

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**October 28, 2024**



**DAVIDSON MULTI-CAP EQUITY FUND**

<b>Class A</b>	<b>DFMAX</b>
<b>Class I</b>	<b>DFMIX</b>

**A Series of Advisors Series Trust**

**c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services  
P.O. Box 701  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-0701  
1-877-332-0529**

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus dated October 28, 2024, as may be revised, of the Davidson Multi-Cap Equity Fund (the “Fund”), a series of Advisors Series Trust (the “Trust”). Davidson Investment Advisors, Inc. (the “Advisor”) is the investment advisor to the Fund. Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained by contacting the Fund at the address or telephone number above or by visiting the Fund’s website at [www.davidsonmutualfunds.com](http://www.davidsonmutualfunds.com).

The Fund’s audited financial statements and notes thereto for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, are included in the Fund’s [Form N-CSR](#) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and are incorporated by reference into this SAI. A copy of the annual and semi-annual reports may be obtained without charge by calling or writing the Fund as shown above or by visiting the Fund’s website at [www.davidsonmutualfunds.com](http://www.davidsonmutualfunds.com).

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## THE TRUST

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust organized under the laws of the State of Delaware on October 3, 1996, and is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) as an open-end management investment company. The Trust’s Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the “Declaration of Trust”) permits the Trust’s Board of Trustees (the “Board” or the “Trustees”) to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share, which may be issued in any number of series. The Trust consists of various series that represent separate investment portfolios. The Board may from time to time issue other series, the assets and liabilities of which will be separate and distinct from any other series. This SAI relates only to the Fund, which are series of the Trust.

Registration with the SEC does not involve supervision of the management or policies of the Fund. The Fund’s Prospectus and this SAI omit certain of the information contained in the Registration Statement filed with the SEC. Copies of such information may be obtained from the SEC upon payment of the prescribed fee or may be accessed free of charge at the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

The Fund’s registration with the SEC was declared effective on July 3, 2008, and the Fund’s inception date was August 11, 2008.

## INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RISKS

The following discussion supplements the discussion of the Fund’s investment policies as set forth in the Prospectus.

### Diversification

The Fund is diversified. This means, among other things, that as to 75% of the Fund’s total assets (1) no more than 5% may be in the securities of a single issuer, and (2) it may not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of a single issuer.

Under applicable federal securities laws, the diversification of a mutual fund’s holdings is measured at the time the fund purchases a security. However, if the 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 the Fund, the Fund may have a greater percentage of its assets invested in securities of fewer issuers. Accordingly, the Fund is subject to the risk that its performance may be hurt disproportionately by the poor performance of relatively few securities despite the Fund’s qualifying as a diversified mutual fund under applicable federal securities laws.

### Percentage Limitations

Whenever an investment policy or limitation 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 standards 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, any subsequent change in values, net assets or other circumstances will not be considered in determining whether an investment complies with the Fund’s investment policies and limitations. 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 would sell such investments as soon as practicable while trying to maximize the return to its shareholders.

## **Market and Regulatory Risk**

Events in the financial markets and economy may cause volatility and uncertainty and affect performance. Such adverse effect on performance could include a decline in the value and liquidity of securities held by the Fund, unusually high and unanticipated levels of redemptions, an increase in portfolio turnover, a decrease in net asset value (“NAV”), and an increase in Fund expenses. It may also be unusually difficult to identify both investment risks and opportunities, in which case investment objectives may not be met. Market events may affect a single issuer, industry, sector, or the market as a whole. Traditionally liquid investments may experience periods of diminished liquidity. During a general downturn in the financial markets, multiple asset classes may decline in value and the Fund may lose value, regardless of the individual results of the securities and other instruments in which the Fund invests. It is impossible to predict whether or for how long such market events will continue, particularly if they are unprecedented, unforeseen or widespread events or conditions, pandemics, epidemics and other similar circumstances in one or more countries or regions. Therefore, it is important to understand that the value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply and for extended periods, and you could lose money.

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

## **Equity Securities**

The Fund may invest in common stocks, preferred stocks, convertible securities, warrants and foreign securities, including American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) and real estate investment trusts (“REITs”), each of which is subject to certain risks, as discussed below.

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

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

***Preferred Stock.*** Preferred stocks are equity securities that often pay dividends at a specific rate and have a preference over common stocks in dividend payments and liquidation of assets. A preferred stock has a blend of the characteristics of a bond and common stock. It can offer the higher yield of a bond and has priority over common stock in equity ownership, but does not have the seniority of a bond and, unlike

common stock, its participation in the issuer's growth may be limited. Although the dividend is set at a fixed annual rate, in some circumstances it can be changed or omitted by the issuer.

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

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

## **Foreign Securities**

The Fund may invest in foreign securities, including in emerging markets.

Funds that may invest in foreign securities offer the potential for more diversification than a fund that invests only in the United States because securities traded on foreign markets have often (though not always) performed differently from securities traded in the United States. However, such investments often involve risks not present in U.S. investments that can increase the chances that the Fund will lose money. In particular, the Fund is subject to the risk that, because there are generally fewer investors on foreign exchanges and a smaller number of shares traded each day, it may be difficult for the Fund to buy and sell securities on those exchanges. In addition, prices of foreign securities may fluctuate more than prices of securities traded in the United States. Investments in foreign markets may also be adversely affected by governmental actions such as the imposition of punitive taxes. In addition, the governments of certain countries may prohibit or impose substantial restrictions on foreign investing in their capital markets or in certain industries. Any of these actions could severely affect security prices, impair the Fund's ability to purchase or sell foreign securities or transfer the Fund's assets or income back into the United States, or otherwise adversely affect the Fund's operations. Other potential foreign market risks include exchange controls, difficulties in pricing securities, defaults on foreign government securities, difficulties in enforcing favorable legal judgments in foreign courts, and political and social conditions, such as diplomatic relations, confiscatory taxation, expropriation, limitation on the removal of funds or assets, or imposition of (or change in) exchange control regulations. Legal remedies available to investors in certain foreign countries may be less extensive than those available to investors in the United States or other foreign countries. In addition, changes in government administrations or economic or monetary policies in the U.S. or abroad could result in appreciation or depreciation of portfolio securities and could

favorably or adversely affect the Fund's operations. Also, brokerage commissions and other costs of buying or selling securities often are higher in foreign countries than they are in the United States. This reduces the amount the Fund can earn on its investments.

Many foreign governments supervise and regulate stock exchanges, brokers and the sale of securities less stringently than the United States. Some countries may not have laws to protect investors comparable to the U.S. securities laws. For example, some foreign countries may have no laws or rules against insider trading. Insider trading occurs when a person buys or sells a company's securities based on nonpublic information about that company. Accounting standards in other countries are not necessarily the same as in the United States. If the accounting standards in another country do not require as much detail as U.S. accounting standards, it may be harder for Fund management to completely and accurately determine a company's financial condition. In addition, the U.S. Government has from time to time in the past imposed restrictions, through penalties and otherwise, on foreign investments by U.S. investors such as the Fund. If such restrictions should be reinstated, it might become necessary for the Fund to invest all or substantially all of its assets in U.S. securities.

Investments in the securities of issuers domiciled in countries with emerging capital markets involve certain additional risks that do not generally apply to investments in securities of issuers in more developed capital markets, such as (i) low or non-existent trading volume, resulting in a lack of liquidity and increased volatility in prices for such securities, as compared to securities of comparable issuers in more developed capital markets; (ii) uncertain national policies and social, political and economic instability, increasing the potential for expropriation of assets, confiscatory taxation, high rates of inflation or unfavorable diplomatic developments; (iii) possible fluctuations in exchange rates, differing legal systems and the existence or possible imposition of exchange controls, custodial restrictions or other foreign or U.S. governmental laws or restrictions applicable to such investments; (iv) national policies that may limit the Fund's investment opportunities such as restrictions on investment in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to national interests; and (v) the lack or relatively early development of legal structures governing private and foreign investments and private property. In addition to withholding taxes on investment income, some countries with emerging markets may impose differential capital gains taxes on foreign investors.

Political and economic structures in emerging market countries may be undergoing significant evolution and rapid development, and these countries may lack the social, political and economic stability characteristic of more developed countries. In such a dynamic environment, there can be no assurance that any or all of these capital markets will continue to present viable investment opportunities for the Fund. In the past, governments of such nations have expropriated substantial amounts of private property, and most claims of the property owners have never been fully settled. There is no assurance that such expropriations will not reoccur. In such an event, it is possible that the Fund could lose the entire value of its investments in the affected market. As a result the risks described above, including the risks of nationalization or expropriation of assets, may be heightened. In addition, unanticipated political or social developments may affect the value of investments in these countries and the availability to the Fund of additional investments.

Also, there may be less publicly available information about issuers in emerging markets than would be available about issuers in more developed capital markets, and such issuers may not be subject to accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and requirements comparable to those to which U.S. companies are subject. In certain countries with emerging capital markets, reporting standards vary widely. As a result, traditional investment measurements used in the United States, such as price/earnings ratios, may not be applicable. Emerging market securities may be substantially less liquid and more

volatile than those of mature markets, and company shares may be held by a limited number of persons. This may adversely affect the timing and pricing of the Fund's acquisition or disposal of securities.

Dividends and interest payable on the Fund's foreign securities may be subject to foreign withholding tax. The Fund may also be subject to foreign taxes on its trading profits. Some countries may also impose a transfer or stamp duty on certain securities transactions. The imposition of these taxes will increase the cost to the Fund of investing in those countries that impose these taxes. To the extent such taxes are not offset by credits or deductions available to shareholders in the Fund under U.S. tax law, they will reduce the net return to the Fund's shareholders. Based on the principal investment strategies of the Fund, it is not expected that the Fund will be eligible to pass through to its shareholders any credits or deductions against their U.S. federal income tax with respect to any foreign withholding taxes paid by the Fund.

To the extent the Fund invests in securities denominated in foreign currencies, the Fund will be subject to the risk that a change in the value of any such currency against the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding change in the U.S. dollar value of the Fund's assets denominated in that currency. Investing in foreign denominated securities may also result in transaction costs incurred in connection with conversions between various currencies. In addition, only a limited market currently exists for hedging transactions relating to currencies in certain emerging markets and securities transactions undertaken in foreign markets may not be settled promptly, subjecting the Fund to the risk of fluctuating currency exchange rates pending settlement.

The Fund will not buy or sell foreign currency, except as necessary to convert the proceeds of the sale of foreign portfolio securities into U.S. dollars.

***Brexit.*** The United Kingdom formally left the European Union ("EU") on January 31, 2020 (a measure commonly referred to as "Brexit"). Following the withdrawal, in December 2020, the United Kingdom and the EU entered into a new trading relationship. The agreement allows for continued trading free of tariffs, but institutes other new requirements for trading between the United Kingdom and the EU. Even with a new trading relationship having been established, Brexit could continue to affect European or world wide political, regulatory, economic, or market conditions. There is the possibility that there will continue to be considerable uncertainty about the potential impact of these developments on United Kingdom, European and global economies and markets. There is also the possibility of withdrawal movements within other EU countries and the possibility of additional political, economic and market uncertainty and instability. Brexit and any similar developments may have negative effects on economies and markets, such as increased volatility and illiquidity and potentially lower economic growth in the United Kingdom, EU and globally, which may adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments. Whether or not the Fund invests in securities of issuers located in Europe or with significant exposure to European issuers or countries, these events could result in losses to the Fund, as there may be negative effects on the value and liquidity of the Fund's investments and/or the Fund's ability to enter into certain transactions.

### **Depositary Receipts**

The Fund may make investments in securities of non-U.S. issuers ("foreign securities") through Depositary Receipts ("DRs"). Depositary Receipts include ADRs, EDRs, GDRs or other forms of DRs. DRs are certificates evidencing ownership of shares of a foreign issuer. These certificates are issued by depository banks and generally trade on an established market in the United States or elsewhere. The underlying shares are held in trust by a custodian bank or similar financial institution in the issuer's home country. The depository bank may not have physical custody of the underlying securities at all times and may charge fees for various services, including forwarding dividends and interest and corporate actions.

ADRs are alternatives to directly purchasing the underlying foreign securities in their national markets and currencies. Prices of ADRs are quoted in U.S. dollars, and ADRs are traded in the U.S. on exchanges or over-the-counter. While ADRs do not eliminate all the risks associated with foreign investments, by investing in ADRs rather than directly in the stock of foreign issuers, the Fund will avoid currency and certain foreign market trading risks during the settlement period for either purchases or sales. However, ADRs continue to be subject to many of the risks associated with investing directly in foreign securities. These risks include foreign exchange risk as well as the political and economic risks of the underlying issuer's country. In general, there is a large, liquid market in the U.S. for ADRs quoted on a national securities exchange. The information available for ADRs is subject to the accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards of the U.S. market or exchange on which they are traded, which standards are generally more uniform and more exacting than those to which many foreign issuers may be subject.

In sponsored programs, an issuer has made arrangements to have its securities traded in the form of depositary receipts. In unsponsored programs, the issuer may not be directly involved in the creation of the program. Although regulatory requirements with respect to sponsored and unsponsored programs are generally similar, in some cases it may be easier to obtain financial information about an issuer that has participated in the creation of a sponsored program. There may be an increased possibility of untimely responses to certain corporate actions of the issuer, such as stock splits and rights offerings, in an unsponsored program. Accordingly, there may be less information available regarding issuers of securities underlying unsponsored programs and there may not be a correlation between this information and the market value of the depositary receipts. If the Fund's investment depends on obligations being met by the arranger as well as the issuer of an unsponsored program, the Fund will be exposed to additional credit risk. EDRs and GDRs are receipts evidencing an arrangement with a non-U.S. bank similar to that for ADRs and are designed for use in the non-U.S. securities markets.

### **Small and Medium Companies**

Many of the companies in which the Fund may invest will include those that have limited product lines, services, markets, or financial resources, or that are 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 and are followed by relatively few security analysts, there will normally be less publicly available information concerning these securities compared to what is available for the securities of larger companies or companies with larger capitalizations ("large-sized 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.

Historically, smaller companies and the stocks of companies with smaller or mid-sized companies ("small-sized companies") have been more volatile in price than large-sized companies. Among the reasons for the greater price volatility of these small-sized company stocks are the less certain growth prospects of small-sized companies, the lower degree of liquidity in the markets for such stocks, the greater sensitivity of small-sized companies to changing economic conditions and the fewer market makers and wider spreads between quoted bid and asked prices which exist in the over-the-counter market for such stocks. Besides exhibiting greater volatility, small-sized company stocks may, to a degree, fluctuate independently of large-sized company stocks. Small-sized company stocks may decline in price as large-sized company stocks rise, or rise in price as large-sized company stocks decline. Investors should therefore expect that the Fund that invests primarily in small-sized companies will be more volatile than, and may fluctuate independently of, broad stock market indices such as the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index.



## Other Investment Companies

The Fund may invest in shares of other registered investment companies, including exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), money market mutual funds and other mutual funds in pursuit of its investment objective, in accordance with the limitations established under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”). This may include investments in money market mutual funds in connection with the Fund’s management of daily cash positions and temporary defensive purpose. Investments in the securities of other investment companies may involve duplication of advisory fees and certain other expenses. By investing in another investment company, the Fund becomes a shareholder of that investment company. As a result, Fund shareholders indirectly will bear the Fund’s proportionate share of the fees and expenses paid by shareholders of the other investment company, in addition to the fees and expenses Fund shareholders directly bear in connection with the Fund’s own operations.

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

The Fund may rely on Section 12(d)(1)(F) and Rule 12d1-3 of the 1940 Act, which provide an exemption from Section 12(d)(1) that allows the Fund to invest all of its assets in other registered funds, including ETFs, if, among other conditions: (a) the Fund, together with its affiliates, acquires no more than 3% of the outstanding voting stock of any acquired fund, and (b) the sales load or service fee charged on the Fund’s shares is no greater than the limits set forth in Rule 2341 of the Conduct Rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”). In accordance with Rule 12d1-1 under the 1940 Act, the provisions of Section 12(d)(1) shall not apply to shares of money market funds purchased by the Fund, whether or not for temporary defensive purposes, provided that the Fund does not pay a sales charge, distribution fee or service fee as defined in Rule 2341 of the Conduct Rules of FINRA on acquired money market fund shares (or the Advisor must waive its advisory fees in an amount necessary to offset any sales charge, distribution fee or service fee).

The SEC has adopted revisions to the rules permitting funds to invest in other investment companies to streamline and enhance the regulatory framework applicable to fund of funds arrangements. While Rule 12d1-4 permits more types of fund of fund arrangements without an exemptive order, it imposes conditions, including limits on control and voting of acquired funds’ shares, evaluations and findings by investment advisers, fund investment agreements, and limits on most three-tier fund structures.

***Exchange-Traded Funds.*** ETFs are open-end investment companies whose shares are listed on a national securities exchange. An ETF is similar to a traditional mutual fund, but trades at different prices during the day on a security exchange like a stock. Similar to investments in other investment companies discussed above, the Fund’s investments in ETFs will involve duplication of advisory fees and other expenses since the Fund will be investing in another investment company. In addition, the Fund’s investment in ETFs is also subject to its limitations on investments in investment companies discussed above. To the extent the Fund invests in ETFs which focus on a particular market segment or industry, the Fund will also be subject to the risks associated with investing in those sectors or industries. The shares of the ETFs in which the Fund will invest will be listed on a national securities exchange and the Fund will purchase or sell these shares on the secondary market at its current market price, which may be more or less than its NAV per share.

As a purchaser of ETF shares on the secondary market, the Fund will be subject to the market risk associated with owning any security whose value is based on market price. ETF shares historically have tended to trade at or near their NAV, but there is no guarantee that they will continue to do so. Unlike traditional mutual funds, shares of an ETF may be purchased and redeemed directly from the ETFs only in large blocks (typically, 50,000 shares or more) and only through participating organizations that have entered into contractual agreements with the ETF. The Fund does not expect to enter into such agreements and therefore will not be able to purchase and redeem its ETF shares directly from the ETF.

### **Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”)**

The Fund may invest in shares of REITs. REITs are pooled investment vehicles which invest primarily in real estate or real estate related loans. REITs are generally classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or a combination of equity and mortgage REITs. Equity REITs invest the majority of their assets directly in real property and derive income primarily from the collection of rents. Equity REITs can also realize capital gains by selling properties that have appreciated in value. Mortgage REITs invest the majority of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive income from the collection of interest payments. Like regulated investment companies such as the Fund, REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided they comply with certain requirements under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). The Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any expenses paid by REITs in which they invest in addition to the expenses paid by the Fund. Investing in REITs involves certain unique risks. Equity REITs may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by such REITs, while mortgage REITs may be affected by the quality of any credit extended. REITs are dependent upon management skills, are not diversified (except to the extent the Code requires), and are subject to the risks of financing projects. REITs are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, default by borrowers, self-liquidation, and the possibilities of failing to qualify for the exemption from tax for distributed income under the Code and failing to maintain their exemptions from the 1940 Act. REITs (especially mortgage REITs) are also subject to interest rate risks.

### **Short-Term, Temporary, and Cash Investments**

When the Advisor believes market, economic or political conditions are unfavorable for investors, the Advisor may invest up to 100% of the Fund’s net assets in a temporary defensive manner or hold a substantial portion of its net assets in cash, cash equivalents or other short-term investments. Unfavorable market or economic conditions may include excessive volatility or a prolonged general decline in the securities markets, or the U.S. economy. Temporary defensive investments generally may include U.S. Government securities, certificates of deposit, high-grade commercial paper, repurchase agreements, money market mutual fund shares and other money market equivalents. The Advisor also may invest in these types of securities or hold cash while looking for suitable investment opportunities or to maintain liquidity. The Fund may invest in any of the following securities and instruments:

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

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

*Bank Certificates of Deposit, Bankers' Acceptances and Time Deposits.* The Fund may acquire bank certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and time deposits. Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates issued against monies deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers' acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are "accepted" by a bank, meaning in effect that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity. Certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances acquired by the 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 the fund that invests only in debt obligations of U.S. domestic issuers. 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 that may be made and interest rates that may be charged. In addition, the profitability of the banking industry depends largely upon the availability and cost of funds for the purpose of financing lending operations under prevailing money market conditions. General economic conditions as well as exposure to credit losses arising from possible financial difficulties of borrowers play an important part in the operations of the banking industry.

As a result of federal and state laws and regulations, domestic banks are, among other things, required to maintain specified levels of reserves, limited in the amount which they can loan to a single borrower, and subject to other regulations designed to promote financial soundness. However, such laws and regulations do not necessarily apply to foreign bank obligations that the 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 the 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 consist of issues rated at the time of purchase “A-2” or higher by S&P Global Ratings (“S&P”), “Prime-1” or “Prime-2” by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. (“Moody’s”), or similarly rated by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization or, if unrated, will be determined by the Advisor to be of comparable quality. These rating symbols are described in the Appendix.

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

### **Illiquid and Restricted Securities**

Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act, the Fund may not acquire any “illiquid investment” if, immediately after the acquisition, the Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments that are assets. An “illiquid investment” is any investment that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. The Fund has implemented a liquidity risk management program and related procedures to identify illiquid investments pursuant to Rule 22e-4. The 15% limits are applied as of the date the Fund purchases an illiquid investment. It is possible that the Fund’s holding of illiquid investment could exceed the 15% limit, for example as a result of market developments or redemptions.

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

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

Illiquid investments are often restricted securities sold in private placement transactions between issuers and their purchasers and may be neither listed on an exchange nor traded in other established markets. In many cases, the privately placed securities may not be freely transferable under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction or due to contractual restrictions on resale. To the extent privately placed securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices realized from the sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund or less than the fair value of the securities. In addition, issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to the disclosure and other investor protection requirements that may be applicable if their securities were publicly traded. If any privately placed

securities held by the Fund are required to be registered under the securities laws of one or more jurisdictions before being resold, the Fund may be required to bear the expenses of registration. Private placement investments may involve investments in smaller, less seasoned issuers, which may involve greater risks than investments in more established companies. These issuers may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or they may be dependent on a limited management group. In making investments in private placement securities, the Fund may obtain access to material non-public information, which may restrict the Fund's ability to conduct transactions in those securities.

### **Lending Portfolio Securities**

The Fund may lend its portfolio securities in an amount not exceeding one-third of its total assets to financial institutions such as banks and brokers if the loan is collateralized in accordance with applicable regulations. Under the present regulatory requirements which govern loans of portfolio securities, the loan collateral must, on each business day, at least equal the value of the loaned securities and must consist of cash, letters of credit of domestic banks or domestic branches of foreign banks, or securities of the U.S. Government or its agencies. To be acceptable as collateral, letters of credit must obligate a bank to pay amounts demanded by the Fund if the demand meets the terms of the letter. Such terms and the issuing bank would have to be satisfactory to the Fund. Any loan might be secured by any one or more of the three types of collateral. The terms of the Fund's loans must permit the Fund to reacquire loaned securities on five days' notice or in time to vote on any serious matter and must meet certain tests under the Code.

The primary risk in securities lending is a default by the borrower during a sharp rise in price of the borrowed security resulting in a deficiency in the collateral posted by the borrower. The Fund will seek to minimize this risk by requiring that the value of the securities loaned be computed each day and additional collateral be furnished each day if required. In addition, the Fund is exposed to the risk of delay in recovery of the loaned securities or possible loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower become insolvent. As well, all investments made with the collateral received are subject to the risks associated with such investments. If such investments lose value, the Fund will have to cover the loss when repaying the collateral.

### **Borrowing**

The 1940 Act permits the Fund to borrow money in amounts of up to one-third of the Fund's total assets from banks for any purpose, and to borrow up to 5% of the Fund's total assets from banks or other lenders for temporary purposes. To limit the risks attendant to borrowing, the 1940 Act requires a Fund to maintain at all times an "asset coverage" of at least 300% of the amount of its borrowings. Asset coverage means the ratio that the value of a Fund's total assets, minus liabilities other than borrowings, bears to the aggregate amount of all borrowings. Borrowing money to increase a Fund's investment portfolio is known as "leveraging." The use of borrowing by the Fund involves special risk considerations that may not be associated with other funds having similar objectives and policies. Since substantially all of the Fund's assets fluctuate in value, while the interest obligation resulting from a borrowing will be fixed by the terms of the Fund's agreement with its lender, the NAV per share of the Fund will tend to increase more when its portfolio securities increase in value and to decrease more when its portfolio assets decrease in value than would otherwise be the case if the Fund did not borrow. 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.

## **Special Risks Related to Cyber Security**

The Fund and its service providers are susceptible to cyber security risks that include, among other things, theft, unauthorized monitoring, release, misuse, loss, destruction or corruption of confidential and highly restricted data; denial of service attacks; unauthorized access to relevant systems, compromises to networks or devices that the Fund and its service providers use to service the Fund's operations; or operational disruption or failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support the Fund and its service providers. Cyber-attacks against or security breakdowns of the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund and its shareholders, potentially resulting in, among other things, financial losses; the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions; inability to calculate the Fund's NAV; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs; and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund may incur additional costs for cyber security risk management and remediation purposes. In addition, cyber security risks may also impact issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which may cause the Fund's investment in such issuers to lose value. There can be no assurance that the Fund or its service providers will not suffer losses relating to cyber attacks or other information security breaches in the future.

## **INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The Trust (on behalf of the Fund) has adopted the following restrictions as fundamental policies, which may not be changed without the affirmative vote of the holders of a "majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities" as defined in 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's investment objective is fundamental.

In addition, the Fund may not:

1. With respect to 75% of its total assets, invest more than 5% of its total assets in securities of a single issuer or hold more than 10% of the voting securities of such issuer. (Does not apply to investment in the securities of other investment companies or securities of the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities.);
2. Make loans (except as permitted by the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder); or
3. Purchase or sell real estate, which term does not include securities of companies which deal in real estate and/or mortgages or investments secured by real estate, or interests therein, except that the Fund reserves freedom of action to hold and to sell real estate acquired as a result of the Fund's ownership of securities.

Additionally, the Fund may not:

1. Issue senior securities, borrow money or pledge its assets, except through reverse repurchase agreements or as permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder;
2. Act as underwriter (except to the extent the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter in connection with the sale of securities in its investment portfolio);

3. Purchase or sell physical commodities, 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 backed by physical commodities;
4. Purchase the securities of issuers conducting their principal business activity in the same industry if, immediately after the purchase and as a result thereof, the value of the Fund's investments in that industry would equal or exceed 25% of the current value of the Fund's total assets, provided that this restriction does not limit the Fund's investments in (i) securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities, (ii) securities of other investment companies, or (iii) repurchase agreements, subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act; or
5. Pledge, hypothecate, mortgage or otherwise encumber its assets, except to secure permitted borrowings. Initial and variation margin for futures and options contracts will not be deemed to be a pledge of the Fund's assets.

The Fund observes the following restrictions as a matter of operating but not fundamental policy. Except as noted below, the Fund may:

1. Not make investments for the purpose of exercising control or management;
2. Not hold more than 15% of the Fund's net assets in illiquid investments that are assets pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act; or
3. Not make any change in its investment policy of investing at least 80% of its net assets in the investments suggested by the Fund's name without first providing the Fund's shareholders with at least 60 days' prior written notice.

The Fund is prohibited from investing in derivatives, excluding certain currency and interest rate hedging transactions. This restriction is not fundamental and may be changed by the Fund without a shareholder vote. If the Fund does determine to invest in derivatives in the future, it will comply with Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act.

If a percentage or rating restriction on investment or use of assets set forth herein or in the Prospectus is adhered to at the time a transaction is effected, later changes in percentage resulting from any cause other than actions by the Fund will not be considered a violation, except that there is an ongoing asset coverage requirement in the case of borrowings.

## **PORTFOLIO TURNOVER**

Although the Fund generally will not invest for short-term trading purposes, portfolio securities may be sold without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Advisor, 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 higher transaction costs and may result in a greater number of taxable transactions at higher ordinary income tax rates.

For the fiscal years indicated below, the Fund’s portfolio turnover rates were as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
29.02%	16.44%

## MANAGEMENT

The overall management of the business and affairs of the Trust is vested with its Board, all of whom are independent of the Advisor. The Board approves all significant agreements between the Trust and persons or companies furnishing services to it, including the agreements with the Advisor, Administrator, Custodian and Transfer Agent, each as defined herein. The day-to-day operations of the Trust are delegated to its officers, subject to the Fund’s investment objective, strategies, and policies and to general supervision by the Board.

The Trustees and officers of the Trust, their ages, positions with the Trust, term of office with the Trust and length of time served, business addresses, principal occupations during the past five years and other directorships held are set forth in the table below.

### Independent Trustees<sup>(1)</sup>

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served*	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee <sup>(2)</sup>	Other Directorships Held During Past Five Years <sup>(3)</sup>
David G. Mertens (1960) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Board Chair	Indefinite term; since October 2023.	Partner and Head of Business Development QSV Equity Investors, LLC (formerly known as Ballast Equity Management, LLC) (a privately-held investment advisory firm) (February 2019 to present); Managing Director and Vice President, Jensen Investment Management, Inc. (a privately-held investment advisory firm) (2002 to 2017).	1	Trustee, Advisors Series Trust (for series not affiliated with the Fund).
	Trustee	Indefinite term; since March 2017.			
Joe D. Redwine (1947) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite term; since September 2008.	Retired; formerly Manager, President, CEO, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, and its predecessors, (May 1991 to July 2017).	1	Trustee, Advisors Series Trust (for series not affiliated with the Fund).



<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served*</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During Past Five Years<sup>(5)</sup></b>
Michele Rackey (1959) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite term; since January 2023.	Chief Executive Officer, Government Employees Benefit Association (GEBA) (benefits and wealth management organization) (2004 to 2020); Board Member, Association Business Services Inc. (ABSI) (for-profit subsidiary of the American Society of Association Executives) (2019 to 2020).	1	Trustee, Advisors Series Trust (for series not affiliated with the Fund).
Anne W. Kritzmire (1962) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite term; since August 2024.	Principal Owner of AW Kritzmire Consulting (2021-Present); Business Faculty Lead of Lake Forest Graduate School of Management (2021-Present); Head of Multi-Asset and various other positions of Nuveen Investments (1999-2020).	1	Lead Independent Director of Thornburg Income Builder Opportunities Trust (a closed end fund) (2020-Present); Trustee, Finance Commissioner, and Acting Treasurer of Village of Long Grove (municipal government) (2017-Present).
Craig B. Wainscott (1961) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite term; since August 2024.	CEO instaCOVER LLC (Specialized insurance/technology company) 2014-2021, and CFO 2021-2023.	1	Independent Trustee of iMGP Funds (14 Funds) (2024-Present); Independent Trustee and Board Chair of Brandes Investment Trust (6 Funds) (2011-2024); Board Member of Paradigm Project (social venture company) (2010-2020).

## Officers

<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</b>
Jeffrey T. Rauman (1969) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	President, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer	Indefinite term; since December 2018.	Senior Vice President, Compliance and Administration, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (February 1996 to present).
Kevin J. Hayden (1971) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Vice President, Treasurer and Principal Financial Officer	Indefinite term; since January 2023.	Vice President, Compliance and Administration, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (June 2005 to present).
Richard R. Conner (1982) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite term; since December 2018.	Assistant Vice President, Compliance and Administration, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (July 2010 to present).
Joseph R. Kolinsky (1970) 2020 E. Financial Way, Suite 100 Glendora, CA 91741	Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer and AML Officer	Indefinite term; since July 2023.	Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (May 2023 to present); Chief Compliance Officer, Chandler Asset Management, Inc. (2020 to 2022); Director, Corporate Compliance, Pacific Life Insurance Company (2018 to 2019).
Lillian A. Kabakali (1980) 2020 E. Financial Way, Suite 100 Glendora, CA 91741	Vice President and Secretary	Indefinite term; since March 2024.	Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (April 2023 to present); Vice President, Compliance, Guggenheim Partners Investment Management Holdings, LLC (April 2019 to April 2023); Senior Associate, Compliance, Guggenheim Partners Investment Management Holdings, LLC (January 2018 to April 2019).
Elaine E. Richards (1968) 2020 E. Financial Way, Suite 100 Glendora, CA 91741	Assistant Secretary	Indefinite term; since March 2024.	Senior Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (July 2007 to present).

\* The Trustees have designated a mandatory retirement age of 75, such that each Trustee, serving as such on the date he or she reaches the age of 75, shall submit his or her resignation not later than the last day of the calendar year in which his or her 75th birthday occurs (“Retiring Trustee”). Upon request, the Board may, by vote of a majority of the Trustees eligible to vote on such matter, determine whether or not to extend such Retiring Trustee’s term and on the length of a one-time extension of up to three additional years. At a meeting held December 7-8, 2022, by vote of the majority of the Trustees (not including Mr. Redwine), Mr. Redwine’s term as Trustee was extended for three additional years to expire on December 31, 2025.

(1) The Trustees of the Trust who are not “interested persons” of the Trust as defined under the 1940 Act (“Independent Trustees”).

(2) As of June 30, 2024, the Trust was comprised of 33 active portfolios managed by unaffiliated investment advisers. The term “Fund Complex” applies only to the Davidson Multi-Cap Equity Fund. The Fund does not hold itself out as related to any other series within the Trust for investment purposes, nor does it share the same investment adviser with any other series.

(3) “Other Directorships Held” includes only directorship of companies required to register or file reports with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Act, as amended, (that is, “public companies”) or other investment companies registered under the 1940 Act.

## Compensation

Effective January 1, 2024, the Independent Trustees each receive an annual retainer of \$108,500 per year allocated among each of the various portfolios comprising the Trust, an additional \$6,000 per regularly scheduled Board meeting, and an additional \$500 per special meeting, paid by the Trust or applicable advisors/portfolios, as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with attendance at Board meetings. Prior to January 1, 2024, the annual retainer was \$102,500. The Trust Chair, Chair of the Audit Committee, and Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee each receive a separate annual fee of \$10,000, \$5,000, and \$3,000, respectively, provided that the separate fee for the Chair of the Audit Committee will be waived if the same individual serves as both Trust Chair and Audit Committee Chair. The Trust has no pension or retirement plan. No other entity affiliated with the Trust pays any compensation to the Trustees. Set forth below is the compensation received by the Independent Trustees from the Fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from Fund Complex Paid to Trustees <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Independent Trustee</b>				
David G. Mertens	\$4,162	None	None	\$4,162
Raymond B. Woolson <sup>(3)</sup>	\$811	None	None	\$811
Joe D. Redwine	\$4,117	None	None	\$4,117
Michele Rackey	\$4,192	None	None	\$4,192
Anne W. Kritzmire <sup>(4)</sup>	None	None	None	None
Craig B. Wainscott <sup>(4)</sup>	None	None	None	None

<sup>(1)</sup> For the Fund's fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

<sup>(2)</sup> There are currently numerous series comprising the Trust. The term "Fund Complex" refers only to the Fund and not to any other series of the Trust. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, aggregate Independent Trustees' fees for the Trust were \$477,750.

<sup>(3)</sup> Mr. Woolson retired from his position with the Board as a Trustee effective as of October 18, 2023 for personal reasons to attend to health-related matters.

<sup>(4)</sup> Prior to their election as Trustees on August 27, 2024, Ms. Kritzmire and Mr. Wainscott served as paid consultants to the Trust between June 1, 2024 and August 26, 2024.

## Additional Information Concerning Our Board of Trustees

### *The 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 operations of the Trust is the responsibility of various service providers to the Trust, such as the Trust's investment advisers, 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 investment advisers, distributor, administrator, custodian and transfer agent. The Board has appointed various senior 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 Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") who administers the Trust's compliance program and regularly reports to the Board as to compliance matters. Some of these reports are provided as part of formal "Board Meetings" which are typically held quarterly, in person, and involve the Board's review of recent 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. It has established three standing committees, an Audit Committee, a Governance and Nominating Committee and a Qualified Legal Compliance Committee (the “QLCC”), which are discussed in greater detail under “Board Committees,” below. Currently, all of the members of the Board are Independent Trustees, which are Trustees that are not affiliated with the Adviser or its affiliates or any other investment adviser in the Trust or with its principal underwriter. The Independent Trustees have engaged their own independent counsel to advise them on matters relating to their responsibilities in connection with the Trust.

The President, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer of the Trust is not a Trustee, but rather is a senior employee of the Administrator who routinely interacts with the unaffiliated investment advisers of the Trust and comprehensively manages the operational aspects of the Funds in the Trust. The Trust has appointed David Mertens, an Independent Trustee, as Board Chair, and he acts as a liaison with the Trust’s service providers, officers, legal counsel, and other Trustees between meetings, helps to set Board meeting agendas, and serves as Chair during executive sessions of the Independent Trustees.

The Board reviews its structure annually. The Trust has determined that it is appropriate to separate the Principal Executive Officer and Board Chair positions because the day-to day responsibilities of the Principal Executive Officer are not consistent with the oversight role of the Trustees and because of the potential conflict of interest that may arise from the Administrator’s duties with the Trust. 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. Because risk management is a broad concept comprised 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 Governance and Nominating Committee meets regularly with the CCO to discuss compliance and operational risks and the Audit Committee 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 Adviser and portfolio managers as to investment risks as well as other risks that may be also discussed in Audit Committee.

#### *Information about Each Trustee’s Qualification, Experience, Attributes or Skills*

The Board believes that each of the Trustees has the qualifications, experience, attributes and skills (“Trustee Attributes”) appropriate to their continued service as Trustees of the Trust in light of the Trust’s business and structure. Each of the Trustees has substantial business and professional backgrounds that indicate they have the ability to critically review, evaluate and access information provided to them. Certain of these business and professional experiences are set forth in detail in the table above. In addition, the majority of the Trustees have served on boards for organizations other than the Trust, as well as having served on the Board of the Trust for a number of years. They therefore 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 individual Trustees is reviewed.

In addition to the information provided in the table above, below is certain additional information concerning each particular Trustee and certain of their Trustee Attributes. The information provided below, and in the table above, is not all-inclusive. Many Trustee Attributes involve intangible elements, such as intelligence, integrity, work ethic, the ability to work together, the ability to communicate effectively, the ability to exercise judgment, 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.

*David G. Mertens.* Mr. Mertens has substantial mutual fund experience and is experienced with financial, accounting, investment and regulatory matters. He currently serves as Partner and Head of Business Development of QSV Equity Investors, LLC, (formerly known as Ballast Equity Management, LLC), a privately-held investment advisory firm. Mr. Mertens also gained substantial mutual fund experience through his tenure as Managing Director and Vice President of Jensen Investment Management, Inc. (“Jensen”) from 2002 to 2017. Prior to Jensen, Mr. Mertens held various roles in sales and marketing management with Berger Financial Group, LLC from 1995 to 2002, ending as Senior Vice President of Institutional Marketing for Berger Financial Group and President of its limited purpose broker-dealer, Berger Distributors.

*Joe D. Redwine.* Mr. Redwine has substantial mutual fund experience and is experienced with financial, accounting, investment and regulatory matters through his experience as President and CEO of U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, (now known as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services), a full-service provider to mutual funds and alternative investment products. In addition, he has extensive experience consulting with investment advisers regarding the legal structure of mutual funds, distribution channel analysis and actual distribution of those funds. Mr. Redwine serves as an Audit Committee Financial Expert for the Trust.

*Michele Rackey.* Ms. Rackey has substantial experience in mutual funds and investment management through her experience as CEO of Government Employees Benefits Association (GEBA) and also with The ARK Funds. Ms. Rackey is experienced with financial, accounting, investment and regulatory matters and serves as an Audit Committee Financial Expert for the Trust. Ms. Rackey was CEO of GEBA for 17 years and Chief Operating Officer of the ARK Funds for nine years. Ms. Rackey has a BS in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has an MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management in Chicago. Ms. Rackey previously held FINRA series 6, 7 and 63 licenses as well as a Maryland Life and Health License.

*Anne W. Kritzmire.* Ms. Kritzmire has substantial experience in registered funds and investment management through her experience as Head of Multi-Asset/Solutions Marketing, Managing Director of Closed-End Funds, Managing Director of Channel Marketing, and Director of Customer Insights at Nuveen Investments. Ms. Kritzmire serves as Lead Independent Director on the Board of Directors and is a member of the Audit Committee and Nominating and Governance Committee of the Thornburg Income Builder Opportunities Trust (2020-Present). With respect to the Thornburg Income Builder Opportunities Trust, she is considered to be a qualified financial expert. She has also served on several other boards including as a Trustee, Financial Commissioner, and Acting Treasurer at Village of Long Grove (2017-Present). Ms. Kritzmire has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from University of Notre Dame and has an MBA in Finance and Marketing from Northwestern University, Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

*Craig B. Wainscott.* Mr. Wainscott has substantial global executive and advisory experience, including his current position as a mutual fund trustee at iMGP Funds and early-stage business advisor. He formerly served as an Independent Trustee and Board Chair of Brandes Investment Trust. He also has extensive C-Suite Leadership, including his position as Chief Executive Officer at Russell Investments Canada for five years, leading a diverse collection of businesses such as mutual funds, institutional funds, consulting, and brokerage. He has also served as CEO at instaCOVER LLC and CFO at The Paradigm Project. Mr. Wainscott continues to serve as Board Advisor at Cadenced Biomedical (an early-stage medical device company). He has also served as a board member for The Paradigm Project. Mr. Wainscott is a qualified financial expert, having served as the CFO for two organizations, audit committee member, and is a CFA.

## **Board Committees**

The Trust has established the following three standing committees and the membership of each committee to assist in its oversight functions, including its oversight of the risks the Trust faces: the Audit Committee, the QLCC, and the Governance and Nominating Committee. There is no assurance, however, that the Board's committee structure will prevent or mitigate risks in actual practice. The Trust's committee structure is specifically not intended or designed to prevent or mitigate the Fund's investment risks. The Fund is designed for investors that are prepared to accept investment risk, including the possibility that as yet unforeseen risks may emerge in the future.

The Audit Committee is comprised of all of the Independent Trustees. Mr. Redwine is the Chair of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee typically meets once per year with respect to the various series of the Trust. The function of the Audit Committee, with respect to each series of the Trust, is to review the scope and results of the audit and any matters bearing on the audit or the Fund's financial statements and to ensure the integrity of the Fund's pricing and financial reporting. The Audit Committee met twice with respect to the Fund during the Fund's fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

The Audit Committee also serves as the QLCC for the Trust for the purpose of compliance with Rules 205.2(k) and 205.3(c) of the Code of Federal Regulations, regarding alternative reporting procedures for attorneys retained or employed by an issuer who appear and practice before the SEC on behalf of the issuer (the "issuer attorneys"). An issuer attorney who becomes aware of evidence of a material violation by the Trust, or by any officer, director, employee, or agent of the Trust, may report evidence of such material violation to the QLCC as an alternative to the reporting requirements of Rule 205.3(b) (which requires reporting to the chief legal officer and potentially "up the ladder" to other entities). During the Fund's fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the QLCC did not meet with respect to the Fund.

The Governance and Nominating Committee is comprised of all, and only of, the Independent Trustees. The Governance and Nominating Committee is responsible for seeking and reviewing candidates for consideration as nominees for Trustees as is considered necessary from time to time and meets only as necessary. The Governance and Nominating Committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders for vacancies on the Board. Recommendations for consideration by the Governance and 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 biographical information, must be delivered to and received by the President of the Trust at the principal executive office of the Trust between 120 and 150 days prior to the shareholder meeting at which any such nominee would be voted on.

The Governance and Nominating Committee meets regularly with respect to the various series of the Trust. The Governance and Nominating Committee is also responsible for, among other things, assisting the Board in its oversight of the Trust’s compliance program under Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act, reviewing and making recommendations regarding Independent Trustee compensation and the Trustees’ annual “self-assessment.” Ms. Rackey is the Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee. The Nominating and Governance Committee met four times with respect to the Trust during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

### Trustee Ownership of Fund Shares and Other Interests

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

	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</b> (None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, Over \$100,000)	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies</b>
David G. Mertens	None	Over \$100,000
Joe D. Redwine	None	\$50,001 - \$100,000
Michele Rackey	None	\$10,001 - \$50,000
Anne Kritzmire <sup>(1)</sup>	None	None
Craig Wainscott <sup>(1)</sup>	None	None

<sup>(1)</sup> Ms. Kritzmire and Mr. Wainscott began serving as Independent Trustees effective August 27, 2024.

As of December 31, 2023, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate family, own securities beneficially or of record in the Advisor, the Distributor, as defined below, or any affiliate of the Advisor or Distributor. Accordingly, during the two most recently completed calendar years, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate family, have direct or indirect interest, the value of which exceeds \$120,000, in the Advisor, the Distributor or any of their affiliates. In addition, during the two most recently completed calendar years, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate families have conducted any transactions (or series of transactions) in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and to which the Advisor, the Distributor or any affiliate thereof was a party.

### Control Persons, Principal Shareholders, and Management Ownership

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 a company or acknowledges the existence of control. Shareholders with a controlling interest could affect the outcome of voting or the direction of management of the Fund. For control persons only, if a control person is a company, the table also indicates the control person’s parent, if any, and the jurisdiction under the laws of which the control person is organized. As of September 30, 2024, the following shareholders were considered to be either a control person or principal shareholder of the Fund:

**Class A**

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>% Ownership</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>
D.A. Davidson & Co., Inc. 8 Third Street North Great Falls, MT 59401-3155	D.A. Davidson Companies	Montana	74.89%	Record

**Class I**

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>% Ownership</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>
D.A. Davidson Co., RET SVGS & PSP 8 Third Street North Great Falls, MT 59401-3104	D.A. Davidson Companies	Montana	39.60%	Record
Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith For the Sole Benefit of its Customers 4800 Deer Lake Dr. E. Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.	DE	26.22%	Record
D.A. Davidson & Co., Inc. 8 Third Street North Great Falls, MT 59401-3155	D.A. Davidson Companies	Montana	28.08%	Record

*Management Ownership Information.* As of September 30, 2024, the Trustees and officers of the Trust, as a group, beneficially owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of any class of the Fund.

**THE FUND'S INVESTMENT ADVISOR**

Davidson Investment Advisors, Inc., Davidson Building, 8 Third Street North, Great Falls, Montana 59401-3155, acts as investment advisor to the Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") with the Trust. The Advisor is 100% owned and controlled by its parent holding company, D.A. Davidson Companies. D.A. Davidson Companies is thus a control person of the Advisor.

In consideration of the services to be provided by the Advisor pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Advisor is entitled to receive from the Fund a management fee computed daily and payable monthly, based on a rate equal to 0.65% of the Fund's average daily net assets:

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

<b>June 30,</b>	<b>Management Fees Accrued</b>	<b>Management Fees Waived</b>	<b>Management Fees Recouped</b>	<b>Net Management Fee Paid to Advisor</b>
<b>2024</b>	\$779,074	\$156,089	\$0	\$622,985
<b>2023</b>	\$705,350	\$165,594	\$0	\$539,756
<b>2022</b>	\$843,385	\$140,086	\$0	\$703,299

The Advisory Agreement continues in effect for successive annual periods so long as such continuation is specifically approved at least annually by the vote of (1) the Board (or a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund), and (2) a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of any party to the Advisory Agreement, in each case, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such



approval. The Advisory Agreement may be terminated at any time, without penalty, by either party to the Advisory Agreement upon a 60-day written notice and is automatically terminated in the event of its “assignment,” as defined in the 1940 Act.

In addition to the management fees payable to the Advisor, the Fund is responsible for its own operating expenses, including: fees and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance, registration and transfer of its shares; brokerage and commission expenses; all expenses of transfer, receipt, safekeeping, servicing and accounting for the cash, securities and other property of the Trust for the benefit of the Fund including all fees and expenses of its custodian and accounting services agent; interest charges on any borrowings; costs and expenses of pricing and calculating its daily NAV per share and of maintaining its books of account required under the 1940 Act; taxes, if any; a pro rata portion of expenditures in connection with meetings of the Fund’s shareholders and the Trust’s Board that are properly payable by the Fund; salaries and expenses of officers and fees and expenses of members of the Board or members of any advisory board or committee who are not members of, affiliated with or interested persons of the Advisor or Administrator; insurance premiums on property or personnel of the Fund which inure to their benefit, including liability and fidelity bond insurance; the cost of preparing and printing reports, proxy statements, prospectuses and the statement of additional information of the Fund or other communications for distribution to existing shareholders; legal counsel, auditing and accounting fees; trade association membership dues (including membership dues in the Investment Company Institute allocable to the Fund); fees and expenses (including legal fees) of registering and maintaining registration of its shares for sale under federal and applicable state and foreign securities laws; all expenses of maintaining shareholder accounts, including all charges for transfer, shareholder recordkeeping, dividend disbursing, redemption, and other agents for the benefit of the Fund, if any; and all other charges and costs of its operation plus any extraordinary and non-recurring expenses, except as otherwise prescribed in the Advisory Agreement.

Though the Fund is responsible for its own operating expenses, the Advisor has contractually agreed to waive a portion or all of the management fees payable to it by the Fund and to pay Fund operating expenses to the extent necessary to limit the Fund’s aggregate annual operating expenses (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes, interest expense, dividends on securities sold short, extraordinary expenses, Rule 12b-1 fees, shareholder servicing fees and any other class-specific expenses) to the limit set forth in the Annual Fund Operating Expenses table of the Prospectus. Any such waivers made by the Advisor in its management fees or payment of expenses which are the Fund’s obligation are subject to recoupment by the Advisor from the Fund, if so requested by the Advisor, in subsequent fiscal years if the aggregate amount actually paid by the Fund toward the operating expenses for such fiscal year (taking into account the recoupment) does not exceed the applicable limitation on Fund expenses. The Advisor is permitted to recoup only for management fee waivers and expense payments made in the previous 36 months. Any such recoupment is also contingent upon the Board’s subsequent review and ratification of the recouped amounts. Such recoupment may not be paid prior to the Fund’s payment of current ordinary operating expenses.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

The Fund is managed by Messrs. Brian P. Clancy, CFA and Paul G. Condrat, CFA who serve as co-portfolio managers of the Fund.

The following provides information regarding other accounts, not including the Fund, managed by Mr. Clancy as of June 30, 2024:

<b>Category of Account</b>	<b>Total Number of Accounts Managed (excluding the Fund)</b>	<b>Total Assets in Accounts Managed</b>	<b>Number of Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</b>	<b>Assets in Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</b>
Other Registered Investment Companies	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	\$13,299,273	0	\$0
Other Accounts	1,112	\$915,233,564	0	\$0

The following provides information regarding other accounts, not including the Fund, managed by Mr. Condrat as of June 30, 2024:

<b>Category of Account</b>	<b>Total Number of Accounts Managed (excluding the Fund)</b>	<b>Total Assets in Accounts Managed</b>	<b>Number of Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</b>	<b>Assets in Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</b>
Other Registered Investment Companies	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	\$13,299,273	0	\$0
Other Accounts	1,112	\$915,233,564	0	\$0

*Compensation.* The portfolio managers' compensation consists of a fixed base salary, which is not based on Fund performance, as well as a bonus. Base salaries for portfolio managers are competitive relative to their peers within the industry based on compensation information provided by benefits and compensation specialists, the McLagen Company and the CFA Institute Annual Survey on Compensation. Base salary comprises approximately 50% of total compensation. Portfolio managers also receive an annual performance bonus – 50% of which is based on the portfolio manager's strategy three-year performance versus the reporting benchmark, 25% is based on the portfolio manager's strategy one-year performance versus the reporting benchmark, and 25% is based on the one-year performance of the Advisor's other investment strategies (relative to their respective benchmarks). In addition, portfolio managers participate in a retention bonus plan based on the overall revenues of the firm whereby portfolio managers are eligible to receive restricted stock in D.A. Davidson Companies on a five year cliff vesting schedule. Deferred compensation is based on percentage of the company's revenue, which is based on percentage of the value of the assets under management. The Advisor's parent company may make a profit sharing contribution to the portfolio managers' 401(k) plan accounts or their accounts in the parent company's Employee Stock Ownership Plan. Those contributions are based on the profit performance of the parent company as a whole of which the Advisor is a part. In addition, the portfolio managers may receive incentive stock options. The portfolio managers do not receive any compensation directly from the Fund or from the other accounts that they manage. The Advisor does charge and receive a management fee which is based on the assets under management.

*Material Conflicts of Interest.* Because the Advisor performs investment management services for various clients, certain conflicts of interest could arise. However, the Advisor does not expect any material conflicts arising from its management of other accounts because the investment strategies of the Fund and investment strategies of other accounts are identical. The Advisor’s policy prohibits any allocation of trades in a manner that the Advisor’s proprietary accounts, affiliated account, or any particular client(s) or group of clients receive more favorable treatment than other client accounts, including the Fund. The Advisor employs a block allocation function through its software and shares are distributed in a random manner.

*Securities Owned in the Fund by the Portfolio Managers.* As of June 30, 2024, the portfolio managers owned the following securities in the Fund:

<b>Name of Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Securities in the Fund</b>
	<b>(None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, \$100,001 - \$500,000, \$500,001 - \$1,000,000, Over \$1,000,000)</b>
Brian P. Clancy, CFA	\$100,001-\$500,000
Paul G. Condrat, CFA	\$100,001-\$500,000

## **SERVICE PROVIDERS**

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

Pursuant to an administration agreement (the “Administration Agreement”), U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (“Fund Services”), 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, acts as the Administrator to the Fund. Fund Services provides certain services to the Fund including, among other responsibilities, coordinating the negotiation of contracts and fees with, and the monitoring of performance and billing of, the Fund’s independent contractors and agents; preparation for signature by an officer of the Trust of all documents required to be filed for compliance by the Trust and the Fund with applicable laws and regulations, excluding those of the securities laws of various states; arranging for the computation of performance data, including NAV and yield; responding to shareholder inquiries; and arranging for the maintenance of books and records of the Fund, and providing, at its own expense, office facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to carry out its duties. In this capacity, Fund Services does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Fund, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of Fund shares. Fund Services also acts as fund accountant, transfer agent and dividend disbursing agent (the “Transfer Agent”) under separate agreements. Additionally, the Administrator provides CCO services to the Trust under a separate agreement. The cost of the CCO services is charged to the Fund and approved by the Board annually.

For the fiscal years indicated below, the Fund paid the following fees to Fund Services for fund administration services:

<b>Administration Fees Paid During Fiscal Years Ended June 30,</b>		
<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
\$174,812	\$156,398	\$176,413

## **Custodian**

Pursuant to a Custody Agreement between the Trust and U.S. Bank National Association, located at 1555 North RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212 (the “Custodian”), the Custodian serves as the custodian of the Fund’s assets, holds the Fund’s portfolio securities in safekeeping, and keeps all necessary records and documents relating to its duties. The Custodian is compensated with an asset-based fee plus transaction fees and is reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses.

The Custodian and Administrator do not participate in decisions relating to the purchase and sale of securities by the Fund. The Administrator, Transfer Agent and Custodian are affiliated entities under the common control of U.S. Bancorp. The Custodian and its affiliates may participate in revenue sharing arrangements with the service providers of mutual funds in which the Fund may invest.

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

Tait, Weller & Baker LLP, Two Liberty Place, 50 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2900, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102, is the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund, whose services include auditing the Fund’s financial statements and the performance of related tax services.

Sullivan & Worcester LLP (“Sullivan & Worcester”), 1251 Avenue of the Americas, 19th Floor, New York, New York 10020, serves as legal counsel to the Trust and provides counsel on legal matters relating to the Fund. Sullivan & Worcester also serves as independent legal counsel to the Board of Trustees.

## **EXECUTION OF PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS**

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Advisor 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 over-the-counter market will generally be executed directly with a “market-maker” unless, in the opinion of the Advisor, a better price and execution can otherwise be obtained by using a broker for the transaction.

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

In placing portfolio transactions, the Advisor will seek best execution. The full range and quality of services available will be considered in making these determinations, such as the size of the order, the difficulty of execution, the operational facilities of the firm involved, and the firm’s risk in positioning a block of securities and other factors. In those instances where it is reasonably determined that more than one broker-dealer can offer the services needed to obtain the most favorable price and execution available, consideration may be given to those broker-dealers which furnish or supply research and statistical information to the Advisor that it may lawfully and appropriately use in its investment advisory capacities, as well as provide other services in addition to execution services. The Advisor considers such information, which is in addition to and not in lieu of the services required to be performed by it under its

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 the FINRA and the SEC.

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, in accordance with Section 28(e) under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, when it is determined that more than one broker can deliver best execution, weight is also given to the ability of a broker-dealer to furnish brokerage and research services to the Fund or to the Advisor, even if the specific services are not directly useful to the Fund and may be useful to the Advisor in advising other clients. In negotiating commissions with a broker or evaluating the spread to be paid to a dealer, the 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 Advisor to be reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research services provided by such broker-dealer.

Investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those of other client accounts or mutual funds managed or advised by the Advisor. Nevertheless, it is possible that at times identical securities will be acceptable for both the Fund and one or more of such client accounts or mutual funds. In such event, the position of the Fund and such client account(s) or mutual funds 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 or mutual funds 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 they desire, or they 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 or mutual funds simultaneously purchases or sells the same security that the Fund are purchasing or selling, each day's transactions in such security will be allocated between the Fund and all such client accounts or mutual funds in a manner deemed equitable by the Advisor, taking into account the respective sizes of the accounts and the amount of cash available for investment, the investment objective of the account, and the ease with which a client's appropriate amount can be bought, as well as the liquidity and volatility of the account and the urgency involved in making an investment decision for the client. It is recognized that in some cases this system could have a detrimental effect on the price or value of the security insofar as the Fund is concerned. In other cases, however, it is believed that the ability of the Fund to participate in volume transactions may produce better executions for the Fund.

The Advisor utilizes a three-tier rating system for the purposes of allocating the Fund's annual research commission budget. Ratings are based on the investment team's evaluation of value-added research, access to analysts, access to company management, and access to investment conferences. The Advisor will make every effort to ensure tier I brokers garner a larger portion of the annual research budget, followed by tier II brokers, with the remainder going to tier III brokers. The Advisor's investment team will re-evaluate the status of brokers within the ranking system on at least a semi-annual basis. In addition, the Advisor may use its affiliated broker-dealer, D.A. Davidson & Co. ("DAD") to execute a portion of the Fund's portfolio securities transactions. All such transactions are subject to the requirement that the Advisor seek to obtain best execution for all portfolio transactions. The Advisor has represented to the Fund that it will not execute portfolio transactions through DAD unless the use of DAD satisfies the Advisor's duty of best execution and was in the best interest of the Fund. On a routine basis, the Board will review the Advisor's brokerage execution. Such review includes any use of DAD.

During the fiscal years indicated below, the Fund paid the following amount in brokerage commissions:

<b>Aggregate Brokerage Commissions Paid During Fiscal Years Ended June 30,</b>		
<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
\$30,986	\$20,386	\$20,363

The following was paid to brokerage firms for research services provided to the Fund and the Advisor from the amounts above:

<b>Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024</b>	
<b>Dollar Value of Securities Traded</b>	<b>Related Soft Dollar Brokerage Commissions</b>
\$40,731,187	\$27,262

The Fund may invest in the securities of its regular broker/dealers who have executed trades for the Fund. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the Fund did not invest in the securities of any of its regular broker/dealers.

### **DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT**

The Trust has entered into a Distribution Agreement (the “Distribution Agreement”) with Quasar Distributors, LLC, Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine 04101 (the “Distributor”), pursuant to which the Distributor acts as the Fund’s distributor, provides certain administration services and promotes and arranges for the sale of Fund shares. The offering of the Fund’s shares is continuous. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer and member of FINRA.

The Distribution Agreement will continue in effect only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities and, in either case, by a majority of the 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 Fund’s shareholders or by vote of a majority of the Board, including a majority of the Trustees who are not “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust, or by the Distributor on 60 days’ written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its “assignment” (as defined in the 1940 Act).

The following table reflects the commissions associated with the sale of Class A shares of the Fund during the fiscal years indicated, none of which were retained by the Distributor.

<b>Aggregate Underwriting Commissions Paid During Fiscal Years Ended June 30,</b>		
<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
\$44,476	\$20,581	\$14,716

### **RULE 12b-1 DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PLAN**

The Trust has adopted on behalf of the Fund’s Class A shares, a Distribution and Service Plan (the “Plan”) pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act under which the Class A shares of the Fund pay the Distributor an amount which is accrued daily and paid quarterly, at an annual rate of up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the Fund’s Class A shares. The Plan provides that the Distributor may use all or any portion of such fee to finance any activity that is principally intended to result in the sale of Fund shares, subject to the terms of the Plan, or to provide certain shareholder services. Amounts paid under the

Plan, by the Fund, are paid to the Distributor to reimburse it for costs of the services it provides and the expenses it bears in the distribution of the Fund's Class A shares, including overhead and telephone expenses; printing and distribution of prospectuses and reports used in connection with the offering of the Fund's shares to prospective investors; and preparation, printing and distribution of sales literature and advertising materials. In addition, payments to the Distributor under the Plan reimburse the Distributor for payments it makes to selected dealers and administrators which have entered into Service Agreements with the Distributor of periodic fees for services provided to shareholders of the Fund. The services provided by selected dealers pursuant to the Plan are primarily designed to promote the sale of shares of the Fund and include the furnishing of office space and equipment, telephone facilities, personnel and assistance to the Fund in servicing such shareholders. The services provided by the administrators pursuant to the Plan are designed to provide support services to the Fund and include establishing and maintaining shareholders' accounts and records, processing purchase and redemption transactions, answering routine client inquiries regarding the Fund and providing other services to the Fund as may be required.

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

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

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, distribution and service related expenditures under the Plan primarily intended to result in the sales of the Fund's Class A shares that were made by the Fund totaled \$154,768. The following table shows the dollar amounts by category allocated for distribution and service related expenses:

*Class A*

<b>Actual 12b-1 Expenditures Paid by the Fund During the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024</b>	
	<b>Total Dollars Allocated</b>
Advertising/Marketing	\$ 2,070
Printing/Postage	\$ 0
Payment to distributor	\$ 6,591
Payment to dealers	\$ 146,107
Compensation to sales personnel	\$ 0
Interest, carrying, or other financing charges	\$ 0
Other	\$ 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 154,768</b>

## CODES OF ETHICS

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

## PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

The Advisor has adopted Proxy Policies that underscore the Advisor's concern to act solely in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. The Advisor participates in a proxy voting committee (the "Committee"); members of the Committee are appointed by the Advisor's President and include senior investment personnel from the Advisor and its affiliates. On a regular basis, the Committee will also invite personnel from the Legal and Compliance Departments of its affiliates to participate in Committee meetings. The Committee monitors the Advisor's overall adherence to its proxy voting policies and procedures. It also reviews the rationale for some proxy votes that are not covered by these policies and procedures, or that present a potential conflict of interest. The Committee periodically reviews these policies and procedures and provides advice for revisions thereof.

The Advisor has engaged Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC ("Glass Lewis"), an unbiased third party proxy voting service, to make proxy voting recommendations. The Advisor will generally vote proxies in accordance with these recommendations, but reserves the right to exercise its own judgment on a case-by-case basis, in the event, for example, that the Glass Lewis recommendation differs with the proxy voting recommendation of the issuer's management. When recommendations differ, as a general policy, the Advisor will vote in favor of proxy proposals that enhance the independence of board membership, against measures that promote anti-takeover defenses, and for incentive compensation that would align management interests with shareholder interests, including stock-based compensation and restricted stock award programs. Corporate governance issues, however, are diverse and continually evolving and these general policies may not be relevant in some circumstances. In such cases, the Advisor reserves the right to review the specific facts in each case, to decide on a vote that would serve the best interest of its clients. Any proxies voted in opposition to Glass Lewis recommendations will be documented and brought to the Committee for review.

The Trust is required to file a Form N-PX, with the Fund's complete proxy voting record for the 12 months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. Form N-PX for the Fund is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free 1-877-332-0529 and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).



## PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

The Advisor and the Fund maintains portfolio holdings disclosure policies (the “Disclosure Policies”) that govern the timing and circumstances of disclosure to shareholders and third parties of information regarding the portfolio investments held by the Fund. These Disclosure Policies have been approved by the Board. 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 report and semi-annual Report to Fund shareholders and in the quarterly holdings report on Part F of Form N-PORT. These reports are available, free of charge, on the EDGAR database on the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

From time to time, the Advisor may select certain portfolio characteristics for distribution to the public with such frequencies and lag times as the Advisor determines to be in the best interests of shareholders.

Pursuant to the Disclosure Policies, information about the Fund’s portfolio holdings is not distributed to any person unless:

- The disclosure is required pursuant to a regulatory request, court order or is legally required in the context of other legal proceedings;
- The disclosure is made to a mutual fund rating and/or ranking organization, or person performing similar functions, who is subject to a duty of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on any non-public information;
- The disclosure is made to internal parties involved in the investment process, administration, operation or custody of the Fund, including, but not limited to Fund Services and the Board, attorneys, auditors or accountants;
- The disclosure is made: (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;
- The disclosure is made with the approval of either the Trust’s CCO or his or her designee; or
- The disclosure is made pursuant to a confidentiality agreement.

Certain of the persons listed above receive information about the Fund’s portfolio holdings on an ongoing basis. The Fund believes that these third parties have legitimate objectives in requesting such portfolio holdings information and operate in the best interest of the Fund’s shareholders. These persons are:

- A mutual fund rating and/or ranking organization, or person performing similar functions, who is subject to a duty of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on any non-public information;
- Rating and/or ranking organizations, specifically: Lipper; Morningstar; S&P; Bloomberg; Vickers-Stock Research Corporation; Thomson Financial; and Capital-Bridge, all of which may receive such information between the seventh and tenth business day of the month following the end of a calendar quarter; and
- Internal parties involved in the investment process, administration, operation or custody of the Fund, specifically: Fund Services; the Board; and the Trust’s attorneys and accountants (currently, Sullivan & Worcester and Tait, respectively), all of which typically receive such information after it is generated.

Any disclosures to additional parties not described above are made with the prior written approval of either the Trust’s CCO or his or her designee, pursuant to the Disclosure Policies.

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

Neither the Advisor nor the Fund may receive compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio securities. In the event of a conflict between the interests of the Fund and the interests of the Advisor or an affiliated person of the Advisor, the Advisor's CCO, in consultation with the Trust's CCO, shall make a determination in the best interest of the Fund, and shall report such determination to the Advisor's Board of Directors and to the Fund's Board at the end of the quarter in which such determination was made. Any employee of the Advisor who suspects a breach of this obligation must report the matter immediately to the Advisor's CCO or to his or her supervisor.

In addition, material non-public holdings information may be provided without lag as part of the normal investment activities of the Fund to each of the following entities which, by explicit agreement by virtue of their respective duties to the Fund, are required to maintain the confidentiality of the information disclosed: Fund Administrator, Fund Accountant, Custodian, Transfer Agent, auditors, counsel to the Fund or the Trustees, broker-dealers (in connection with the purchase or sale of securities or requests for price quotations or bids on one or more securities), and regulatory authorities. Portfolio holdings information not publicly available with the SEC or through the Fund's website may only be provided to additional third parties, in accordance with the Disclosure Policies, when the Fund has a legitimate business purpose and the third party recipient is subject to a confidentiality agreement.

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

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

## **DETERMINATION OF SHARE PRICE**

The NAV per share of the Fund is determined as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") (generally, 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time), each day the NYSE is open for trading. The NYSE annually announces the days on which it will not be open for trading. It is expected that the NYSE will not be open for trading on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Washington's Birthday/Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

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 Fund's valuation designee pursuant to procedures adopted by the Advisor. The Board has designated the Advisor as its "valuation designee" under Rule 2a-5 of the 1940 Act, subject to its oversight.

Securities primarily traded in the NASDAQ Global Market<sup>®</sup> for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued using the NASDAQ<sup>®</sup> Official Closing Price ("NOCP"). If the NOCP is not available, such securities shall be valued at the last sale price on the day of valuation, or if there has been no sale on such day, at the mean between the bid and asked prices. OTC securities which are not traded in

the NASDAQ Global Market<sup>®</sup> shall be valued at the most recent sales price. Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available (including restricted securities which are subject to limitations as to their sale) are valued at fair value as determined in good faith under the valuation designee's approved procedures.

Debt securities are similarly valued under the valuation designee's procedures, which may include independent third-party pricing services. Any such pricing service, in determining value, will use information with respect to transactions in the securities being valued, quotations from dealers, market transactions in comparable securities, analyses and evaluations of various relationships between securities and yield to maturity information.

The securities in the Fund's portfolio, including ADRs, EDRs and GDRs, which are traded on securities exchanges are valued at the last sale price on the exchange on which such securities are traded, as of the close of business on the day the securities are being valued or, lacking any reported sales, at the mean between the last available bid and asked price. Securities that are traded on more than one exchange are valued on the exchange determined by the Advisor to be the primary market.

All other assets of the Fund are valued in such manner as the valuation designee 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 Buy Shares**

A financial intermediary may offer Fund shares subject to variations in or elimination of the Fund sales charges ("variations"), provided such variations are described in the Fund's Prospectus. All variations described in Appendix A to the Fund's Prospectus are applied by, and the responsibility of, the identified financial intermediary. Sales charge variations may apply to purchases, sales, exchanges and reinvestments of Fund shares and a shareholder transacting in Fund shares through an intermediary identified on Appendix A to the Fund's Prospectus should read the terms and conditions of Appendix A carefully. For the variations applicable to shares offered through Merrill Lynch-sponsored platforms, please see "Appendix A – Financial Intermediary Sales Charge Variations" in the Fund's Prospectus. A variation that is specific to a particular financial intermediary is not applicable to shares held directly with the Fund or through another intermediary. Please consult your financial intermediary with respect to any variations listed on Appendix A to the Fund's Prospectus.

You may purchase shares of the Fund from securities brokers, dealers or 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 are authorized to accept your order on behalf of the Fund. Financial Intermediaries may be authorized by the Fund's principal underwriter to designate other brokers and financial intermediaries to accept orders on the Fund's behalf. If you transmit your order to these Financial Intermediaries before the close of regular trading (generally, 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on a day that the NYSE is open for business, your order will be priced based on the Fund's NAV (plus any applicable sales charge) next computed after it is received by the Financial Intermediary. Investors should check with their Financial Intermediary to determine if it participates in these arrangements. The Fund

will be deemed to have received a purchase order when a Financial Intermediary or, if applicable, a Financial Intermediary's authorized designee, receive the order.

The public offering price of Class A shares is based on the NAV per share plus the applicable sales load, and for Class I shares, it is the NAV per share. Shares are purchased at the public offering price next determined after Fund Services receives your order in proper form, as discussed in the Fund's Prospectus. In order to receive that day's public offering price, Fund Services must receive your order in proper form before the close of regular trading on the NYSE, generally, 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

The Trust reserves the right in its sole discretion (i) to suspend the continued offering of the Fund's shares, and (ii) to reject purchase orders in whole or in part when in the judgment of the Advisor or the distributor such rejection is in the best interest of the Fund.

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

### **Automatic Investment Plan**

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

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

You can sell your Fund shares any day the NYSE is open for regular trading, either directly to the applicable Fund or through your Financial Intermediary. The Fund will be deemed to have received a redemption order when a Financial Intermediary or, if applicable, a Financial Intermediary's authorized designee, receives the 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 Fund's 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 to respond to the inquiry consistent with the shareholder's previously established account service options. For joint accounts, instructions or inquiries from either party will be carried out without prior notice to the other account owners. In acting upon telephone instructions, the Fund and their agents use procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that such instructions are genuine. These include recording all telephone calls, requiring pertinent information about the account and sending written confirmation of each transaction to the registered owner.

Fund Services will employ reasonable procedures to confirm that instructions communicated by telephone are genuine. If Fund Services fails to employ reasonable procedures, the Fund and Fund Services 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 their agents will be liable for any loss, liability, cost or expense arising out of any redemption request, including any fraudulent or unauthorized request. For additional information, contact Fund Services.

## **Redemptions In-Kind**

The Trust has elected to be governed by Rule 18f under the 1940 Act so that the Fund is obligated to redeem its shares solely in cash up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of its net asset value during any 90-day period for any shareholder of the Fund. The Fund has reserved the right to pay the redemption price of its shares in excess of \$250,000 or 1% of its net asset value either totally or partially, by a distribution in-kind of portfolio securities (instead of cash). The securities so distributed would be valued at the same amount as that assigned to them in calculating the NAV for the shares being sold. If a shareholder receives a distribution in-kind, the shareholder could incur brokerage or other charges in converting the securities to cash. A redemption, whether in cash or in-kind, is a taxable event for you.

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

## **Sales Charges and Dealer Reallowance**

Class A shares of the Fund are retail shares that require that you pay a sales charge when you invest unless you qualify for a reduction or waiver of the sales charge. Class A shares are also subject to

Rule 12b-1 fees (or distribution and service fees) of up to 0.25% of average daily net assets that are assessed against the shares of the Fund.

If you purchase Class A shares of the Fund you will pay the NAV next determined after your order is received plus a sales charge (shown in percentages below) depending on the amount of your investment. The sales charge does not apply to shares purchased with reinvested dividends. The sales charge is calculated as follows and the dealer reallocation is as shown in the far right column:

<b>Amount of Transaction</b>	<b>Sales Charge as a % of Public Offering Price<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Sales Charge as a % of Net Amount Invested</b>	<b>Dealer Reallocation as a % of Public Offering Price</b>
Less than \$25,000	3.50%	3.63%	3.50%
\$25,000 but less than \$50,000	3.00%	3.09%	3.00%
\$50,000 but less than \$100,000	2.50%	2.56%	2.50%
\$100,000 but less than \$250,000	2.00%	2.04%	2.00%
\$250,000 but less than \$500,000	1.50%	1.52%	1.50%
\$500,000 but less than \$1,000,000	1.00%	1.01%	1.00%
\$1,000,000 or more <sup>(2)</sup>	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%

<sup>(1)</sup> Offering price includes the front-end sales load. The sales charge you pay may differ slightly from the amount set forth above because of rounding that occurs in the calculation used to determine your sales charge.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Transfer Agent will assess Class A purchases of \$1,000,000 or more a 1.00% CDSC if they are redeemed within twelve months from the date of purchase, unless the dealer of record waived its commission. The 1.00% is applied to the NAV of the shares on the date of original purchase or on the date of redemption, whichever is less.

The Advisor’s affiliated broker-dealer, D.A. Davidson & Co. (“DAD”), will receive all of the initial sales charge for purchases of Class A shares of the Fund without a dealer of record.

### **Breakpoints/Volume Discounts and Sales Charge Waivers**

*Reducing Your Sales Charge.* You may be able to reduce the sales charge on Class A shares of the Fund based on the combined market value of your accounts. If you believe you are eligible for any of the following reductions or waivers, it is up to you to ask the selling agent or shareholder servicing agent for the reduction and to provide appropriate proof of eligibility.

- You pay no sales charges on Fund shares you buy with reinvested distributions.
- You pay a lower sales charge if you are investing an amount over a specific breakpoint level as indicated by the above table.
- You pay no sales charges on Fund shares you purchase with the proceeds of a redemption of Class A shares within 365 days of the date of the redemption. You must provide instruction at the time of purchase of your intent to exercise this privilege.
- By signing a **Letter of Intent** (LOI) prior to purchase, you pay a lower sales charge now in exchange for promising to invest an amount over a specified breakpoint within the next 13 months. Reinvested dividends and capital gains do not count as purchases made during this period. The Fund’s transfer agent will hold in escrow shares equal to approximately 3.50% of the amount you say you intend to buy. If you do not invest the amount specified in the LOI before the expiration date, the transfer agent will redeem enough escrowed shares to pay the difference between the reduced sales load you paid and the sales load you should have paid. Otherwise, the transfer agent will release the escrowed shares when you have invested the agreed amount. Any 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. *For example*, an investor has \$2,500 to invest in the Fund, but intends to invest an additional \$2,500 per month for the next 13 months for a total of \$35,000. Based on the above breakpoint schedule, by signing the LOI, the investor pays a front-end load of 3.00% rather than 3.50%. If the investor fails to meet the intended LOI amount in the 13-month period, however, the mutual fund company will charge the higher sales load retroactively.

- **Rights of Accumulation** (“ROA”) allow you to combine Class A shares you already own in order to reach breakpoint levels and to qualify for sales load discounts on subsequent purchases of Class A shares. The purchase amount used in determining the sales charge on your purchase will be calculated by multiplying the maximum public offering price by the number of Class A shares of the Fund already owned and adding the dollar amount of your current purchase. *For example*, an individual has a \$35,000 investment in the Fund, which was sold with a 3.00% front-end load. The investor intends to open a second account and purchase \$25,000 of the Fund. Using ROA, the new \$25,000 investment is combined with the existing \$35,000 investment to reach the \$50,000 breakpoint, and the sales charge on the new investment is 2.50% (rather than the 3.00% for a single transaction amount).

*Eligible Accounts.* Certain accounts may be aggregated for ROA eligibility, including your current investment in the Fund, and previous investments you and members of your primary household group have made in the Fund, provided your investment was subject to a sales charge. (Your primary household group consists of you, your spouse and children under age 21 living at home.) Specifically, the following accounts are eligible to be included in determining the sales charge on your purchase, if a sales charge has been paid on those purchases:

- Individual or joint accounts held in your name;
- Coverdell Education Savings Accounts and UGMA/UTMA accounts for which you or your spouse is parent or guardian of the minor child;
- Trust accounts for which you or a member of your primary household group, individually, is the beneficiary;
- Accounts held in the name of you or your spouse’s sole proprietorship or single owner limited liability company or S corporation; and

The following accounts are not eligible to be included in determining ROA eligibility;

- Investments in Class A shares where the sales charge was waived.

*Waiving Your Sales Charge.* Sales charges may be waived for certain groups or classes of shareholders. If you fall into any of the following categories, you can buy Class A shares at NAV per share without a sales charge:

- Current and retired employees, directors/trustees and officers of:
  - Advisors Series Trust;
  - Davidson Investment Advisors, Inc. and its affiliates; and
  - Family members (spouse, domestic partner, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren and siblings (including step and in-law)) of any of the above.
- Current employees of:
  - the Fund’s Transfer Agent;
  - broker-dealers who act as selling agents; and

- Family members (spouse, domestic partner, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren and siblings (including step and in-law)) of any of the above.
- Qualified registered investment advisors who buy through a broker-dealer or service agent who has entered into an agreement with the Fund’s distributor that allows for load-waived Class A purchases.
- Financial intermediaries and qualified broker-dealers, including the Advisor’s affiliated broker-dealer, DAD, who have entered into an agreement with the Fund’s distributor that allows for load-waived Class A purchases.
- Financial intermediaries who have entered into an agreement with the Fund’s distributor to offer shares to self-directed investment brokerage accounts that may or may not charge a transaction fee to its customers.
- Investment advisory clients of the Advisor.

The Trust also reserves the right to enter into agreements that reduce or eliminate sales charges for groups or classes of shareholders, or for Fund shares included in other investment plans such as “wrap accounts.” If you own Fund shares as part of another account or package, such as an IRA or a sweep account, you should read the terms and conditions that apply for that account. Those terms and conditions may supersede the terms and conditions discussed here. Contact your selling agent for further information.

**Each financial intermediary may impose different sales loads and waivers. Investors who are converted from Class I shares by their financial intermediaries will not be subject to a sales load. Certain sales load waiver variations are described in Appendix A to the Prospectus.**

*Class I shares.* Class I shares of the Fund are offered without any sales charge on purchases or sales and without any ongoing distribution fee.

Class I shares are available for purchase exclusively by (i) eligible institutions (*e.g.*, a financial institution, corporation, trust, estate, or educational, religious or charitable institution) with assets of at least \$100,000, (ii) tax-exempt retirement plans with assets of at least \$100,000 (including 401(k) plans, 457 plans, employer-sponsored 403(b) plans, profit sharing and money purchase plans, defined benefit plans and non-qualified deferred compensation plans), (iii) fee-based investment programs with assets of at least \$100,000, (iv) qualified state tuition plan (529 plan) accounts and (v) high net worth individuals. The minimum initial investment is waived for wrap fee program accounts investing in Class I.

Class I share participants in tax-exempt retirement plans must contact the plan’s administrator to purchase shares. For plan administrator contact information, participants should contact their respective employer’s human resources department. Class I share participants in fee-based investment programs should contact the program’s administrator or their financial advisor to purchase shares. Transactions generally are effected on behalf of a tax-exempt retirement plan participant by the administrator or a custodian, trustee or record keeper for the plan and on behalf of a fee-based investment program participant by their administrator or financial advisor. Class I shares institutional clients may purchase shares either directly or through an authorized dealer.

*Conversion Feature*

If consistent with your financial intermediary’s program, Class A shares of the Fund that have been purchased by a financial intermediary on behalf of clients participating in (i) 401(k) plans, Section 457 deferred compensation plans, employer-sponsored 403(b) plans, profit-sharing and money purchase pension plans, defined benefit plans and nonqualified deferred compensation plans or (ii) investment



programs in which the clients pay an all-inclusive fee, such as a wrap fee, or other fee-based program, may be converted into Class I shares of the Fund if the financial intermediary satisfies any then-applicable eligibility requirements for investment in Class I shares of the Fund. Any such conversion will be effected at net asset value without the imposition of any fee or other charges by the Fund. Please contact your financial intermediary about any fees that it may charge.

Investors who hold Class I shares of the Fund through a financial intermediary's fee-based program, but who subsequently become ineligible to participate in the program or withdraw from the program (while continuing their relationship with the financial intermediary as a brokerage client), may be subject to conversion of their Class I shares by their financial intermediary to another class of shares of the Fund having expenses (including Rule 12b-1 fees) that may be higher than the expenses of the Class I shares. Investors should contact their financial intermediary to obtain information about their eligibility for the financial intermediary's fee-based program and the class of shares they would receive upon such a conversion.

## **DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAX INFORMATION**

### **Distributions**

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

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

### **Tax Information**

Each series of the Trust is treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. The Fund, as a series of the Trust, has elected and intends to continue to qualify to be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and to comply with all applicable requirements regarding the source of its income, diversification of its assets and the timing and amount of its distributions. The Fund's policy is to distribute to its shareholders all of its net taxable income and any net realized long-term capital gains 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. If the Fund does not qualify as a regulated investment company, it may be taxed as a corporation. The Fund can give no assurances that distributions will be sufficient to eliminate all taxes in every year. To avoid a non-deductible 4% excise tax, the Fund must also 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 the excess of its realized capital gains over its realized capital losses for the 12-month period ending on October 31 during such year, and (iii) any amounts from the prior calendar year that were not distributed and on which no federal income tax was paid by the Fund or its shareholders.

In order to qualify as a regulated investment company, the Fund must, among other things, derive at least 90% of its gross income each year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to loans of stock and securities, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currency gains related to investments in stock or securities, or other income derived with respect to the business of investing in

stock, securities or currency, and net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership. The Fund must also satisfy the following two asset diversification tests. At the end of each quarter of each taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets must be represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. Government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities, with such other securities being limited in respect of any one issuer to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies), the securities of any two or more issuers (other than the securities of other regulated investment companies) that the Fund controls (by owning 20% or more of their outstanding voting stock) and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships. The Fund must also distribute each taxable year sufficient dividends to its shareholders to claim a dividends paid deduction equal to at least the sum of 90% of the Fund's investment company taxable income before the deduction for dividends paid (which generally includes dividends, interest, and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) and 90% of the Fund's net tax-exempt interest, if any.

Net investment income generally consists of interest and dividend income, less expenses. Net realized capital gains for a fiscal period are computed by taking into account any capital loss carryforward of the Fund. Capital losses sustained and not used in a taxable year may be carried forward indefinitely to offset income of the Fund in future years.

Distributions of net investment income and net short-term capital gains are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. For individual shareholders, a portion of the distributions paid by the Fund, depending on the composition of its underlying investments, may be qualified dividend income currently eligible for taxation at long-term capital gain rates to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend and certain holding period requirements are met. In the case of corporate shareholders, a portion of the distributions may qualify for the intercorporate dividends-received deduction to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend. The aggregate amount so reported to either individual or corporate shareholders cannot, however, exceed the aggregate amount of qualifying dividends received by the Fund for its taxable year. In view of the Fund's investment policies, it is expected that dividends from domestic corporations will be part of the Fund's gross income and that, accordingly, part of the distributions by the Fund may be eligible for qualified dividend income treatment for individual shareholders, or for the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders. However, the portion of the Fund's gross income attributable to qualifying dividends is largely dependent on the Fund's investment activities for a particular year and therefore cannot be predicted with any certainty. Further, the dividends-received deduction may be reduced or eliminated if Fund shares held by a corporate investor are treated as debt financed or are held for less than 46 days.

Any long-term capital gain distributions are taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gains regardless of the length of time shares have been held. Capital gains distributions are not eligible for qualified dividend income treatment or the dividends-received deduction referred to in the previous paragraph. Distributions of any net investment income and net realized capital gains will be taxable as described above, whether received in shares or in cash. Shareholders who choose to receive distributions in the form of additional 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 or deemed to be received. However, distributions declared in October, November or December to shareholders of record on a date in such a month and paid the following January are taxable as if received

on December 31. Distributions are includable in alternative minimum taxable income in computing an individual shareholder's liability for the alternative minimum tax.

For the taxable years beginning after 2017 and before 2025, non-corporate taxpayers generally may deduct 20% of "qualified business income" derived either directly or through partnerships or S corporations. For this purpose, "qualified business income" generally includes ordinary dividends paid by a real estate investment trust ("REIT") and certain income from publicly traded partnerships. Regulations recently adopted by the United States Treasury allow non-corporate shareholders of a Fund to benefit from the 20% deduction with respect to net REIT dividends received by the Fund if the Fund meets certain reporting requirements, but do not permit any such deduction with respect to publicly traded partnerships.

Shareholders should note that the Fund may make taxable distributions of income and capital gains even when share values have declined. Investors should be aware that if shares are purchased shortly before a distribution the share price may reflect in part the upcoming distribution, which will be taxable even though it may represent a partial return of capital in an economic sense.

The Fund may be subject to foreign withholding taxes on dividends and interest earned with respect to securities of foreign corporations.

Redemption of Fund shares may result in recognition of a taxable gain or loss. Any loss realized upon redemption or sale of shares within six months from the date of their purchase will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions of long-term capital gains during such six-month period. Any loss realized upon a redemption or sale 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 redemption.

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

The foregoing discussion of U.S. federal income tax law relates solely to the application of that law to U.S. citizens or residents and U.S. domestic corporations, partnerships, trusts and estates. Each shareholder who is not a U.S. person should consider the U.S. and foreign tax consequences of ownership of shares of the Fund, including the possibility that such a shareholder may be subject to a U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30 percent (or at a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty) on amounts constituting ordinary income.

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

This discussion and the related discussion in the Prospectus have been prepared by Fund management. The information above is only a summary of some of the tax considerations generally affecting the Fund and its shareholders. No attempt has been made to discuss individual tax consequences and this discussion should not be construed as applicable to all shareholders’ tax situations. Investors should consult their own tax advisors to determine the suitability of the Fund and the applicability of any state, local or foreign taxation. No rulings with respect to tax matters of the Fund will be sought from the Internal Revenue Service. Sullivan & Worcester has expressed no opinion in respect of the tax matters related to the Fund.

## **MARKETING AND SUPPORT PAYMENTS**

The Advisor, out of its own resources and without additional cost to the Fund or their shareholders, may provide additional cash payments or other compensation to certain financial intermediaries who sell shares of the Fund. Such payments may be divided into categories as follows:

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

*Entertainment, Conferences and Events.* The Advisor also may pay cash or non-cash compensation to sales representatives of financial intermediaries in the form of (i) occasional gifts; (ii) occasional meals, tickets or other entertainments; and/or (iii) sponsorship support for the financial intermediary’s client seminars and cooperative advertising. In addition, the Advisor pays for exhibit space or sponsorships at regional or national events of financial intermediaries.

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

## **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING**

The Trust has established an Anti-Money Laundering Program (the “Program”) as required by the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (“USA PATRIOT Act”). In order 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.

Procedures to implement the Program include, but are not limited to, determining that the Fund’s Distributor and Transfer Agent have established proper anti-money laundering procedures, reporting suspicious and/or fraudulent activity, checking shareholder names against designated government lists, including Office of Foreign Asset Control (“OFAC”), and a complete and thorough review of all new opening account applications. The Fund will not transact business with any person or legal entity whose identity and beneficial owners, if applicable, cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Trust’s Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest and to divide or combine the shares into a greater or lesser number of shares without thereby changing the proportionate beneficial interest in the Fund. Each share represents an interest in the Fund proportionately equal to the interest of each other share. Upon the Fund’s liquidation, all shareholders would share pro rata in the net assets of the Fund available for distribution to shareholders.

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 class of the Fund, and has reserved the right to create and issue additional series or classes. 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. Currently, the Fund has two classes of shares – Class A and Class I.

The shares of each series or class participate equally in the earnings, dividends and assets of the particular series or class. Expenses of the Trust which are not attributable to a specific series or class are allocated among all the series in a manner believed by management of the Trust to be fair and equitable. Fund shares have no pre-emptive rights. Shares, when issued, are fully paid and non-assessable, except as set forth below. Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each share held. 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, such as the approval of distribution plans for a particular class.

The Trust is not required to hold annual meetings of shareholders but will hold special meetings of shareholders of a series or class when, in the judgment of the Trustees, it is necessary or desirable to submit matters for a shareholder vote. Shareholders have, under certain circumstances, the right to communicate with other shareholders in connection with requesting a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of removing one or more Trustees. Shareholders also have, in certain circumstances, the right to remove one or more Trustees without a meeting. No material amendment may be made to the Declaration of Trust without the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each portfolio affected by the amendment. The Declaration of Trust provides that, at any meeting of shareholders of the Trust or of any series or class, a Shareholder Servicing Agent may vote any shares as to which such Shareholder Servicing Agent is the agent of record and which are not represented in person

or by proxy at the meeting, proportionately in accordance with the votes cast by holders of all shares of that portfolio otherwise represented at the meeting in person or by proxy as to which such Shareholder Servicing Agent is the agent of record. Any shares so voted by a Shareholder Servicing Agent will be deemed represented at the meeting for purposes of quorum requirements. Shares have no preemptive rights. Shares, when issued, are fully paid and non-assessable, except as set forth below. Any series or class may be terminated (i) upon the merger or consolidation with, or the sale or disposition of all or substantially all of its assets to, another entity, if approved by the vote of the holders of two thirds of its outstanding shares, except that if the Board recommends such merger, consolidation or sale or disposition of assets, the approval by vote of the holders of a majority of the series' or class' outstanding shares will be sufficient, or (ii) by the vote of the holders of a majority of its outstanding shares, or (iii) by the Board by written notice to the series' or class' shareholders. Unless each series and class is so terminated, the Trust will continue indefinitely.

The Declaration of Trust also provides that the Trust shall maintain appropriate insurance (for example, fidelity bonding and errors and omissions insurance) for the protection of the Trust, its shareholders, Trustees, officers, employees and agents covering possible tort and other liabilities. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which both inadequate insurance existed and the Trust itself was unable to meet its obligations.

The Declaration of Trust does not require the issuance of stock certificates. If stock certificates are issued, they must be returned by the registered owners prior to the transfer or redemption of shares represented by such certificates.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that as to any investment company which has two or more series outstanding and as to any matter required to be submitted to shareholder vote, such matter is not deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a "majority" (as defined in the Rule) of the voting securities of each series affected by the matter. Such separate voting requirements do not apply to the election of Trustees or the ratification of the selection of accountants. The Rule contains special provisions for cases in which an advisory contract is approved by one or more, but not all, series. A change in investment policy may go into effect as to one or more series whose holders so approve the change even though the required vote is not obtained as to the holders of other affected series.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The [Form N-CSR](#) for the Fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, is a separate document supplied with this SAI and the financial statements, accompanying notes and report of independent registered public accounting firm appearing therein are incorporated by reference in this SAI.

## APPENDIX

### CORPORATE BOND RATINGS\*

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

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

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

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

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

#### S&P Global Ratings ("S&P")

"AAA" – An obligation rated "AAA" has the highest rating assigned by S&P. 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 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 believes that such payments will be made within five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or 30 calendar days. The “D” rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. An obligation’s rating is lowered to “D” if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer.

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

“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 does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

Local Currency and Foreign Currency Risks - S&P 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.

## COMMERCIAL PAPER RATINGS

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

*Moody’s Investors Service (“Moody’s”)* short-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect the likelihood of a default on contractually promised payments. Ratings may be assigned to issuers, short-term programs or to individual short-term debt instruments.

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



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

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

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

“NP” – Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

### **S&P Global Ratings (“S&P”)**

An S&P short-term issue credit rating is a forward-looking opinion about the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation having an original maturity of no more than 365 days. The following summarizes the rating categories used by S&P for short-term issues:

“A-1” – A short-term obligation rated “A-1” is rated in the highest category and indicates that 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 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.

Local Currency and Foreign Currency Risks – S&P 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.