

D E A R B O R N

P A R T N E R S

Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Fund

Class A

(Ticker Symbol: DRDAX)

Class C

(Ticker Symbol: DRDCX)

Class I

(Ticker Symbol: DRDIX)

Statement of Additional Information

June 28, 2017

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) provides general information about Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Fund (the “Fund”), a series of Trust for Professional Managers (the “Trust”). This SAI is not a prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Fund’s current prospectus dated June 28, 2017 (the “Prospectus”), as supplemented and amended from time to time, which is incorporated herein by reference. The audited financial statements of the Fund for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2017 are incorporated herein by reference from the Fund’s 2017 Annual Report to Shareholders. To obtain a free copy of the Prospectus and/or the Fund’s 2017 Annual Report to Shareholders, please write or call the Fund at the address or toll-free telephone number below, or visit the Fund’s website at www.dearbornfunds.com.

Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Fund
c/o U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC
P.O. Box 701
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-0701
(888) 983-3380

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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. The Fund is one series, or mutual fund, formed by the Trust. The Fund is a diversified series and has its own investment objective and policies. As of the date of this SAI, shares of thirty-two 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 or share class under the Trust at any time.

The Trust is authorized to issue an unlimited number of interests (or shares). Interests in the Fund 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 is voted in the aggregate and not by the series or class of shares, 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 interest of a particular series or class of shares. 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. Shares of each series or class generally vote together, except when required under federal securities laws to vote separately on matters that only affect a particular class. 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.

With respect to the Fund, the Trust may offer more than one class of shares. The Trust has adopted a multiple class plan pursuant to Rule 18f-3 under the 1940 Act, detailing the attributes of each share class of the Fund. Each share of a series or class represents an equal proportionate interest in that series or class with each other share of that series or class. The Fund currently offers Class A shares, Class C shares and Class I shares.

Each share of the Fund represents an equal proportionate interest in the assets and liabilities belonging to the Fund and is entitled to such distributions out of the income belonging to the Fund 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 holders of shares 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 or class are borne solely by that series or class. Any general expenses of the Trust not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular series or class 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 the 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 the Fund, the holders of shares of the Fund are entitled to share pro rata in the net assets of the Fund available for distribution to shareholders.

Dearborn Partners, L.L.C. (the “Adviser”) serves as the investment adviser for the Fund.

Investment Policies, Strategies and Associated Risks

Investment Objective

The Fund seeks current income, rising income over time and long-term capital appreciation. The Fund's investment objective may be changed without the approval of the Fund's shareholders upon 60 days' prior written notice to shareholders. However, the Fund will not make any change in its investment policy of investing at least 80% of net assets in assets suggested by the Fund's name without first changing the Fund's name and providing shareholders with at least 60 days' prior written notice.

Diversification

The Fund is diversified. Under applicable federal laws, to qualify as a diversified fund, the 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 the Fund's total assets does not need to be "diversified" and may be invested in securities of a single issuer, subject to other applicable laws. The diversification of a mutual 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, the fund may have a greater percentage of its assets invested in securities of fewer issuers. Because the Fund is diversified, the Fund is less subject to the risk that its performance may be hurt disproportionately by the poor performance of relatively few securities despite the Fund qualifying as a diversified fund under applicable federal laws.

General Market Risks

The market value of a security may move up or down, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably. These fluctuations may cause a security to be worth less than the price originally paid for it, or less than it was worth at an earlier time. Market risk may affect a single issuer, industry, or sector of the economy or the market as a whole. U.S. and international markets have experienced volatility in recent years. 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 following risks associated with an investment in a Fund may be increased. Continuing market problems may have adverse effects on the Fund.

Investment Strategies and Related Risks

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

Whenever an investment policy or investment restriction states a maximum percentage of the 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 the Fund's acquisition or sale of such security or other asset. Accordingly, except with respect to borrowing or illiquid securities, any subsequent change in values, net assets or other circumstances will not be considered when determining whether an investment complies with the 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 the Fund, the Fund may receive stock,

real estate or other investments that the Fund would not, or could not, buy. If this happens, the Fund will sell such investments as soon as practicable while trying to maximize the return to its shareholders.

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. The value of common stock varies in response to many factors, including the activities and financial condition of individual companies, the business market in which individual companies compete and general market and economic conditions. Common stock fluctuates in value, often based on factors unrelated to the value of the issuer of the stock, and such fluctuations can be significant. In addition, investments in common stock are subject to the risk that in the event a company in which the Fund invests is liquidated, the holders of preferred stock and creditors of that company will be paid in full before any payments are made to the Fund as a holder of common stock. It is possible that all assets of that company will be exhausted before any payments are made to the Fund.

Common Stock of Small- and Medium-Sized Companies. To the extent the Fund invests in the common stock of small and medium-sized companies, it will be exposed to the risks of smaller sized companies. Small- and medium-sized companies may have narrower markets for their goods and/or services and may have more limited managerial and financial resources than larger, more established companies. Furthermore, such companies may have limited product lines, services, markets, or financial resources or may be dependent on a small management group. In addition, because these stocks may not be well-known to the investing public, do not have significant institutional ownership or are typically followed by fewer security analysts, there will normally be less publicly available information concerning these securities compared to what is available for the securities of larger companies. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, can decrease the value and liquidity of securities held by the Fund. As a result, their performance can be more volatile and they face greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the Fund's portfolio.

Master Limited Partnerships

The Fund may invest in publicly traded master limited partnerships ("MLPs") that are registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and listed on a major United States stock exchange, if the issuer meets the Fund's investment criteria. MLPs are businesses organized as limited partnerships the interests of which are traded on a public exchange. MLPs are required to pay out most or all of their cash flow in distributions. An investment in an MLP may generate passive income or losses, along with dividend and investment income. The MLPs the Fund may purchase are composed of a general partner (the "GP") and multiple limited partners (the "LP Holders"). The GP is responsible for the operations and the maintenance of the partnership's businesses, while the LP Holders assume economic risk up to their level of investment. Typically, the GP has a 1% to 2% investment in the MLP, but can extract a higher percentage of the partnership's profits as the MLP's distributions increase. This structure serves as an incentive to the GP to build the partnership's distributions.

Generally speaking, MLP investment returns are enhanced during periods of declining or low interest rates and tend to be negatively influenced when interest rates are rising. As an income vehicle, the unit price can be influenced by general interest rate trends independent of specific underlying fundamentals. In addition, most MLPs are fairly leveraged and typically carry a portion of a "floating" rate debt. As such, a significant upward swing in interest rates would also drive interest expense higher. Furthermore, most MLPs grow by acquisitions partly financed by debt, and higher interest rates could make it more difficult to make acquisitions.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”)

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 the vast majority of its taxable income to shareholders each year. Consequently, REITs tend to focus on income-producing real estate investments.

The Fund’s investments in REITs may be adversely affected by deteriorations of the real estate rental market, in the case of REITs 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 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 tax treatment, which would subject the REIT to federal income taxes and adversely affect the Fund’s return on its investment in the REIT.

Foreign Investments

The Fund will invest primarily in securities of U.S. companies, but may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities of “foreign issuers.” “Foreign issuers” means non-U.S. companies: (a) whose securities are traded on a U.S. exchange, and denominated in U.S. dollars, in the form of American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”); or (b) who are organized and headquartered outside the United States but whose securities are publicly traded on a U.S. exchange. Investments in foreign securities, including ADRs, involve certain inherent risks, including the following:

American Depositary Receipts. The Fund may invest its assets in securities of foreign issuers in the form of depositary receipts, including ADRs, which are securities representing securities of foreign issuers. A purchaser of unsponsored depositary 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 depositary receipt. Generally, ADRs, in registered form, are denominated in U.S. dollars and are designed for use in the U.S. securities markets. ADRs are receipts typically issued by a U.S. bank or trust company evidencing ownership of the underlying securities. For purposes of the Fund’s investment policies, ADRs are deemed to have the same classification as the underlying securities they represent. Thus, an ADR representing ownership of common stock will be treated as common stock.

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 Fund 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 a Fund's assets denominated in that currency. Such changes will also affect the Fund's 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 Adviser expects that many foreign securities in which the Fund may invest could 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 Fund's 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 U.S. 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 Fund 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 Fund's 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 a Fund invests in foreign securities, its expense ratio is likely to be higher than those of investment companies investing only in domestic securities, because the cost of maintaining the custody of foreign securities is higher.

Temporary Strategies; Cash or Similar Investments

For temporary defensive purposes, up to 100% of the Fund's total assets may be invested in high-quality, short-term debt securities and money market instruments. These short-term debt securities 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 the Fund not achieving its investment objective. Furthermore, to the extent that the 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.

For longer periods of time, the Fund may hold a substantial cash position. If the market advances during periods when the Fund is holding a large cash position, the Fund may not participate to the extent it would have if the Fund had been more fully invested, potentially resulting in the Fund not achieving its investment objective during that period. To the extent that the Fund uses a money market fund for its cash position, there will be some duplication of expenses because the Fund would bear its pro rata portion of such money market fund's advisory fees and operational expenses.

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

Bank Certificates of Deposit, Bankers' Acceptances and Time Deposits. The Fund may acquire certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and time deposits. Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates issued against funds deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers' acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are "accepted" by a bank, meaning in effect that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity. Certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances acquired by the Fund 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. If the Fund holds instruments of foreign banks or financial institutions, it may be subject to additional investment risks that are different in some respects from those incurred by a fund that invests only in debt obligations of U.S. domestic issuers. See "Foreign Investments" above. Such risks include future political and economic developments, the possible imposition of withholding taxes by the particular country in which the issuer is located on interest income payable on the securities, the possible seizure or nationalization of foreign deposits, the possible establishment of exchange controls or the adoption of other foreign governmental restrictions which might adversely affect the payment of principal and interest on these securities.

Domestic banks and foreign banks are subject to different governmental regulations with respect to the amount and types of loans which may be made and interest rates which 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 Fund may acquire.

In addition to purchasing certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances, to the extent permitted under its investment objectives and policies stated above and in its Prospectus, the Fund 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 Fund 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 Fund may invest a portion of its 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" by Moody's, or similarly rated by another NRSRO or, if unrated, will be determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality.

Borrowing

The Fund may borrow to increase its portfolio holdings of securities. The Fund will limit its borrowing to an amount not to exceed one-third of its total assets. Such borrowings may be on a secured or unsecured basis at fixed or variable rates of interest. The 1940 Act requires the Fund to maintain continuous asset coverage of not less than 300% with respect to all borrowings. This coverage allows the Fund to borrow for such purposes an amount (when taken together with any borrowings for temporary or emergency purposes as described below) equal to as much as 50% of the value of its net assets (not including such borrowings). If such asset coverage should decline to less than 300% due to market fluctuations or other reasons, the Fund may be required to dispose of some of its portfolio holdings within three days in order to reduce the Fund's 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 use of borrowing by the Fund involves special risk considerations that may not be associated with other funds having similar policies. Since substantially all of the Fund's assets fluctuate in value, whereas the interest obligation resulting from a borrowing will be fixed by the terms of the Fund's agreement with its lender, the asset value per share of the Fund will tend to increase more when its portfolio securities increase in value and decrease more when its portfolio securities decrease in value than would otherwise be the case if the Fund did not borrow funds. In addition, interest costs on borrowings may fluctuate with changing market rates of interest and may partially offset or exceed the return earned on borrowed funds. Under adverse market conditions, the Fund might have to sell portfolio securities to meet interest or principal payments at a time when fundamental investment considerations would not favor such sales. The interest which the Fund must pay on borrowed money, together with any additional fees to maintain a line of credit or any minimum average balances required to be maintained, are additional costs which will reduce or eliminate any net investment income and may also offset any potential capital gains. Unless the appreciation and income, if any, on assets acquired with borrowed funds exceed the costs of borrowing, the use of leverage will diminish the investment performance of the Fund compared with what it would have been without leverage.

Illiquid Securities

The Fund is limited by its restrictions to investing only up to 15% of its 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 Fund 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 Fund's ability to invest in restricted securities (that is, securities that are not registered pursuant to 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 Adviser is responsible for making the determination as to the liquidity of restricted securities (pursuant to the procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees).

The Fund 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 Fund has 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 a nationally recognized statistical rating organization ("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 Fund's net assets. Investing in Rule 144A securities could have the effect of increasing the level of the Fund's illiquidity to the extent that the Fund, at a particular point in time may be unable to find qualified institutional buyers interested in purchasing the securities. The Fund is permitted to sell restricted securities to qualified institutional buyers.

Investment Restrictions

Fundamental Investment Restrictions

The Trust (on behalf of the Fund) 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 the 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 Fund 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 Fund.

The Fund may not:

1. issue senior securities, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC;
2. borrow money, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC;
3. underwrite the securities of other issuers (except that the Fund may engage in transactions involving the acquisition, disposition or resale of its portfolio securities under circumstances where it may be considered to be an underwriter under the Securities Act);
4. purchase or sell real estate or interests in real estate, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities (although the 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 or commodities contracts, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments and provided that this restriction does not prevent the 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, or investing in precious metals in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies set forth in the Prospectus;
6. make loans of money (except for the lending of the Fund's portfolio securities and purchases of debt securities consistent with the investment policies of the Fund);
7. with respect to 75% of its total assets, purchase the securities of any one issuer if, immediately after and as a result of such purchase, (a) the value of the Fund's holdings in the securities of such issuer exceeds 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets, or (b) the Fund owns more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer (with the exception that these restrictions do not apply to the Fund's investments in the securities of the U.S. Government, or its agencies or instrumentalities, or other investment companies); or

8. invest in the securities of any one industry if, as a result, 25% or more of the Fund's total assets would be invested in the securities of such industry, except that the foregoing does not apply to securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities.

Non-Fundamental Investment Restrictions

The following lists the non-fundamental investment restrictions applicable to the 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 the Fund.

The 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, OTC options, and repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice; and
2. make any change in its investment policy of investing at least 80% of net assets in investments suggested by the Fund's name without first changing the Fund's name and providing shareholders with at least 60 days' prior written notice.

Management of the Fund

Board of Trustees

The management and affairs of the Fund are supervised by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees consists of four individuals. The Trustees are fiduciaries for the Fund's 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 Fund and appoints the officers who conduct the daily business of the Fund.

Trustees and Officers

The Trustees and 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.

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Trust Overseen by Trustee	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years
<i>Independent Trustees</i> Michael D. Akers, Ph.D. 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1955	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since August 22, 2001	33	Professor and Chair, Department of Accounting, Marquette University (2004-present).	Independent Trustee, USA MUTUALS (an open-end investment company with one portfolio).

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Gary A. Drska 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1956	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since August 22, 2001	33	Pilot, Frontier/Midwest Airlines, Inc. (airline company) (1986-present).	Independent Trustee, USA MUTUALS (an open-end investment company with one portfolio).
Jonas B. Siegel 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1943	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since October 23, 2009	33	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).

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Trust Overseen by Trustee	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years
<i>Interested Trustee and Officers</i>					
Joseph C. Neuberger* 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1962	Chairperson and Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since August 22, 2001	33	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); Trustee, USA MUTUALS (an open-end investment company with one portfolio).
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
Anita M. Zagrodnik 615 E. Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Year of Birth: 1960	Chief Compliance Officer, Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Officer	Indefinite Term; Since July 1, 2014	N/A	Senior Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2014-present); CCO (2003-2013) and Senior Vice President, Ariel Investments, LLC (2010-2013).	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 Trust Overseen by Trustee	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years
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; Effective July 1, 2017	N/A	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 (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
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

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Trust Overseen by Trustee	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years
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 Fund’s principal underwriter.

** Effective July 1, 2017, Elizabeth B. Scalf will replace Anita M. Zagrodnik as Chief Compliance Officer, Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Officer of the Trust.

Role of the Board

The Board 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 Adviser, Distributor, administrator, custodian, and transfer agent, each of whom are discussed in greater detail in this SAI. The Board approves all significant agreements between the Trust and its service providers, including the agreements with the Adviser, Distributor, 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” of the Trust (the “Interested Trustee”) – Mr. Joseph C. Neuberger. Accordingly, 75% of the members of the Board are Independent Trustees, who are Trustees who are not affiliated with the Adviser or its affiliates, or any other investment adviser 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 Quasar Distributors, LLC (the “Distributor”), which acts as principal underwriter to the Fund and many of the Trust’s other

underlying funds. Mr. Neuberger also serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, the Fund's 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 adviser and the fund(s) managed by such adviser' 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 Trust's 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 advisers 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 Trustees 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 an Independent 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 and Chair of the Department of Accounting of Marquette University since 2004, and was Associate Professor of Accounting at 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 an Independent 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.

Joseph C. Neuberger. Mr. Neuberger has served as an Interested Trustee of the Trust since 2001. Mr. Neuberger has also served as a trustee of USA Mutuals since 2001 and Buffalo Funds, an open-end investment company, since 2003. 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.

Jonas B. Siegel, CPA. Mr. Siegel has served as a Trustee of the Trust since 2009. Mr. Siegel previously served as an Independent Manager of the Ramius IDF fund complex from 2010 to 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 to 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 is 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.

Trustee Ownership of Fund Shares

As of December 31, 2016, no Trustee or Officer of the Trust beneficially owned shares of the Fund or any other series of the Trust.

Furthermore, as of December 31, 2016, neither the Trustees who are not “interested” persons of the Fund, nor members of their immediate families, own securities beneficially, or of record, in the Adviser, the Distributor or any of their affiliates. Accordingly, neither the Trustees who are not “interested” persons of the Fund nor members of their immediate families, have direct or indirect interest, the value of which exceeds \$120,000, in the Adviser, the Distributor or any of their affiliates. In addition, during the two most recently completed calendar years, neither the Trustees who are not “interested” persons of the Fund

nor members of their immediate families, have had a direct or indirect interest, the value of which exceeds \$120,000 in: (i) the Adviser, the Distributor or any of their affiliates, or (ii) any transaction or relationship in which any such entity, the Fund, any officer of the Fund, or any of their affiliates 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 Fund's independent auditor concerning the scope of the audit and the auditor's independence. Dr. Akers is designated as the Audit Committee 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 Fund's past fiscal year, the Audit Committee met twice with respect to the Fund.

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 Fund's past fiscal year.

Valuation Committee. The Trust has a Valuation Committee. The Valuation Committee is responsible for the following: (1) monitoring the valuation of Fund 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 of Trustees. The Valuation Committee is currently composed of Mr. John Buckel, Ms. Jennifer Lima and Mr. Cullen Small, who each serve as officers of the Trust. The Valuation Committee meets as necessary when a price for a portfolio security is not readily available. During the Fund's past fiscal year, the Valuation Committee did not meet with respect to the 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⁽¹⁾ 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 of the Trust do not receive any compensation for their service as Trustee. For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2017, the Trustees received the following compensation from the Fund:

Name of Person/Position	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund⁽²⁾	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from the Fund and the Trust⁽³⁾ Paid to Trustees
Dr. Michael D. Akers, Independent Trustee ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	\$2,210	None	None	\$82,500
Gary A. Drska, Independent Trustee ⁽⁴⁾	\$2,140	None	None	\$80,000
Jonas B. Siegel, Independent Trustee ⁽⁴⁾	\$2,140	None	None	\$77,500
Joseph C. Neuberger, Interested Trustee	None	None	None	None

⁽¹⁾ Prior to January 1, 2017, the Independent Trustees received \$2,500 for each in-person meeting attended.

⁽²⁾ Trustees' fees and expenses are allocated among the Fund and any other series comprising the Trust.

⁽³⁾ There are currently [thirty-two] other portfolios comprising the Trust.

⁽⁴⁾ Audit Committee member.

⁽⁵⁾ 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 the Fund. A control person is one who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of the Fund or acknowledges the existence of control. A controlling person possesses the ability to control the outcome of matters submitted for shareholder vote by the Fund. As of May 31, 2017, no person was a control person of the Fund, and all Trustees and officers as a group owned beneficially (as defined in Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) less than 1% of shares of the Fund. As of May 31, 2017, the following shareholders were considered to be principal shareholders of the Fund:

Class A Shares

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership	Parent Company	Jurisdiction
Robert W. Baird & Company Inc. 777 East Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5391	35.62%	Record	Baird Holding Company	WI
Pershing, LLC PO Box 2052 Jersey City, NJ 07303-2052	25.18%	Record	Pershing Group LLC	DE
Stifel Nicolaus & Company Inc. 501 North Broadway St Louis, MO 63102-2137	16.71%	Record	N/A	N/A

Class C Shares

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership	Parent Company	Jurisdiction
Stifel Nicolaus & Company Inc. 501 North Broadway St Louis, MO 63102-2137	27.51%	Record	Stifel Financial Corp	MO
Robert W. Baird & Company Inc. 777 East Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5391	23.71%	Record	N/A	N/A
Pershing, LLC PO Box 2052 Jersey City, NJ 07303-2052	20.37%	Record	N/A	N/A

Class I Shares

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership	Parent Company	Jurisdiction
Robert W. Baird & Company Inc. 777 East Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5391	33.95%	Record	Baird Holding Company	WI
Pershing, LLC PO Box 2052 Jersey City, NJ 07303-2052	29.80%	Record	Pershing Group LLC	DE
Stifel Nicolaus & Company Inc. 501 North Broadway St Louis, MO 63102-2188	6.96%	Record	N/A	N/A

Investment Adviser

Investment advisory services are provided to the Fund by the Adviser, Dearborn Partners, L.L.C., pursuant to an investment advisory agreement (the “Advisory Agreement”). The Adviser is majority owned by Wayne C. Stevens, George P. Jameson, JEH Trust (whose sole trustee is Denise C. Hickey) and Calvin J. Pedersen.

After an initial two-year period, 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 Fund; 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 Fund, upon 60 days’ written notice to the Adviser, when authorized by either: (i) a majority vote of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund; or (ii) by a vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees, or by the Adviser 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 Adviser 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 Fund, 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 Adviser pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser is entitled to receive from the Fund a management fee computed daily and paid monthly, based on a rate equal to 0.85% of the Fund's average annual net assets, as specified in the Prospectus. However, the Adviser 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 Adviser may have to waive management fees and/or reimburse Fund expenses.

For the fiscal years ended February 28, 2017, February 29, 2016 and February 28, 2015 the Adviser received the following advisory fees:

Fiscal Year Ended	Advisory Fee	(Waiver)/Recoupment	Advisory Fee After Waiver/Recoupment
February 28, 2017	\$1,595,958	\$54,577	\$1,650,535
February 29, 2016	\$1,278,066	\$43,911	\$1,321,977
February 28, 2015	\$707,848	\$6,376	\$714,224

Fund Expenses. The Fund is responsible for its own operating expenses. The Adviser has agreed to waive management fees payable to it by the Fund and/or to reimburse the Fund's operating expenses to the extent necessary to limit the Fund's aggregate annual operating expenses (exclusive of interest, acquired fund fees and expenses, front-end or contingent deferred loads, Rule 12b-1 fees, shareholder servicing plan fees, leverage expenses (*i.e.*, any expenses incurred in connection with borrowings made by the Fund), tax expenses, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, brokerage commissions and extraordinary expenses such as litigation) to the limit set forth in the "Fees and Expenses of the Fund" table in the Prospectus. The Adviser may request recoupment of previously waived fees and paid expenses from the Fund for 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 the 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 Fund's payment of current ordinary operating expenses.

Portfolio Managers

As disclosed in the Prospectus, Carol M. Lippman and Michael B. Andelman serve as the Fund's portfolio managers (together, the "Portfolio Managers").

Other Accounts Managed by the Portfolio Managers

The following provides information regarding other accounts managed by the Portfolio Managers as of February 28, 2017:

Category of Account	Total Number of Accounts Managed	Total Assets in Accounts Managed	Number of Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance	Assets in Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance (in millions)
<u>Carol M. Lippman, CFA</u>				
Other Registered	0	\$0	0	\$0

Category of Account	Total Number of Accounts Managed	Total Assets in Accounts Managed	Number of Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance	Assets in Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance (in millions)
Investment Companies				
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Accounts	2,000	\$2 billion	0	\$0
<u>Michael B. Andelman</u>				
Other Registered Investment Companies	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Accounts	2,000	\$2 billion	0	\$0

Material Conflicts of Interest

The Portfolio Managers' management of "other accounts" may give rise to potential conflicts of interest in connection with the management of the Fund's investments, on the one hand, and the investments of the other accounts, on the other. The other accounts may have the same investment objective as the Fund. Therefore, a potential conflict of interest may arise as a result of the identical investment objectives, whereby the Portfolio Managers could favor one account over another. Another potential conflict could include the Portfolio Managers' knowledge about the size, timing and possible market impact of Fund trades, whereby the Portfolio Managers could use this information to the advantage of other accounts and to the disadvantage of the Fund. However, the Adviser has established policies and procedures to ensure that the purchase and sale of securities among all accounts they manage are fairly and equitably allocated.

Portfolio Manager Compensation

The Portfolio Managers' compensation from the Adviser consists of a percentage of the revenue that the Adviser receives from client accounts managed, including the Fund, and/or a fixed salary. Compensation that is based on the Adviser's revenue from client accounts is based on the assets of such accounts and not the performance of the accounts.

Ownership of Securities in the Fund by the Portfolio Managers

As of February 28, 2017, the Portfolio Managers beneficially owned shares of the Fund as shown below:

Name of Portfolio Manager	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund
Carol M. Lippman	\$100,001 - \$500,000
Michael B. Andelman	None

Service Providers

Fund Administrator, Transfer Agent and Fund Accountant

Pursuant to a fund administration servicing agreement between the Trust and U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, the Administrator acts as the Fund's administrator. The Administrator provides certain administrative services to the Fund, including, among other responsibilities, coordinating the negotiation of contracts and fees with, and the monitoring of performance and billing of, the Fund's independent contractors and agents; preparing for signature by

an officer of the Trust of all documents required to be filed for compliance by the Trust and the Fund with applicable laws and regulations excluding those of the securities laws of various states; arranging for the computation of performance data, including NAV and yield; responding to shareholder inquiries; and arranging for the maintenance of books and records of the Fund, and providing, at its own expense, office facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to carry out its duties. In this capacity, the Administrator does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Fund, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of Fund shares.

Pursuant to the Administration Agreement, as compensation for its services, USBFS receives from the Fund a combined fee for fund administration and fund accounting services based on the Fund’s current average daily nets assets. USBFS is also entitled to certain out-of-pocket expenses. In addition to its role as Administrator, USBFS also acts as fund accountant (“Fund Accountant”), transfer agent (“Transfer Agent”) and dividend disbursing agent under separate agreements.

For the fiscal years indicated below, the Fund paid the following fees to the Administrator:

Administration Fees		
Paid During Fiscal Year Ended		
February 28, 2017	February 29, 2016	February 28, 2015
\$192,166	\$165,314	\$109,433

Custodian

U.S. Bank N.A., an affiliate of USBFS, (the “Custodian”) serves as the custodian of the Fund’s 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 Fund. The Custodian and its affiliates may participate in revenue sharing arrangements with service providers of mutual funds in which the Fund may invest.

Legal Counsel

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

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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

Distribution and Servicing of Fund Shares

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

The Distribution Agreement has an initial term of two years and will continue 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 Fund’s 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 penalty by the Trust on behalf of the Fund on 60 days’ written notice when authorized either by a majority vote of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund or by vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees, including 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).

The Distributor received the following underwriting commissions for Class A and Class C shares of the Fund during the fiscal years ended, February 28, 2017, February 29, 2016, and February 28, 2015:

2017	2016	2015
\$660,255	\$795,870	\$1,164,900

The Distributor retained the following underwriting commissions for Class A and Class C shares of the Fund during the fiscal years ended February 28, 2017, February 29, 2016, and February 28, 2015 :

2017	2016	2015
\$0	\$0	\$0

Rule 12b-1 Distribution and Shareholder Servicing Plan

As noted in the Prospectus, the Fund has adopted a distribution and shareholder servicing plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act (the “Distribution Plan”) on behalf of the Class A and Class C shares of the Fund. Under the Distribution Plan, the Fund pays a fee to the Distributor (the “Distribution Fee”) for distribution and shareholder services on behalf of the Class A and Class C shares of the Fund. The Distribution Fee is an annual Rule 12b-1 distribution and shareholder servicing fee at the rate of 0.25% and 1.00% of the Fund’s average daily net assets attributable to Class A shares and Class C shares, respectively. The fee for Class C shares represents a 0.75% Rule 12b-1 fee and a 0.25% shareholder servicing fee. The Distribution Plan provides that the Distributor may use all or any portion of such Distribution Fee to finance any activity that is principally intended to result in the sale of Fund shares, subject to the terms of the Distribution Plan, or to provide certain shareholder services. Class I shares of the Fund are not subject to the Distribution Plan and do not pay Rule 12b-1 distribution or shareholder servicing fees.

The Distribution Fee is payable to the Distributor regardless of the distribution-related expenses actually incurred on behalf of Class A and Class C shares of the Fund. Because the Distribution Fee is not directly tied to expenses, the amount of distribution fees paid by the Class A and Class C shares of the Fund during any year may be more or less than actual expenses incurred pursuant to the Distribution Plan. For this reason, this type of distribution fee arrangement is characterized by the staff of the SEC as a “compensation” plan.

The Distributor may use the Distribution Fee to pay for services covered by the Distribution Plan including, but not limited to, advertising, compensating underwriters, dealers and selling personnel engaged in the distribution of Class A and Class C shares, the printing and mailing of prospectuses, statements of additional information and reports to other than current Fund shareholders, the printing and mailing of sales literature pertaining to the Fund, and obtaining whatever information, analyses and reports with respect to marketing and promotional activities that the Fund may, from time to time, deem advisable.

The table below shows the amount of Rule 12b-1 distribution fees incurred and the allocation of such fees by the Fund for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2017.

**Actual Rule 12b-1 Expenditures Incurred
During the Fiscal Year Ended February 28, 2017**

	Total Dollars Allocated
Advertising/Marketing	\$0
Printing/Postage	\$149,839
Payment to Distributor	\$37,459
Payment to dealers	\$721,099
Compensation to sales personnel	\$0
Other ⁽¹⁾	\$28,095
Total	\$936,492

⁽¹⁾ Reimbursement to the Adviser for Class C shares accrual subject to aging.

The Distribution Plan provides that it will continue from year to year upon approval by the majority vote of the Board of Trustees, including a majority of the trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act, and who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operations of the Distribution Plan or in any agreement related to such plan (the “Qualified Trustees”), as required by the 1940 Act, cast in person at a meeting called for that purpose. It is also required that the trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Fund, select and nominate all other trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Fund. The Distribution Plan and any related agreements may not be amended to materially increase the amounts to be spent for distribution expenses without approval of shareholders holding a majority of the Fund’s Class A shares or Class C shares outstanding. All material amendments to the Distribution Plan or any related agreements must be approved by a vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees and the Qualified Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on any such amendment.

The Distribution Plan requires that the Distributor provide to the Board of Trustees, at least quarterly, a written report on the amounts and purpose of any payment made under the Distribution Plan. The Distributor is also required to furnish the Board of Trustees with such other information as may reasonably be requested in order to enable the Board of Trustees to make an informed determination of whether the Distribution Plan should be continued. With the exception of the Adviser, no “interested person” of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act, and no Qualified Trustee of the Fund has or had a direct or indirect financial interest in the Distribution Plan or any related agreement.

As noted above, the Distribution Plan provides for the ability to use Class A and Class C assets to pay financial intermediaries (including those that sponsor mutual fund supermarkets), plan administrators and other service providers to finance any activity that is principally intended to result in the sale of Class A shares and Class C shares (distribution services). The payments made by the Fund to these financial intermediaries are based primarily on the dollar amount of assets invested in the Class A and Class C shares of the Fund through the financial intermediaries. These financial intermediaries may pay a portion of the payments that they receive from the Fund to their investment professionals. In addition to the ongoing asset-based fees paid to these financial intermediaries under the Distribution Plan, the Fund may, from time to time, make payments under the Distribution Plan that help defray the expenses incurred by these intermediaries for conducting training and educational meetings about various aspects of the Fund for their employees. In addition, the Fund may make payments under the Distribution Plan for exhibition space and otherwise help defray the expenses these financial intermediaries incur in hosting client seminars where the Fund is discussed.

To the extent these asset-based fees and other payments made under the Distribution Plan to these financial intermediaries for the distribution services they provide to the Fund’s Class A and Class C shareholders exceed the Distribution Fees available, these payments are made by the Adviser from its

own resources, which may include its profits from the advisory fee it receives from the Fund. In addition, the Fund may participate in various “fund supermarkets” in which a mutual fund supermarket sponsor (usually a broker-dealer) offers many mutual funds to the sponsor’s customers without charging the customers a sales charge. In connection with its participation in such platforms, the Adviser may use all or a portion of the Distribution Fee to pay one or more supermarket sponsors a negotiated fee for distributing the Fund’s Class A and Class C shares. In addition, in its discretion, the Adviser may pay additional fees to such intermediaries from its own assets.

Portfolio Transactions and Brokerage

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

Purchases of portfolio securities for the Fund will be effected through broker-dealers (including banks) that specialize in the types of securities that the Fund will be holding, unless the Adviser 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 Adviser 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, 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 available, will be considered in making these determinations. 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 Adviser 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 Adviser 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 Fund, to be useful in varying degrees, but of indeterminable value. Portfolio transactions may be placed with broker-dealers who sell shares of the Fund subject to rules adopted by FINRA and the SEC. Portfolio transactions may also be placed with broker-dealers in which the Adviser has invested on behalf of the Fund and/or client accounts.

While it is the Fund’s 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 Fund, weight is also given to the ability of a broker-dealer to furnish brokerage and research services to the Fund or to the Adviser, even if the specific services are not directly useful to the Fund and may be useful to the Adviser in advising other clients. In negotiating commissions with a broker or evaluating the spread to be paid to a dealer, the Fund may therefore 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 Adviser to be reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research services provided by such broker-dealer. The standard of reasonableness is to be measured in light of the Adviser’s overall responsibilities to the Fund.

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

The Fund is required to identify any securities of its "regular brokers or dealers" that the Fund has acquired during its most recent fiscal year. During the fiscal year ended February 28, 2017, the Fund did not acquire any such securities.

The Fund is also required to identify any brokerage transactions during its 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 Fund. The following table shows the amount of any such transactions and related commissions paid for research services for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2017:

Commissions	Transactions
\$24,734	\$40,124,573

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

Brokerage Commissions Paid During Fiscal Year Ended		
February 28, <u>2017</u>	February 29, <u>2016</u>	February 28, <u>2015</u>
\$24,734	\$48,696	\$34,186

Portfolio Turnover

Portfolio securities may be sold without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Adviser, investment considerations warrant such action. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing (1) the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by (2) 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 the Fund's portfolio, with the exception of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less, were sold and either repurchased or replaced within one year. A high rate of portfolio turnover (100% or more) generally leads to above-average transaction and brokerage commission costs and may generate capital gains, including short-term capital gains taxable to shareholders as ordinary income (for non-corporate shareholders, currently

taxable at a maximum federal income tax rate of 39.6%) and could increase brokerage commission costs. To the extent that the 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 ended February 28, 2017 and February 29, 2016, the portfolio turnover rate for the Fund was as follows:

Portfolio Turnover Rate During Fiscal Periods Ended	
February 28, <u>2017</u> 5.07%	February 29, <u>2016</u> 18.19%

Code of Ethics

The Fund, the Adviser 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 Adviser and Distributor to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund.

Proxy Voting Procedures

The Board of Trustees has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures (“Proxy Policies”) wherein the Trust has delegated to the Adviser the responsibility for voting proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Fund as part of its investment advisory services, subject to the supervision and oversight of the Board. Notwithstanding this delegation of responsibilities, however, the Fund retains the right to vote proxies relating to its 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 Fund and its shareholders, taking into account the value of the Fund’s investments.

In the event of a conflict between the interests of the Adviser and the Fund, the Proxy Policies provide that the conflict may be disclosed to the Board of Trustees or its delegate, who shall provide direction on how to vote the proxy. The Board of Trustees has delegated this authority to the Independent Trustees, and the proxy voting direction in such a case shall be determined by a majority of the Independent Trustees.

The Adviser’s Proxy Voting Guidelines

The Adviser seeks to vote proxies in a manner reasonably believed to be in the best interests of shareholders and not affected by any material conflict of interest. The Adviser will generally vote for proposals that it believes will maximize the value of the security held by the Fund. The Adviser will generally vote for proposals that it believes will lead to increases in a company’s dividend. The specific factors considered by the Adviser in voting proxies will likely vary from security to security, may include market information, liquidity, the industry and the Fund’s investment policies.

The Adviser will generally vote for: the election of directors (where no corporate governance issues are implicated); proposals that the Adviser believes strengthen the shared interests of shareholders and management; the selection of independent auditors based on management or director recommendation, unless a conflict of interest is perceived; management recommendations adding or amending indemnification provisions in charter or by-laws; and proposals that maintain or increase shareholders’ rights.

The Adviser will generally vote against proposals that it believes will hurt shareholder value or rights. In the event of a conflict between the interests of the Adviser and the Fund, the Proxy Policies provide that the conflict may be disclosed to the Board of Trustees or its delegate, who shall provide direction on how

to vote the proxy. The Board of Trustees has delegated this authority to the Independent Trustees, and the proxy voting direction in such a case shall be determined by a majority of the Independent Trustees.

The actual voting records relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free, (888) 983-3380 or by accessing the SEC's website at 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. Anita M. Zagrodnik has been designated as the Trust's Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer. Effective July 1, 2017, Ms. Elizabeth B. Scalf will replace Ms. Zagrodnik 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 Fund will not transact business with any person or entity whose identity cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

As a result of the Program, the Fund 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 Fund 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 Fund, has adopted portfolio holdings disclosure policies (the "Disclosure Policies") that govern the timing and circumstances of disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Fund. Information about the Fund's 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 Fund's 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 Fund's shareholders and the interests of the Advisor, Distributor or any other affiliated person of the Fund. After due consideration, the Board determined that the Fund has a legitimate business purpose for disclosing portfolio holdings to persons described in these Disclosure Policies.

Information about the Fund's 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 Fund;
- the disclosure is made to the Fund's 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 Adviser, the Board of Trustees, the Fund's independent registered public accountants, regulatory authorities, counsel to the Fund 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 Fund;

- the disclosure is made by the Adviser'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 Adviser's trading desk may periodically distribute a holdings list (consisting of names only) to broker-dealers so that such brokers can provide the Adviser with order flow information;
- the disclosure is made to institutional consultants evaluating the Fund 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 Fund's website at least one day prior to the disclosure); or
- the disclosure is made pursuant to prior written approval of the CCO, or other person so authorized, is for a legitimate business purpose and is in the best interests of the Fund's 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 Fund. 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 Fund's portfolio holdings.

The 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 Fund 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 Adviser or any other Fund affiliate.

Currently, between the 5th and 10th business day of the month following a calendar quarter, the Fund provides its quarterly portfolio holdings to rating and ranking organizations, including Lipper, a Thomson Reuters company, Morningstar, Inc., Standard & Poor's Financial Services, LLC, Bloomberg L.P., Thomson Reuters Corporation, Vickers Stock Research Corporation and Capital-Bridge, Inc. In addition, the Fund posts a fact sheet containing its top ten holdings to the Fund's website following each quarter end. Portfolio holdings information may be separately provided to any person, at the same time that it is filed with the SEC or one day after it is first published on the Fund's website. Portfolio holdings disclosure may be approved under the Disclosure Policies by the Trust's CCO, Treasurer or President. Disclosure of the Fund's 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.

Any suspected breach of this policy must be reported immediately to the CCO, or to the chief compliance officer of the Adviser who must report it to the 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 the 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 Fund 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 the 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 Fund outstanding at such time.

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

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

Each security held by the Fund that is listed on a securities exchange is valued at the last sale price on the exchange on the date as of which assets are valued. All equity securities that are not traded on a listed exchange are valued at the last sale price at the close of the over-the-counter market. If a non-exchange listed security does not trade on a particular day, then the mean between the last quoted bid and asked price will be used.

If the security is listed on more than one exchange, the Fund will use the price of the exchange that the Fund generally considers to be the principal exchange on which the security is traded. Portfolio securities listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("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, the security is valued at the mean between the most recent bid and asked prices 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 debt instruments having a maturity of 60 days or less, are valued at the mean in accordance with prices supplied by an approved 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 on a straight-line basis until maturity.

Money market funds, demand notes and repurchase agreements are valued at cost. If cost does not represent current market value the securities will be priced at fair value.

Redeemable securities issued by open-end, registered investment companies are valued at the NAVs of such companies for purchase and/or redemption orders placed on that day. All exchange-traded funds are valued at the last reported sale price on the exchange on which the security is principally traded.

All other assets of the Fund 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 Fund directly from the Fund, 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 Fund 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 Fund (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 applicable price next computed after the Authorized Intermediary (or its authorized designee) receives the request. Investors should check with their Financial Intermediary to determine if it is an Authorized Intermediary.

Shares are purchased at the applicable price determined after the Transfer Agent or Authorized Intermediary (or its authorized designee) receives your purchase request in good order, plus applicable sales charges. In most cases, in order to receive that day’s applicable price, 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 Fund’s shares; (ii) to reject purchase orders in whole or in part when in the judgment of the Adviser or the Distributor such rejection is in the best interest of the Fund; 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 Fund’s shares.

Sales Charges on Class A Shares

If you purchase Class A shares of the Fund you will pay an initial sales charge of 5.00% when you invest, unless you qualify for a reduction or waiver of the sales charge. The sales charge for Class A shares of the Fund is calculated as follows:⁽¹⁾

Investment Amount	Sales Charge as a % of Offering Price	Sales Charge as a % of Net Amount Invested	Dealer Reallocation
Less than \$50,000 ⁽²⁾	5.00%	5.26%	5.00%
\$50,000 but less than \$100,000	4.50%	4.71%	4.50%
\$100,000 but less than \$250,000	3.50%	3.63%	3.50%
\$250,000 but less than \$500,000	2.50%	2.56%	2.50%
\$500,000 or more ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

⁽¹⁾ The offering price is calculated to two decimal places using standard rounding criteria. As a result, the number of shares purchased and the dollar amount of the sales charge as a percentage of the offering price and of your net investment may be higher or lower depending on whether there was downward or upward rounding.

⁽²⁾ The minimum initial investment for Class A shares of the Fund is \$5,000.

⁽³⁾ There is no front-end sales charge for purchases of Class A shares of \$500,000 or more. However, a CDSC of 1.00% may be applied to redemptions of Class A shares within one year of purchase.

⁽⁴⁾ A finder’s fee of 1.00% may be paid directly or indirectly by the Adviser to the dealer on investments of \$500,000 or more.

You should always discuss the suitability of your investment with your broker-dealer or financial adviser.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge on Class C Shares

Class C shares are subject to a contingent deferred sales charge (“CDSC”). The CDSC is imposed on Class C shares redeemed by the shareholder within 12 months of purchase. The 1.00% CDSC is applied to the NAV of the shares on the date of original purchase or on the date of redemption, whichever is less.

Class A Sales Charge Reductions and Waivers

Maximum Investment in Class C Shares and Subsequent Class A Share Purchase. The maximum investment in Class C shares is \$500,000. If a shareholder’s investment in Class C shares exceeds \$500,000 (either through additional investments or the appreciation of your investments), the shareholder will have the option to either (1) maintain his/her Class C shares and make subsequent investments in a new Class A shares account, or (2) exchange (without federal income tax implications) all or a portion of his/her Class C shares for Class A shares and make subsequent investments in Class A shares. If a shareholder elects to exchange his/her Class C shares for Class A shares, the exchange will be subject to a 1.00% CDSC on any Class C shares the shareholder has owned for less than 12 months. In either case, subsequent investments in Class A shares will not incur a sales charge, provided that the shareholder’s aggregate investment in Class A and Class C shares exceeds \$500,000. If applicable to a shareholder’s account, the shareholder will be notified of more detailed information regarding these options. If the shareholder does not respond or does not elect one of the foregoing options once an investment in Class C shares exceeds \$500,000, the shareholder’s Class C shares account will be maintained but any subsequent investment by the shareholder will automatically be invested in Class A shares.

Rights of Accumulation. You may combine your current purchase of Class A shares of the Fund with other existing Class A and Class C shares currently owned for the purpose of qualifying for the lower initial sales charge rates that apply to larger purchases. The applicable sales charge for the new purchase is based on the total of your current purchase and the current value of all other Class A shares purchased in accounts at the public offering price and the value of the Class C shares you own at the net asset value at the financial intermediary at which you are making the current purchase. You may not aggregate shares held at different financial intermediaries. If the current purchase is made directly through the Transfer Agent, only those shares held directly at the Transfer Agent may apply toward the right of accumulation. You may aggregate shares that you own and that are currently owned by members of your “immediate family” including your spouse, child, stepchild, parent, stepparent, sibling, grandchild and grandparent, including in-law and adoptive relationships residing at the same address. Shares held in the name of a nominee or custodian under pension, profit sharing or employee benefit plans may not be combined with other shares to qualify for the right of accumulation. You must notify the Transfer Agent or your financial intermediary at the time of purchase in order for the right of accumulation to apply. The Fund is not liable for any difference in purchase price if you fail to notify the Transfer Agent of your intent to exercise your right of accumulation and the Fund reserves the right to modify or terminate this right at any time.

Reinstatement Privilege. If you redeem Class A shares of the Fund, and within 60 days purchase and register new Class A shares, you will not pay a sales charge on the new purchase amount. The amount eligible for this privilege may not exceed the amount of your redemption proceeds. To exercise this privilege, contact the Transfer Agent or your financial intermediary.

Letter of Intent. By signing a Letter of Intent (“LOI”), you can reduce your Class A sales charge. Your individual purchases will be made at the applicable sales charge based on the amount you intend to invest over a 13-month period. The LOI will apply to all purchases of Class A shares. Any Class A shares purchased within 90 days of the date you sign the letter of intent may be used as credit toward completion, but the reduced sales charge will only apply to new purchases made on or after that date. Purchases resulting from the reinvestment of distributions do not apply toward fulfillment of the LOI. Shares equal to 5.00% of the amount of the LOI will be held in escrow during the 13-month period. If at

the end of that time the total amount of purchases made is less than the amount intended, you will be required to pay the difference between the reduced sales charge and the sales charge applicable to the individual purchases had the LOI not been in effect. This amount will be obtained from redemption of the escrow shares. Any remaining escrow shares will be released to you.

Investments of \$500,000 or More. There is no initial sales charge on a lump sum Class A share purchase of \$500,000 or more, nor on any purchase into a Class A account with an accumulated value of \$500,000 or more. However, if you have taken advantage of this waiver and redeem your shares within 12 months of purchase, there is a CDSC of 1.00% imposed on such shares based on the lesser of original cost or current market value. However, the CDSC will not apply if you are otherwise entitled to a waiver of the initial sales charge as listed in “Initial Sales Charge Waivers” below. Also, the CDSC will not apply if you are entitled to a waiver as listed in “Contingent Deferred Sales Charges Waivers,” below.

Initial Sales Charge Waivers. Sales charges for Class A shares may be waived under certain circumstances for some investors or for certain purchases. You will not have to pay a sales charge on purchases of Class A shares if:

- you are an affiliate of the Adviser or any of its or the Fund’s officers, directors, trustees, Sub-Advisers, employees or retirees;
- you are a registered representative of any broker-dealer authorized to sell Fund shares, subject to the internal policies and procedures of the broker-dealer;
- you are a member of the immediate families of any of the foregoing (*i.e.*, parent, child, spouse, domestic partner, sibling, step or adopted relationships, grandparent, grandchild and UTMA accounts naming qualifying persons);
- you are a fee-based registered investment adviser, financial planner, bank trust department or registered broker-dealer and are purchasing shares on behalf of your customers;
- you are purchasing shares for retirement (not including IRA accounts) and deferred compensation plans and the trusts used to fund such plans (including, but not limited to, those defined in Sections 401(k), 403(b) and 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and “rabbi trusts”), for which an affiliate of the Adviser acts as trustee or administrator;
- you are purchasing shares for a 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plans, and profit sharing and pension plans that invest \$500,000 or more or have more than 100 participants;
- you are a current shareholder whose aggregate investment in Class A shares of the Fund exceeds \$500,000; or
- you are an individual on certain accounts under investment programs managed by the Adviser.

To receive a reduction in your Class A sales charge, you must let your financial institution or shareholder services representative know at the time you purchase shares that you qualify for such a reduction. You may be asked by your financial adviser or shareholder services representative to provide account statements or other information regarding your related accounts or related accounts of your immediate family in order to verify your eligibility for a reduced sales charge. Your investment professional or financial institution must notify the Fund if your share purchase is eligible for the sales load waiver. Sales charges will not be applied to shares purchased by reinvesting distributions.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge Waivers. For Class A shares, a CDSC is imposed on shares purchased at the \$500,000 breakpoint (as described in “Sales Charge on Class A Shares,” above) that are redeemed within 12 months of purchase. In the case of a partial redemption, the first shares redeemed are any reinvested shares. After that, shares are always redeemed on a “first in first out” basis. If the first shares

redeemed have been held for longer than 12 months from the date of purchase, then no sales charge is imposed on the redemption. The sales charge is imposed on a lot by lot basis on the market value or initial purchase price, whichever is lower. This deferred sales charge may be waived under certain circumstances such as:

- death of the shareholder;
- divorce, where there exists a court decree that requires redemption of the shares;
- return of IRA excess contributions;
- shares redeemed by the Fund due to low balance or other reasons; and
- required minimum distributions at age 70½ (waivers apply only to amounts necessary to meet the required minimum amount based on assets held within the Fund).

If you would like information about sales charge waivers, call your financial representative or contact the Fund at (888) 983-3380. Information about the Fund's Class A sales charges is available on the Fund's website at www.dearbornfunds.com.

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 Fund or through your Financial Intermediary. Shares will be redeemed at the NAV next determined after the Transfer Agent or your Authorized Intermediary (or its authorized designee) receives your redemption request in good order.

Payments to shareholders for shares of the Fund redeemed directly from the Fund 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 Fund 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 Fund not reasonably practicable; or (c) for such other period as the SEC may permit for the protection of the Fund's shareholders. Under unusual circumstances, the Fund 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 investor's cost, depending upon the market value of the Fund's portfolio securities at the time of redemption or repurchase.

Telephone Redemptions

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

The Transfer Agent will employ reasonable procedures to confirm that instructions communicated by telephone are genuine. If the Transfer Agent fails to employ reasonable procedures, the Fund and the Transfer Agent may be liable for any losses due to unauthorized or fraudulent instructions. If these

procedures are followed, however, to the extent permitted by applicable law, neither the Fund nor its agents will be liable for any loss, liability, cost or expense arising out of any redemption request, including any fraudulent or unauthorized request. For additional information, contact the Transfer Agent.

Redemption in Kind

The Fund does 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 Fund 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 the 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 the Fund pays your redemption proceeds by a distribution of securities, you could incur brokerage or other charges in converting the securities to cash, and will bear any market risks associated with such securities until they are converted into cash. For federal income tax purposes, redemptions 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

Each series of the Trust is treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. The Fund, as a series of the Trust, intends to qualify and elect to be treated as a regulated investment company (“RIC”) under Subchapter M of the Code, provided it complies with all applicable requirements regarding the source of its income, diversification of its assets and timing and amount of distributions. The 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, the Fund can give no assurances that its anticipated distributions will be sufficient to eliminate all taxes at the Fund level. If the Fund does not qualify as a RIC and is unable to obtain relief from such failure, it would be taxed as a 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 the underlying investments through the Fund.

To qualify as a RIC, the Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income from “good 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 interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships. Some Fund investments may produce income that will not qualify as good income for the purposes of this annual gross income requirement. There can be no assurance that the Fund will satisfy all requirements to be taxed as a RIC.

The 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 ending on October 31 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.

The MLPs in which the Fund intends to invest are expected to be “qualified publicly traded partnerships” for federal income tax purposes. The income derived from such investments constitutes “good income” for purposes of satisfying the source of income requirement for the Fund to maintain its status as a RIC. However, if an MLP in which the Fund invests does not qualify as a qualified publicly traded partnership (and the MLP is not otherwise taxed as a corporation for federal income tax purposes), the Fund must

look through to the character of the income generated by the MLP. Such income may not qualify as “good income” and could adversely affect the Fund’s status as a RIC.

The MLPs in which the Fund intends to invest are expected to be taxed as partnerships for federal income tax purposes, and accordingly, the cash distributions received by the Fund from an MLP may not correspond to the amount of income allocated to the Fund by the MLP in any given taxable year. If the amount of income allocated to the Fund by an MLP exceeds the amount of cash received by the Fund from such MLP, the Fund may have difficulty making distributions to its shareholders in the amounts necessary to satisfy the distribution requirements for maintaining the Fund’s status as a RIC. Accordingly, the Fund may have to dispose of its portfolio investments under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate sufficient cash to satisfy the distribution requirements.

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 the 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. The Fund may elect to defer certain losses for tax purposes. At February 28, 2017, the Fund had short-term capital losses and long-term capital losses of \$1,959,017 and \$1,960,237, respectively, which will be carried forward indefinitely to offset future realized capital gains. During the year ended February 28, 2017, the Fund utilized prior year capital loss carryovers of \$39,683.

Distributions of investment company taxable income (which includes, but is not limited to, interest, dividends, net short term capital gain and net gain from foreign currency transactions), if any, are generally taxable to shareholders as ordinary income (for non-corporate shareholders, currently taxable at a maximum federal income tax rate of 39.6%). For non-corporate shareholders, a portion of the 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 corporate shareholders, a portion of the 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 that a shareholder has owned Fund shares. For non-corporate shareholders, long-term capital gain is currently taxed at a maximum federal income tax rate of 20%. 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) the 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). The 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 or redemption of Fund shares is includable in such shareholder's investment income for purposes of this NII tax.

A sale or redemption 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 or redemption will generally be treated as 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 short-term capital gain or loss. However, any loss realized upon a sale or redemption 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 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 or redemption may be disallowed under certain wash sale rules to the extent shares of the Fund are purchased (through reinvestment of distributions or otherwise) within 30 days before or after the sale or redemption. 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 or redemption of the shares.

Under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA"), the 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 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 (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 the 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 adviser regarding the application of this FATCA withholding tax to your investment in the 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.

Except in the case of certain exempt shareholders, if a shareholder does not furnish the Fund with its correct Social Security Number or taxpayer identification number and certain certifications or the Fund receives notification from the IRS requiring backup withholding, the Fund is required by federal law to withhold federal income tax from the shareholder's distributions and redemption proceeds at a rate of 28% for U.S. residents.

Foreign taxpayers are generally subject to withholding tax at a flat rate of 30% on U.S. source income that is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the U.S. 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. You are urged to consult your own tax adviser.

Distributions

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

The amount of the 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 Fund does not pay "interest" or guarantee any fixed rate of return on an investment in its shares.

The Fund may also realize capital gains or losses in connection with sales or other dispositions (either actual or deemed) of its portfolio securities. Any net gain that the 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 the 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. Net capital losses realized by the 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 adviser.

Any distribution paid by the Fund reduces the 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 federal income taxes.

Distributions will be reinvested in additional shares of the 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 or by telephone. 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 Fund is required to report to certain shareholders and the IRS the cost basis of Fund shares ("covered shares") when the shareholder sells or redeems shares. This reporting requirement does not apply 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. The Fund is not required to determine or report a shareholder's cost basis in non-covered shares and is 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 or redemption of a share results in a gain or loss. If you sell or redeem covered shares during any year, then the Fund will report the gain or loss, cost basis, and holding period of such shares to the IRS and you on Form 1099.

A cost basis method is the method by which the Fund determines which specific covered shares are deemed to be sold or redeemed when a shareholder sells or redeems less than its entire holding of Fund shares and has made multiple purchases of Fund shares on different dates at differing NAVs. If a shareholder does not affirmatively elect a cost basis method, the Fund will use average cost method, which averages the basis of all Fund shares in an account regardless of holding period, and shares sold or redeemed are deemed to be those with the longest holding period 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 shares. The default cost basis method applied by the Fund or the alternate method elected by a shareholder may not be changed after the settlement date of a disposition of Fund shares.

If you hold Fund shares through a financial intermediary (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 adviser 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 Fund's 2017 Annual Report to Shareholders are incorporated by reference in this SAI.

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 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 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. In the U.S., for example, that means obligations with an original maturity of no more than 365 days—including commercial paper. Short-term ratings are also used to indicate the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to put features on long-term obligations. 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 commitment on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong.

A-2

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

A-3

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

B

A short-term obligation rated 'B' is regarded as vulnerable and has significant speculative characteristics. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties which 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 commitment 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 Global Ratings Underlying Rating)

A SPUR rating 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/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 to 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 decisions. 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 (Currently applied and/or outstanding)

S & P Global Ratings assigns qualifiers to ratings when appropriate. This section details active and inactive qualifiers.

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 addressed 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 Payment: “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 portion 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 postbankruptcy 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 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

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 are deemed taxable. Discontinued use in January 2001.

3. U.S. direct government securities: “G” inactive qualifier

The letter “G” following the rating symbol when a fund’s portfolio consists 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 the project financed by the debt being rated and indicates that payment of debt service requirements is 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 publication 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 will not exhibit extraordinary non-credit 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.

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 judgments 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 judgment 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 debt 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	Prime-1
Baa1 Baa2 Baa3	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.

For those countries in which foreign and local currency sovereign ratings are below ‘AAA’, and where there is demand for such ratings, Fitch Ratings will provide National Ratings. It is important to note that each National Rating scale is unique and is defined to serve the needs of the local market in question.

The National Rating scale provides a relative measure of creditworthiness for rated entities only within the country concerned. Under this rating scale, a ‘AAA’ Long-Term National Rating will be assigned to the lowest relative risk within that country, which, in most but not all cases, will be the sovereign state.

The National Rating scale merely ranks the degree of perceived risk relative to the lowest default risk in that same country. Like local currency ratings, National Ratings 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. It is not related to the rating scale of any other national market. Comparisons between different national scales or between an individual national scale and the international rating scale are therefore inappropriate and potentially misleading. Consequently they are identified by the addition of a special identifier for the country concerned, such as ‘AAA(arg)’ for National Ratings in Argentina.

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.

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 probability of default of a given national scale rating will vary over time.
- The value of default studies for national ratings can be 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 if they wish to infer future default probabilities for 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.
- Fitch attaches less confidence to conclusions about national scale default probabilities than for International Credit ratings. There has not been a comprehensive global study of default history among entities with national scales to show that their ex-post default experience has been consistent with ex-ante probabilities implied. This is due to the relatively short history of ratings in emerging markets and the restrictive relative nature of the national scales.

The above list is not exhaustive, and is provided for the reader’s convenience. Readers are requested to review the section Understanding Credit Ratings — Limitations and Usage for further information on the limitations of the agency’s ratings.

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: 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 page 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 issued 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: 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

A 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-3.

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.

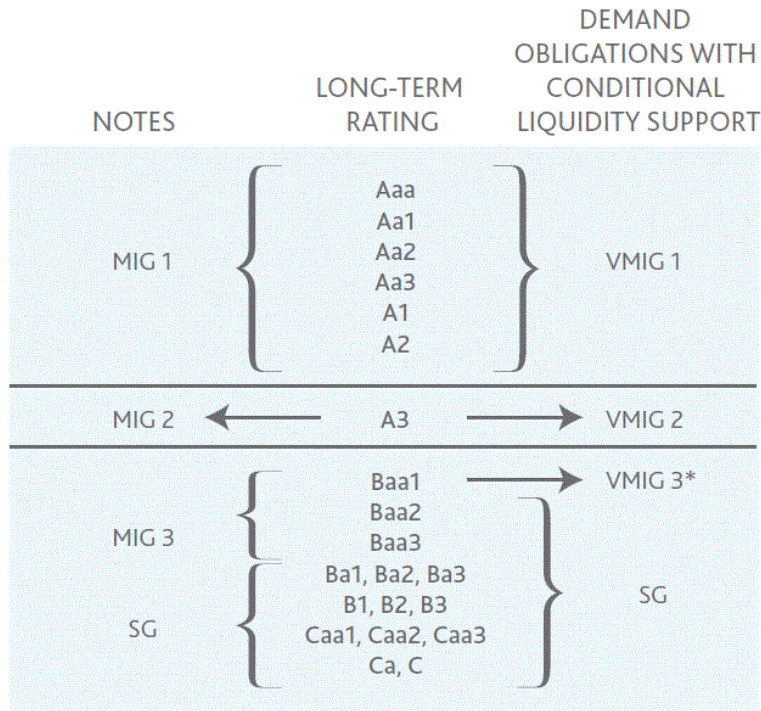
VMIG 3

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 May 31, 2017