G' followed the rating symbol when a fund's portfolio consisted primarily of direct U.S. government securities.

#### **4. Public information ratings: ‘pi’ qualifier**

This qualifier was used to indicate ratings that were based on an analysis of an issuer’s published financial information, as well as additional information in the public domain. Such ratings did not, however, reflect in-depth meetings with an issuer’s management and therefore could have been based on less comprehensive information than ratings without a ‘pi’ suffix. Discontinued use as of December 2014 and as of August 2015 for Lloyd’s Syndicate Assessments.

#### **5. Provisional ratings: ‘pr’ inactive qualifier**

The letters ‘pr’ indicate that the rating was provisional. A provisional rating assumed the successful completion of a project financed by the debt being rated and indicates that payment of debt service requirements was largely or entirely dependent upon the successful, timely completion of the project. This rating, however, while addressing credit quality subsequent to completion of the project, made no comment on the likelihood of or the risk of default upon failure of such completion.

#### **6. Quantitative analysis of public information: ‘q’ inactive qualifier**

A ‘q’ subscript indicates that the rating is based solely on quantitative analysis of publicly available information. Discontinued use in April 2001.

#### **7. Extraordinary risks: ‘r’ inactive qualifier**

The ‘r’ modifier was assigned to securities containing extraordinary risks, particularly market risks, that are not covered in the credit rating. The absence of an ‘r’ modifier should not be taken as an indication that an obligation would not exhibit extraordinary noncredit-related risks. S&P Global Ratings discontinued the use of the ‘r’ modifier for most obligations in June 2000 and for the balance of obligations (mainly structured finance transactions) in November 2002.

### **Active Identifiers**

#### **1. Unsolicited: ‘unsolicited’ and ‘u’ identifier**

The ‘u’ identifier and ‘unsolicited’ designation are assigned to credit ratings initiated by parties other than the issuer or its agents, including those initiated by S&P Global Ratings.

#### **2. Structured finance: ‘sf’ identifier**

The ‘sf’ identifier shall be assigned to ratings on “structured finance instruments” when required to comply with applicable law or regulatory requirement or when S&P Global Ratings believes it appropriate. The addition of the ‘sf’ identifier to a rating does not change that rating’s definition or our opinion about the issue’s creditworthiness. For detailed information on the instruments assigned the ‘sf’ identifier, please see “S&P Announces Changes To The List of Instruments Carrying The Structured Finance Identifier” in Section VIII, under “Related Research.”

### **Local Currency and Foreign Currency Ratings**

S&P Global Ratings’ issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. An issuer’s foreign currency rating will differ from its local currency rating when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, vs. obligations denominated in a foreign currency.

## Moody's Credit Rating Definitions

### **Purpose**

The system of rating securities was originated by John Moody in 1909. The purpose of Moody's ratings is to provide investors with a simple system of gradation by which future relative creditworthiness of securities may be gauged.

### **Rating Symbols**

Gradations of creditworthiness are indicated by rating symbols, with each symbol representing a group in which the credit characteristics are broadly the same. There are nine symbols as shown below, from that used to designate least credit risk to that denoting greatest credit risk:

### **Aaa Aa A Baa Ba B Caa Ca C**

Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa.

### **Absence of a Rating**

Where no rating has been assigned or where a rating has been withdrawn, it may be for reasons unrelated to the creditworthiness of the issue.

Should no rating be assigned, the reason may be one of the following:

1. An application was not received or accepted.
2. The issue or issuer belongs to a group of securities or entities that are not rated as a matter of policy.
3. There is a lack of essential data pertaining to the issue or issuer.
4. The issue was privately placed, in which case the rating is not published in Moody's publications.

Withdrawal may occur if new and material circumstances arise, the effects of which preclude satisfactory analysis; if there is no longer available reasonable up-to-date data to permit a judgment to be formed; if a bond is called for redemption; or for other reasons.

### **Changes in Rating**

The credit quality of most issuers and their obligations is not fixed and steady over a period of time, but tends to undergo change. For this reason changes in ratings occur so as to reflect variations in the intrinsic relative position of issuers and their obligations.

A change in rating may thus occur at any time in the case of an individual issue. Such rating change should serve notice that Moody's observes some alteration in creditworthiness, or that the previous rating did not fully reflect the quality of the bond as now seen. While because of their very nature, changes are to be expected more frequently among bonds of lower ratings than among bonds of higher ratings. Nevertheless, the user of bond ratings should keep close and constant check on all ratings — both high and low — to be able to note promptly any signs of change in status that may occur.

### **Limitations to Uses of Ratings\***

Obligations carrying the same rating are not claimed to be of absolutely equal credit quality. In a broad sense, they are alike in position, but since there are a limited number of rating classes used in grading thousands of bonds, the symbols cannot reflect the same shadings of risk which actually exist.

As ratings are designed exclusively for the purpose of grading obligations according to their credit quality, they should not be used alone as a basis for investment operations. For example, they have no value in

forecasting the direction of future trends of market price. Market price movements in bonds are influenced not only by the credit quality of individual issues but also by changes in money rates and general economic trends, as well as by the length of maturity, etc. During its life even the highest rated bond may have wide price movements, while its high rating status remains unchanged.

The matter of market price has no bearing whatsoever on the determination of ratings, which are not to be construed as recommendations with respect to “attractiveness”. The attractiveness of a given bond may depend on its yield, its maturity date or other factors for which the investor may search, as well as on its credit quality, the only characteristic to which the rating refers.

Since ratings involve judgements about the future, on the one hand, and since they are used by investors as a means of protection, on the other, the effort is made when assigning ratings to look at “worst” possibilities in the “visible” future, rather than solely at the past record and the status of the present. Therefore, investors using the rating should not expect to find in them a reflection of statistical factors alone, since they are an appraisal of long-term risks, including the recognition of many non-statistical factors.

Though ratings may be used by the banking authorities to classify bonds in their bank examination procedure, Moody’s ratings are not made with these bank regulations in mind. Moody’s Investors Service’s own judgement as to the desirability or non-desirability of a bond for bank investment purposes is not indicated by Moody’s ratings.

Moody’s ratings represent the opinion of Moody’s Investors Service as to the relative creditworthiness of securities. As such, they should be used in conjunction with the descriptions and statistics appearing in Moody’s publications. Reference should be made to these statements for information regarding the issuer. Moody’s ratings are not commercial credit ratings. In no case is default or receivership to be imputed unless expressly stated.

*\*As set forth more fully on the copyright, credit ratings are, and must be construed solely as, statements of opinion and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, sell or hold any securities. Each rating or other opinion must be weighed solely as one factor in any investment decision made by or on behalf of any user of the information, and each such user must accordingly make its own study and evaluation of each security and of each issuer and guarantor of, and each provider of credit support for, each security that it may consider purchasing, selling or holding.*

### **Short-Term Obligation Ratings**

Ratings assigned on Moody’s global long-term and short-term rating scales are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issues by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles, and public sector entities. Long-term ratings are assigned to issuers or obligations with an original maturity of one year or more and reflect both on the likelihood of a default on contractually promised payments and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect the likelihood of a default on contractually promised payments and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default.

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

#### **P-1**

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

#### **P-2**

Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-2 have a strong ability to repay short-term debt obligations.

**P-3**

Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-3 have an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations.

**NP**

Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories. The following table indicates the long-term ratings consistent with different short-term ratings when such long-term ratings exist.

**SHORT-TERM VS. LONG-TERM RATINGS**

LONG-TERM RATING	SHORT-TERM CP
Aaa Aa1 Aa2 Aa3 A1 A2 A3 Baa1 Baa2 Baa3	Prime-1  Prime-2 Prime-3
Ba1, Ba2, Ba3 B1, B2, B3 Caa1, Caa2, Caa3 Ca, C	Not Prime

## **Fitch's National Credit Ratings**

National scale ratings are an opinion of creditworthiness relative to the universe of issuers and issues within a single country. They are most commonly used in emerging market countries with sub- or low investment grade sovereign ratings on the international scale.

As creditworthiness can be expressed across the full range of the scale, a national scale can enable greater rating differentiation within a market than the international scale, particularly in highly speculative grade countries where ratings tend to cluster around the often low sovereign rating due to higher risks associated with a more volatile operating environment.

A “+” or “-” may be appended to a National Rating to denote relative status within a major rating category. Such suffixes are not added to the ‘AAA(xxx)’ National Rating category, to categories below ‘CCC(xxx)’, or to Short-Term National Ratings other than ‘F1(xxx)’.

National scale ratings are assigned on the basis that the “best credits or issuers” in the country are rated ‘AAA’ on the national scale. National Ratings are then assessed using the full range of the national scale based on a comparative analysis of issuers rated under the same national scale to establish a relative ranking of credit worthiness.

At any given point in time, there is a certain relationship between National and International Ratings but there is not a precise translation between the scales. Fitch monitors the ratings relationship of issuers rated on both the international and national scales to ensure the consistency of rating relativities across scales. In other words, if issuer “X” is rated higher than issuer “Y” on one scale, issuer “X” cannot be rated lower than issuer “Y” on the other scale.

National Ratings for local issuers exclude the effects of sovereign and transfer risk and exclude the possibility that investors may be unable to repatriate any due interest and principal repayments. Comparisons between different national scales or between an individual national scale and the international rating scale are therefore inappropriate and potentially misleading.

In certain countries, regulators have established credit rating scales to be used within their domestic markets using specific nomenclature. In these countries, the agency’s National Rating definitions may be substituted by the regulatory scales. For instance Fitch’s National Short Term Ratings of ‘F1+(xxx)’, ‘F1(xxx)’, ‘F2(xxx)’ and ‘F3(xxx)’ may be substituted by the regulatory scales, e.g. ‘A1+’, ‘A1’, ‘A2’ and ‘A3’. The below definitions thus serve as a template, but users should consult the individual scales for each country listed on Fitch’s regional websites to determine if any additional or alternative category definitions apply.

Fitch maintains internal mapping tables that document the current relationship between the National and International Local Currency Ratings in each jurisdiction where we maintain a National Rating scale in order to serve as a tool for analysts. Where our National rating coverage exceeds a minimum threshold and there is external demand, these mappings will be published on this site. Presently, publicly available mappings can be accessed here. Fitch currently publishes the [mapping tables](#) for Brazil, South Africa and Chile.

### **Limitations of the National Rating Scale**

Specific limitations relevant to National Rating scale include:

- National scale ratings are only available in selected countries.

- National scale ratings are only directly comparable with other national ratings in the same country. There is a certain correlation between national and global ratings but there is not a precise translation between the scales. The implied vulnerability to default of a given national scale rating will vary over time.
- The value of default studies for National Ratings is limited. Due to the relative nature of national scales, a given national scale rating is not intended to represent a fixed amount of default risk over time. As a result, a default study using only National Ratings may not give an accurate picture of the historical relationship between ratings and default risk. Users should exercise caution in making inferences relating to the relative vulnerability to default of national scale ratings using the historical default experience with International Ratings and mapping tables to link the National and International ratings. As with ratings on any scale, the future will not necessarily follow the past.

### **National Short-Term Credit Ratings**

#### **F1(xxx)**

Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. Under the agency's National Rating scale, this rating is assigned to the lowest default risk relative to others in the same country. Where the liquidity profile is particularly strong, a "+" is added to the assigned rating.

#### **F2(xxx)**

Indicates a good capacity for timely payment of financial commitments relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. However, the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.

#### **F3(xxx)**

Indicates an adequate capacity for timely payment of financial commitments relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. However, such capacity is more susceptible to near-term adverse changes than for financial commitments in higher rated categories.

#### **B(xxx)**

Indicates an uncertain capacity for timely payment of financial commitments relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. Such capacity is highly susceptible to near-term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

#### **C(xxx)**

Indicates a highly uncertain capacity for timely payment of financial commitments relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

#### **RD(xxx): Restricted default**

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

#### **D(xxx)**

Indicates actual or imminent payment default.

### **Notes to Long-Term and Short-Term National Ratings:**

The ISO international country code is placed in parentheses immediately following the rating letters to indicate the identity of the National market within which the rating applies. For illustrative purposes, (xxx) has been used.

“+” or “-” may be appended to a National Rating to denote relative status within a major rating category. Such suffixes are not added to the ‘AAA(xxx)’ Long-Term National Rating category, to categories below ‘CCC(xxx)’, or to Short-Term National Ratings other than ‘F1(xxx).’

## LONG-TERM RATINGS

### S & P Global Ratings Long-Term Issue Credit Ratings

Issue credit ratings are based, in varying degrees, on S & P Global Ratings analysis of the following considerations:

- Likelihood of payment—capacity and willingness of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on an obligation in accordance with the terms of the obligation;
- Nature of and provisions of the obligation and the promise we impute.
- 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.

Issue ratings are an assessment of default risk, but may incorporate an assessment of relative seniority or ultimate recovery in the event of default. Junior obligations are typically rated lower than senior obligations, to reflect the lower priority in bankruptcy, as noted above. (Such differentiation may apply when an entity has both senior and subordinated obligations, secured and unsecured obligations, or operating company and holding company obligations.)

### **Long-Term Issue Credit Ratings**

#### **AAA**

An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S & P Global Ratings. 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 to a 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 'BBB' 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.

#### **BB; B; CCC; CC; and C**

Obligations rated 'BB', 'B', 'CCC', 'CC', and 'C' are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. 'BB' indicates the least degree of speculation and 'C' the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major 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. The 'CC' rating is used when a default has not yet occurred, but S & P Global Ratings expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.

**C**

An obligation rated 'C' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment, and the obligation is expected to have lower relative seniority or lower ultimate recovery compared to obligations that are rated higher.

**D**

An obligation rated 'D' is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S & P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or 30 calendar days. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. An obligation's rating is lowered to 'D' if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer.

**NR**

This indicates that no rating has been requested, or that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S & P Global Ratings does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

**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.

*See active and inactive qualifiers following S & P Global Ratings Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings beginning on pages A-2 and A-3.*

## Moody's Long-Term Obligation Ratings

### **Long-Term Obligation Ratings**

Ratings assigned on Moody's global long-term and short-term rating scales are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issues by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles, and public sector entities. Long-term ratings are assigned to issuers or obligations with an original maturity of one year or more and reflect both on the likelihood of a default on contractually promised payments and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect the likelihood of a default on contractually promised payments and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default.

### **Moody's Long-Term Rating Definitions:**

#### **Aaa**

Obligations rated Aaa are judged to be of the highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk.

#### **Aa**

Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.

#### **A**

Obligations rated A are considered upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.

#### **Baa**

Obligations rated Baa are judged to be medium-grade and subject to moderate credit risk and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.

#### **Ba**

Obligations rated Ba are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.

#### **B**

Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.

#### **Caa**

Obligations rated Caa are judged to be speculative of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.

#### **Ca**

Obligations rated Ca are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.

#### **C**

Obligations rated C are the lowest rated and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

Note: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aaa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category. Additionally, a "(hyb)" indicator is appended to all ratings of hybrid securities issued by banks, insurers, finance companies, and securities firms.\*

*\* By their terms, hybrid securities allow for the omission of scheduled dividends, interest, or principal payments, which can potentially result in impairment if such an omission occurs. Hybrid securities may also be subject to contractually allowable write-downs of principal that could result in impairment. Together with the hybrid indicator, the long-term obligation rating assigned to a hybrid security is an expression of the relative credit risk associated with that security.*

## Fitch's National Long-Term Credit Ratings

### **AAA(xxx)**

'AAA' National Ratings denote the highest rating assigned by the agency in its National Rating scale for that country. This rating is assigned to issuers or obligations with the lowest expectation of default risk relative to all other issuers or obligations in the same country.

### **AA(xxx)**

'AA' National Ratings denote expectations of very low default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. The default risk inherent differs only slightly from that of the country's highest rated issuers or obligations.

### **A(xxx)**

'A' National Ratings denote expectations of low default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. However, changes in circumstances or economic conditions may affect the capacity for timely repayment to a greater degree than is the case for financial commitments denoted by a higher rated category.

### **BBB(xxx)**

'BBB' National Ratings denote a moderate default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. However, changes in circumstances or economic conditions are more likely to affect the capacity for timely repayment than is the case for financial commitments denoted by a higher rated category.

### **BB(xxx)**

'BB' National Ratings denote an elevated default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. Within the context of the country, payment is uncertain to some degree and capacity for timely repayment remains more vulnerable to adverse economic change over time.

### **B(xxx)**

'B' National Ratings denote a significantly elevated default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country. Financial commitments are currently being met but a limited margin of safety remains and capacity for continued timely payments is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

**CCC(xxx)** 'CCC' National Ratings denote very high default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country.

**CC(xxx)** 'CC' National Ratings denote default risk is among the highest relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country.

**C(xxx)** A default or default-like process has begun, or the issuer is in standstill, or for a closed funding vehicle, payment capacity is irrevocably impaired. Conditions that are indicative of a 'C' category rating for an issuer include:

- a. the issuer has entered into a grace or cure period following non-payment of a material financial obligation;
- b. the issuer has entered into a temporary negotiated waiver or standstill agreement following a payment default on a material financial obligation;
- c. the formal announcement by the issuer or their agent of a distressed debt exchange; and

- d. a closed financing vehicle where payment capacity is irrevocably impaired such that it is not expected to pay interest and/or principal in full during the life of the transaction, but where no payment default is imminent

**RD(xxx): Restricted default.**

“RD” ratings indicated that an issuer that in Fitch Ratings’ opinion has experienced an uncured payment default on a bond, loan or other material financial obligation but which has not entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure, and which has not otherwise ceased business. This would include:

- a. the selective payment default on a specific class or currency of debt;
- b. the uncured expiry of any applicable grace period, cure period or default forbearance period following a payment default on a bank loan, capital markets security or other material financial obligation;
- c. the extension of multiple waivers or forbearance periods upon a payment default on one or more material financial obligations either in series or in parallel; or
- d. execution of a distressed debt exchange on one or more material financial obligations.

**D(xxx)**

‘D’ National Ratings denote an issuer or instrument that is currently in default.

**Notes to Long-Term and Short-Term National Ratings:**

The ISO International country code is placed in parentheses immediately following the rating letters to indicate the identity of the National market within which the rating applies. For illustrative purposes, (xxx) has been used.

“+” or “-” may be appended to a National Rating to denote relative status within a major rating category. Such suffixes are not added to the ‘AAA(xxx)’ Long-Term National Rating category, to categories below ‘CCC(xxx)’, or to Short-Term National Ratings other than ‘F1(xxx).’

## MUNICIPAL NOTE RATINGS

### **S & P Global Ratings Municipal Short-Term Note Ratings Definitions**

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

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

Note rating symbols are as follows:

#### **SP-1**

Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus (+) designation.

#### **SP-2**

Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

#### **SP-3**

Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

*See active and inactive qualifiers following S & P Global Ratings Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings beginning on page A-2.*

### **Moody's US Municipal Short-Term Debt And Demand Obligation Ratings**

#### **Short-Term Obligation Ratings**

While the global short-term 'prime' rating scale is applied to US municipal tax-exempt commercial paper, these programs are typically backed by external letters of credit or liquidity facilities and their short-term prime ratings usually map to the long-term rating of the enhancing bank or financial institution and not to the municipality's rating. Other short-term municipal obligations, which generally have different funding sources for repayment, are rated using two additional short-term rating scales (i.e., the MIG and VMIG scales discussed below).

The Municipal Investment Grade (MIG) scale is used to rate US municipal bond anticipation notes of up to three years maturity. Municipal notes rated on the MIG scale may be secured by either pledged revenues or proceeds of a take-out financing received prior to note maturity. MIG ratings expire at the maturity of the obligation, and the issuer's long-term rating is only one consideration in assigning the MIG rating. MIG ratings are divided into three levels—MIG 1 through MIG 3—while speculative grade short-term obligations are designated SG.

#### **MIG 1**

This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

**MIG 2**

This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.

**MIG 3**

This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.

**SG**

This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.

**Demand Obligation Ratings**

In the case of variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs), a two-component rating is assigned: a long or short-term debt rating and a demand obligation rating. The first element represents Moody's evaluation of risk associated with scheduled principal and interest payments. The second element represents Moody's evaluation of risk associated with the ability to receive purchase price upon demand ("demand feature"). The second element uses a rating from a variation of the MIG scale called the Variable Municipal Investment Grade (VMIG) scale. VMIG ratings of demand obligations with unconditional liquidity support are mapped from the short-term debt rating (or counterparty assessment) of the support provider, or the underlying obligor in the absence of third party liquidity support, with VMIG 1 corresponding to P-1, VMIG 2 to P-2, VMIG 3 to P-3 and SG to not prime. For example, the VMIG rating for an industrial revenue bond with Company XYZ as the underlying obligor would normally have the same numerical modifier as Company XYZ's prime rating. Transitions of VMIG ratings of demand obligations with conditional liquidity support, as shown in the diagram below, differ from transitions on the Prime scale to reflect the risk that external liquidity support will terminate if the issuer's long-term rating drops below investment grade.

**VMIG 1**

This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by the superior short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

**VMIG 2**

This designation denotes strong credit quality. Good protection is afforded by the strong short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

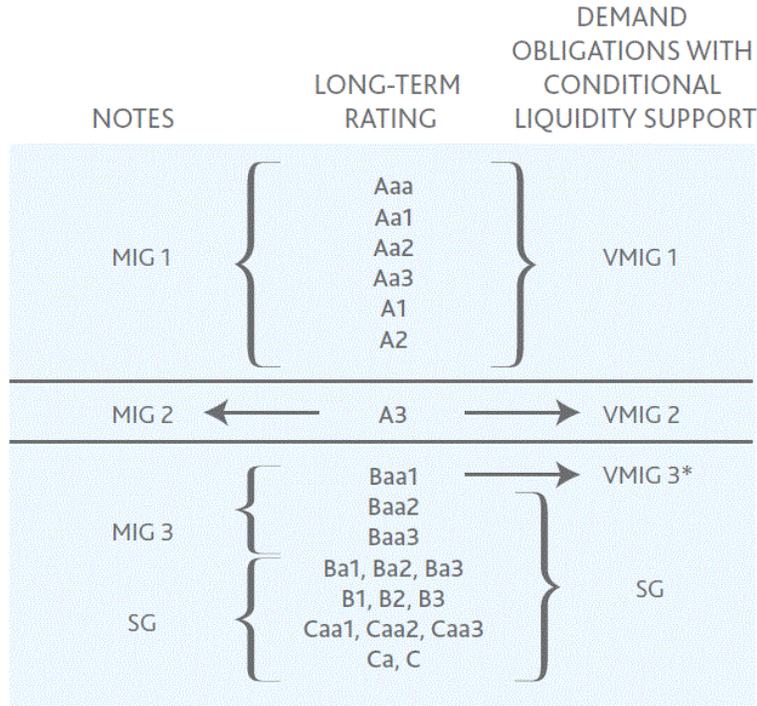
**VMIG 3**

This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Adequate protection is afforded by the satisfactory short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

**SG**

This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Demand features rated in this category may be supported by a liquidity provider that does not have an investment grade short-term rating or may lack the structural and/or legal protections necessary to ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

US MUNICIPAL SHORT-TERM VS. LONG-TERM RATINGS



\* For VRDBs supported with conditional liquidity support, short-term ratings transition down at higher long-term ratings to reflect the risk of termination of liquidity support as a result of a downgrade below investment grade.

VMIG ratings of VRDBs with unconditional liquidity support reflect the short-term debt rating (or counterparty assessment) of the liquidity support provider with VMIG 1 corresponding to P-1, VMIG 2 to P-2, VMIG 3 to P-3 and SG to not prime.

Reviewed February 22, 2018