

**LKCM FUNDS**

**LKCM SMALL CAP EQUITY FUND  
(LKSCX)**

**LKCM SMALL-MID CAP EQUITY FUND  
(LKSMX)**

**LKCM EQUITY FUND  
(LKEQX)**

**LKCM BALANCED FUND  
(LKBAX)**

**LKCM FIXED INCOME FUND  
(LKFIX)**

**LKCM INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND  
(LKINX)**

**301 COMMERCE STREET, SUITE 1600  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102**

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

May 1, 2024

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus of each of the above series of LKCM Funds (each a “Fund” and collectively the “Funds”) dated May 1, 2024, as such Prospectus may be supplemented or revised from time to time. A copy of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge by calling the Funds at (800) 688-LKCM or by visiting [www.lkcmfunds.com](http://www.lkcmfunds.com).

The Funds’ audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 are [incorporated herein by reference](#) to the Funds’ 2023 Annual Report. A copy of the Annual Report may be obtained without charge by calling the Funds at (800) 688-LKCM or by visiting [www.lkcmfunds.com](http://www.lkcmfunds.com).

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In deciding whether to invest in one or more Funds, you should rely on information in this SAI and the Prospectus. The Funds have not authorized others to provide additional information in any state or jurisdiction in which such offering may not legally be made.

Luther King Capital Management Corporation (the “Adviser”) serves as the investment adviser for the Funds.

## FUND ORGANIZATION

### DESCRIPTION OF SHARES AND VOTING RIGHTS

The LKCM Funds (the “Trust”) is an open-end, diversified, management investment company. Each Fund is a diversified and separate series of the Trust, a Delaware statutory trust that was established by a Declaration of Trust dated February 10, 1994 (as amended, the “Declaration of Trust”). The Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees of the Trust to issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest, without par value, from an unlimited number of series. Currently, the Trust offers seven series, six of which are the LKCM Small Cap Equity Fund (“Small Cap Equity Fund”), LKCM Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund (“Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund”), LKCM Equity Fund (“Equity Fund”), LKCM Balanced Fund (“Balanced Fund”), LKCM Fixed Income Fund (“Fixed Income Fund”) and LKCM International Equity Fund (“International Equity Fund”) (the “Funds”) and described more fully herein.

Pursuant to the Declaration of Trust, the Trustees may also authorize the creation of additional series (the proceeds of which would be invested in separate, independently managed funds with distinct investment objectives and policies and share purchase, redemption and net asset valuation procedures) with such preferences, privileges, limitations and voting and dividend rights as the Trustees may determine. All consideration received by the Trust for shares of any additional series, and all assets in which such consideration is invested, would belong to that series only and would be subject to the liabilities related thereto.

When issued, the shares of the Funds are fully paid and non-assessable, have no preemptive or subscription rights and are fully transferable. There are no conversion rights. Each share of a Fund is entitled to participate equally in dividends and capital gain distributions and in the assets of the Fund in the event of liquidation. The shares of the Funds have non-cumulative voting rights, which means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting for the election of Trustees can elect 100% of the Trustees if they choose to do so. A shareholder is entitled to one vote for each full share held (and a fractional vote for each fractional share held), then standing in the shareholder’s name on the books of a Fund.

The Funds are not required, and do not intend, to hold regular annual shareholder meetings. The Funds may hold special meetings for consideration of proposals requiring shareholder approval, such as changing fundamental policies. The Trust will assist in shareholder communication in such matters to the extent required by law.

Shares of the Funds do not currently charge a Rule 12b-1 fee. More information regarding the Rule 12b-1 Plans can be found under the sub-heading “Distribution Plan.”

### SHAREHOLDER AND TRUSTEE LIABILITY

The Declaration of Trust contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation, or instrument entered into or executed by the Trust or the Trustees, but this disclaimer may not be effective in some jurisdictions or as to certain types of claims. The Declaration of Trust further provides for indemnification out of the Trust’s property of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Trust. The Declaration of Trust also provides that the Trust shall, upon request, assume the defense of any claim made against any shareholder for any act or obligation of the Trust and satisfy any judgment thereon. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the Trust itself would be unable to meet its obligations.

The Declaration of Trust further provides that the Trustees will not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law, but nothing in the Declaration of Trust protects a Trustee against any liability to which he would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of the office.

### INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS

#### ALL FUNDS

The Funds are subject to the following restrictions, which are fundamental policies and may not be changed without the approval of a majority of a Fund’s outstanding voting securities. As used herein, a “majority of a Fund’s outstanding voting securities” means the lesser of: (1) at least 67% of the voting securities of a Fund present at a meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund are present or represented by proxy, or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of a Fund.

As a matter of fundamental policy, each Fund will not:

- (1) invest in physical commodities or contracts on physical commodities;
- (2) purchase or sell real estate, although it may purchase and sell securities of companies that deal in real estate, other than real estate limited partnerships, and may purchase and sell marketable securities that are secured by interests in real estate;
- (3) make loans except: (i) by purchasing debt securities in accordance with its investment objective and policies or entering into repurchase agreements; or (ii) with respect to the Small Cap Equity, Small-Mid Cap Equity, Balanced, Fixed Income, and International Equity Funds, by lending their portfolio securities to banks, brokers, dealers and other financial institutions, so long as such loans are not inconsistent with the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), or the rules and regulations or interpretations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) thereunder;
- (4) with respect to 75% of its assets, purchase more than 10% of any class of the outstanding voting securities of any issuer;

- (5) with respect to 75% of its assets, invest more than 5% of its total assets in the securities of any single issuer (other than obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities);
- (6) borrow money, except (i) from banks and as a temporary measure for extraordinary or emergency purposes (not for leveraging or investment) or (ii) with respect to the Small Cap Equity, Small-Mid Cap Equity, Balanced, Fixed Income, and International Equity Funds in connection with reverse repurchase agreements provided that (i) and (ii) in combination do not exceed 33 1/3% of the Fund's total assets (including the amount borrowed) less liabilities (exclusive of borrowings); and the Small Cap Equity, Small-Mid Cap Equity, Equity, and International Equity Funds cannot buy additional securities if they borrow more than 5% of their total assets; provided, however, with respect to the International Equity Fund, that the purchase or sale of options, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, forward contracts, swaps, caps, floors, collars and other similar financial instruments and margin deposits, security interests, liens and collateral arrangements with respect to such instruments shall not constitute borrowing;
- (7) underwrite the securities of other issuers (except to the extent that the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") in the disposition of restricted securities);
- (8) acquire any securities of companies within one industry if, as a result of such acquisition, more than 25% of the Fund's total assets would be invested in securities of companies within such industry; provided, however, that there shall be no limitation on the purchase of obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities; and
- (9) issue senior securities, except that this limitation shall not apply to: (i) evidence of indebtedness which the Fund is permitted to incur; (ii) shares of the separate classes or series of the Trust; or (iii) collateral arrangements with respect to currency-related contracts, futures contracts, options or other permitted investments, including deposits of initial and variation margin.

With the exception of fundamental investment limitation (6) above if a percentage limitation on the investment or utilization of assets as set forth above is adhered to at the time an investment is made, a later change in percentage resulting from changes in the value of the investment or a Fund's assets will not require the sale of securities.

The Funds are also subject to the following restrictions, which are non-fundamental policies and may be changed by the Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "Board of Trustees") without shareholder approval. As a matter of non-fundamental policy, each Fund will not:

- (1) purchase securities on margin, except for use of short-term credit as may be necessary for the clearance of purchases and sales of securities, but it may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in options, futures, and options on futures; or sell securities short unless, by virtue of its ownership of other securities, it has the right to obtain securities equivalent in kind and amount to the securities sold and, if the right is conditional, the sale is made upon the same conditions. Transactions in futures contracts, options and options on futures are not deemed to constitute selling securities short;
- (2) pledge, mortgage, or hypothecate any of its assets to an extent greater than 33 1/3% of its total assets at fair market value;
- (3) invest more than an aggregate of 15% of the net assets of a Fund in securities deemed to be illiquid, including securities which are not readily marketable, the disposition of which is restricted (excluding securities that are not registered under the Securities Act but which can be sold to qualified institutional investors in accordance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act and commercial paper sold in reliance on Section 4(2) of the Securities Act), repurchase agreements having maturities of more than seven days and certain over-the-counter options;
- (4) invest its assets in securities of any investment company, except by purchase in the open market involving only customary brokers' commissions or in connection with mergers, acquisitions of assets or consolidations, or except as may otherwise be permitted by the 1940 Act;
- (5) write or acquire options or interests in oil, gas or other mineral exploration or development programs or leases; and
- (6) with respect to each of the Small Cap Equity Fund, Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund, Equity Fund, Fixed Income Fund and International Equity Fund, 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 notice.

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

The investment objectives and policies of the Funds are described in detail in the summary prospectuses under the caption "Principal Investment Strategies" and in the statutory prospectus under the caption "Additional Information Regarding the Investment Objectives and Principal Investment Strategies of the Funds." These sections provide a description of the securities in which a Fund principally may invest to achieve its investment objective, the principal strategies it may employ and the corresponding risks of such securities and strategies. Unless otherwise indicated, each Fund may invest in the securities and other instruments described below. The greatest risk of investing in a Fund is that its returns will fluctuate and you could lose money. Past events in the financial sector have resulted, and may continue to result, in an unusually high degree of volatility in the financial markets. Both domestic and foreign equity markets could experience volatility and turmoil.

### **DERIVATIVES (International Equity Fund Only)**

Generally, a derivative is a financial instrument, the value of which is based on, or "derived" from, a traditional security, asset, currency, or market index (collectively referred to as "reference assets"). Some "derivatives" such as mortgage-related and other asset-

backed securities are in many respects like any other investment, although they may be more volatile or less liquid than more traditional debt securities. There are, in fact, many different types of derivatives and many different ways to use them. The value of certain derivative securities is linked to other equity securities (such as depositary receipts), currencies, interest rates, indices or other financial indicators (reference assets).

LKCM relies on an exclusion from regulation as a commodity pool operator (“CPO”) under Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) Regulation 4.5 on behalf of the International Equity Fund. In order for LKCM to rely on the exclusion, the International Equity Fund’s commodity interests other than those used for bona fide hedging purposes (as defined by the CFTC) must be limited such that the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish the positions (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions and excluding the amount by which options that are “in-the-money” at the time of purchase) do not exceed 5% of the Fund’s NAV, or alternatively, the aggregate net notional value of the positions, determined at the time the most recent position was established, does not exceed 100% of the Fund’s NAV (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). Further, to qualify for the exclusion, the Fund must satisfy the marketing test, which requires, among other things, that a fund not hold itself out as a vehicle for trading commodity interests. The International Equity Fund’s ability to use derivatives also may be limited by federal income tax considerations. See the section entitled “Taxation.”

Derivatives may involve significant risk. Some derivatives have the potential for unlimited loss, regardless of the size of the International Equity Fund’s initial investment. Not all derivative transactions require a counterparty to post collateral, which may expose the International Equity Fund to greater losses in the event of a default by a counterparty.

Derivatives may be illiquid and may be more volatile than other types of investments. The International Equity Fund may buy and sell derivatives that are neither centrally cleared nor traded on an exchange. Such derivatives may be subject to heightened counterparty, liquidity and valuation risk.

The regulation of the U.S. and non-U.S. derivatives markets has undergone substantial change in recent years and such change may continue. In particular, effective August 19, 2022 (the “Compliance Date”), Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act (the “Derivatives Rule”) replaced the asset segregation regime of Investment Company Act Release No. 10666 (“Release 10666”) with a new framework for the use of derivatives by registered funds. As of the Compliance Date, the SEC rescinded Release 10666 and withdrew no-action letters and similar guidance addressing a Fund’s use of derivatives and began requiring a Fund to satisfy the requirements of the Derivatives Rule. As a result, a Fund generally is no longer required to engage in “segregation” or “coverage” techniques with respect to derivatives transactions and will instead comply with the applicable requirements of the Derivatives Rule.

The enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”) resulted in historic and comprehensive reform relating to derivatives, including the manner in which they are entered into, reported, recorded, executed, and settled or cleared. Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, the SEC and CFTC have promulgated a broad range of regulations and guidance based on the use of derivatives by registered investment companies. In addition, regulations adopted by the banking regulators require certain banks to include in a range of financial contracts, including many derivatives contracts, terms delaying or restricting default, termination and other rights in the event that the bank and/or its affiliates become subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. The regulations could limit a Fund’s ability to exercise a range of cross-default rights if its counterparty, or an affiliate of the counterparty, is subject to bankruptcy or similar proceeding. Such regulations could further negatively impact a Fund’s use of derivatives.

**Forward Foreign Currency Contracts.** The International Equity Fund may enter into forward foreign currency contracts (“forward currency contracts”). A forward currency contract involves an obligation to purchase or sell a specified currency at a fixed price at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties at a price set at the time of the contract. Because these forward currency contracts normally are settled through an exchange of currencies, they are traded in the interbank market directly between currency traders (usually large commercial banks) and their customers.

Forward currency contracts may serve as long hedges. For example, the International Equity Fund may purchase a forward currency contract to lock in the U.S. dollar price of a security denominated in a foreign currency that it intends to acquire. Forward currency contract transactions also may serve as short hedges. For example, the International Equity Fund may sell a forward currency contract to lock in the U.S. dollar equivalent of the proceeds from the anticipated sale of a security or from a dividend or interest payment on a security denominated in a foreign currency. The International Equity Fund may enter into forward currency contracts to sell a foreign currency for a fixed U.S. dollar amount approximating the value of some or all of its respective portfolio securities denominated in such foreign currency. In addition, the International Equity Fund may use forward currency contracts when the Adviser wishes to “lock in” the U.S. dollar price of a security when the International Equity Fund is purchasing or selling a security denominated in a foreign currency or anticipates receiving a dividend or interest payment denominated in a foreign currency. The International Equity Fund may enter into forward currency contracts for the purchase or sale of a specified currency at a specified future date either with respect to specific transactions or with respect to portfolio positions in order to minimize the risk to the International Equity Fund from adverse changes in the relationship between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies. The International Equity Fund may use forward currency contracts to seek to hedge against changes in the value of a particular currency by using forward currency contracts on another foreign currency or a basket of currencies, the value of which the Adviser believes will have a positive correlation to the values of the currency being hedged. Use of a different foreign currency magnifies the risk that movements in the price of the forward contract will not correlate or will correlate unfavorably with the foreign currency being hedged. In addition, the International Equity Fund may use forward currency contracts to shift exposure to foreign currency fluctuations from one country to another. For example, if the International Equity Fund owned securities denominated in a foreign currency that the Adviser believed would decline relative to another currency, it might enter into a forward currency contract to sell an appropriate amount of the first foreign currency, with payment to be made in the second currency. Transactions that involve two foreign currencies are sometimes referred to as “cross hedging.” Use of a different foreign currency magnifies the International Equity Fund’s exposure to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations.

The cost to the International Equity Fund of engaging in forward currency contracts varies with factors such as the currency involved, the length of the contract period and the market conditions then prevailing. Because forward currency contracts usually are entered into on a principal basis, no fees or commissions are involved. When the International Equity Fund enters into a forward currency contract, it relies on the counterparty to make or take delivery of the underlying currency at the maturity of the contract. Failure by the counterparty to do so would result in the loss of any expected benefit of the transaction.

Sellers or purchasers of forward currency contracts can enter into offsetting closing transactions, similar to closing transactions on futures, by purchasing or selling, respectively, an instrument identical to the instrument sold or bought, respectively. Secondary markets generally do not exist for forward currency contracts, however, with the result that closing transactions generally can be made for forward currency contracts only by negotiating directly with the counterparty. Thus, there can be no assurance that the International Equity Fund will in fact be able to close out a forward currency contract at a favorable price prior to maturity. In addition, in the event of insolvency of the counterparty, the International Equity Fund might be unable to close out a forward currency contract at any time prior to maturity. In either event, the International Equity Fund would continue to be subject to market risk with respect to the position and would continue to be required to maintain a position in the securities or currencies that are the subject of the hedge or to maintain cash or securities.

The precise matching of forward currency contract amounts and the value of securities whose U.S. dollar value is being hedged by those contracts involved generally will not be possible because the value of such securities, measured in the foreign currency, will change after the forward currency contract has been established.

Thus, the International Equity Fund might need to purchase or sell foreign currencies in the spot (cash) market to the extent such foreign currencies are not covered by forward contracts. The projection of short-term currency market movements is extremely difficult, and the successful execution of a short-term hedging strategy is highly uncertain.

The International Equity Fund bears the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a forward currency contract in the event of the default or bankruptcy of a counterparty. If such a default occurs, the International Equity Fund may have contractual remedies pursuant to the forward currency contract, but such remedies may be subject to bankruptcy and insolvency laws which could affect the International Equity Fund's rights as a creditor.

**Non-Deliverable Currency Forwards.** The International Equity Fund also may enter into non-deliverable currency forwards ("NDFs"). NDFs are cash-settled, short-term forward contracts on foreign currencies (each a "Reference Currency"), generally on currencies that are non-convertible, and may be thinly traded or illiquid. NDFs involve an obligation to pay a U. S. dollar amount (the "Settlement Amount") equal to the difference between the prevailing market exchange rate for the Reference Currency and the agreed upon exchange rate (the "NDF Rate"), with respect to an agreed notional amount. NDFs have a fixing date and a settlement (delivery) date. The fixing date is the date and time at which the difference between the prevailing market exchange rate and the agreed upon exchange rate is calculated. The settlement (delivery) date is the date by which the payment of the Settlement Amount is due to the party receiving payment.

Although NDFs are similar to other forward currency contracts, NDFs do not require physical delivery of each Reference Currency on the settlement date. Rather, on the settlement date, one counterparty pays the Settlement Amount. NDFs typically may have terms from one month up to two years and are settled in U.S. dollars. The International Equity Fund will typically use NDFs for hedging purposes or for direct investment in a foreign country for income or gain. The use of NDFs for hedging or to increase income or gain may not be successful, resulting in losses to the International Equity Fund, and the cost of such strategies may reduce the Fund's returns.

NDFs are subject to many of the risks associated with derivatives in general and forward currency transactions including risks associated with fluctuations in foreign currency and the risk that the counterparty will fail to fulfill its obligations. In addition, pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act and regulations adopted by the CFTC in connection with implementing the Dodd-Frank Act, NDFs are deemed to be swaps, and consequently commodity interests for purposes of amended Regulation 4.5.

Although NDFs have historically been traded OTC, in the future pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, they may be exchange-traded. Under such circumstances, they will be centrally cleared and a secondary market for them will exist. All NDFs are subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the counterparty will not perform as contractually required under the NDF. With respect to NDFs that are centrally-cleared, the International Equity Fund could lose margin payments it has deposited with the clearing organization as well as the net amount of gains not yet paid by the clearing organization if it breaches its obligations under the NDF, becomes insolvent or goes into bankruptcy. In the event of bankruptcy of the clearing organization, the investor may be entitled to the net amount of gains the investor is entitled to receive plus the return of margin owed to it only in proportion to the amount received by the clearing organization's other customers, potentially resulting in losses to the investor.

**Futures Contracts.** The International Equity Fund may enter into futures contracts. Futures contracts obligate a purchaser to take delivery of, or cash settle, a specific amount of a commodity, security or obligation underlying the futures contract at a specified time in the future for a specified price. Likewise, the seller incurs an obligation to deliver the specified amount of the underlying obligation against receipt of the specified price. Futures are traded on both U.S. and foreign commodities exchanges. The purchase of futures can serve as a long hedge, and the sale of futures can serve as a short hedge.

No price is paid upon entering into a futures contract. Instead, at the inception of a futures contract the International Equity Fund is required to deposit "initial margin" consisting of cash or U.S. Government Securities in an amount set by the exchange on which the contract is traded and varying based on the volatility of the underlying asset. Margin must also be deposited when writing a call or put option on a futures contract, in accordance with applicable exchange rules. Unlike margin in securities transactions, initial margin on futures contracts does not represent a borrowing, but rather is in the nature of a performance bond or good-faith deposit that is returned to the International Equity Fund at the termination of the transaction if all contractual obligations have been satisfied. Under certain

circumstances, such as periods of high volatility, the International Equity Fund may be required by a futures exchange to increase the level of its initial margin payment, and initial margin requirements might be increased generally in the future by regulatory action.

Subsequent “variation margin” payments (sometimes referred to as “maintenance margin” payments) are made to and from the futures broker daily as the value of the futures position varies, a process known as “marking-to-market.” Variation margin does not involve borrowing, but rather represents a daily settlement of the International Equity Fund’s obligations to or from a futures broker. When the International Equity Fund purchases or sells a futures contract, it is subject to daily or even intraday variation margin calls that could be substantial in the event of adverse price movements. If the International Equity Fund has insufficient cash to meet daily or intraday variation margin requirements, it might need to sell securities at a time when such sales are disadvantageous.

Purchasers and sellers of futures contracts can enter into offsetting closing transactions, by selling or purchasing, respectively, an instrument identical to the instrument purchased or sold. Positions in futures contracts may be closed only on a futures exchange or board of trade that trades that contract. There can be no assurance that such a market will exist for a particular contract at a particular time. In such event, it may not be possible to close a futures contract.

Although many futures contracts by their terms call for the actual delivery or acquisition of the underlying asset, in most cases the contractual obligation is fulfilled before the date of the contract without having to make or take delivery of the securities or currency. The offsetting of a contractual obligation is accomplished by buying (or selling, as appropriate) on a commodities exchange an identical futures contract calling for delivery in the same month. Such a transaction, which is effected through a member of an exchange, cancels the obligation to make or take delivery of the securities or currency. Since all transactions in the futures market are made, offset or fulfilled through a clearinghouse associated with the exchange on which the contracts are traded, the International Equity Fund will incur brokerage fees when it purchases or sells futures contracts.

Under certain circumstances, futures exchanges may establish daily limits on the amount that the price of a futures contract can vary from the previous day’s settlement price; once that limit is reached, no trades may be made that day at a price beyond the limit. Daily price limits do not limit potential losses because prices could move to the daily limit for several consecutive days with little or no trading, thereby preventing liquidation of unfavorable positions.

If the International Equity Fund were unable to liquidate a futures contract due to the absence of a liquid secondary market or the imposition of price limits, it could incur substantial losses. The International Equity Fund would continue to be subject to market risk with respect to the position. In addition, the International Equity Fund would continue to be required to make daily variation margin payments and might be required to maintain the position being hedged by the futures contract or option thereon or to maintain cash or securities in a segregated account.

The ordinary spreads between prices in the cash and futures markets, due to differences in the nature of those markets, are subject to distortions. First, all participants in the futures market are subject to initial deposit and variation margin requirements. Rather than meeting additional variation margin deposit requirements, investors may close futures contracts through offsetting transactions that could distort the normal relationship between the cash and futures markets. Second, the liquidity of the futures market depends on participants entering into offsetting transactions rather than making or taking delivery. To the extent participants decide to make or take delivery, liquidity in the futures market could be reduced, thus producing distortion. Third, from the point of view of speculators, the margin deposit requirements in the futures market are less onerous than margin requirements in the securities market. Therefore, increased participation by speculators in the futures market may cause temporary price distortions. Due to the possibility of distortion, a correct forecast of securities price or currency exchange rate trends by the Adviser may still not result in a successful transaction.

Futures contracts also entail other risks. Although the use of such contracts may benefit the International Equity Fund, if investment judgment about the general direction of, for example, an index is incorrect, the International Equity Fund’s overall performance would be worse than if it had not entered into any such contract. There are differences between the securities and futures markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between the markets, causing a given transaction not to achieve its objectives.

**Options.** The use of options involves investment strategies and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. If a strategy is applied at an inappropriate time or market conditions or trends are judged incorrectly, the use of options may lower the International Equity Fund’s return. There can be no guarantee that the use of options will increase the International Equity Fund’s return or income. In addition, there may be an imperfect correlation between the movement in prices of options and the securities underlying them and there may at times not be a liquid secondary market for various options.

By writing put options, the International Equity Fund takes on the risk of declines in the value of the underlying instrument, including the possibility of a loss up to the entire strike price of each option it sells, but without the corresponding opportunity to benefit from potential increases in the value of the underlying instrument. When the International Equity Fund writes a put option, it assumes the risk that it must purchase the underlying instrument at a strike price that may be higher than the market price of the instrument. If there is a broad market decline and the International Equity Fund is not able to close out its written put options, it may result in substantial losses to the Fund. By writing a call option, the International Equity Fund may be obligated to deliver instruments underlying an option at less than the market price. When the International Equity Fund writes a covered call option, it gives up the opportunity to profit from a price increase in the underlying instrument above the strike price. If a covered call option that the International Equity Fund has written is exercised, the International Equity Fund will experience a gain or loss from the sale of the underlying instrument, depending on the price at which the Fund purchased the instrument and the strike price of the option. The International Equity Fund will receive a premium from writing options, but the premium received may not be sufficient to offset any losses sustained from exercised options. In the case of a covered call, the premium received may be offset by a decline in the market value of the underlying instrument during the option period. If an option that the International Equity Fund has purchased is never

exercised or closed out, the International Equity Fund will lose the amount of the premium it paid and the use of those funds. Options on futures contracts may be subject to additional risks, including risks associated with the underlying futures contract.

## **EQUITY RELATED SECURITIES**

The equity securities in which the Funds may invest include American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”), common stocks, securities convertible into common stock (“convertible securities”), preferred stocks, shares of real estate investment trusts (“REITs”), rights and warrants.

**ADRs.** ADRs are depositary receipts for foreign issuers in registered form traded in U.S. securities markets. ADRs are not considered to be foreign securities when calculating a Fund’s foreign securities limitations, but such securities may be subject to many of the same risks as foreign securities. ADRs may be listed on a national securities exchange or may trade in the over-the-counter market. ADR prices are denominated in U.S. dollars; the underlying security is denominated in a foreign currency. ADRs may not be denominated in the same currency as the securities into which they may be converted. Investing in depositary receipts entails substantially the same risks as direct investment in foreign securities. There is generally less publicly available information about foreign companies and there may be less governmental regulation and supervision of foreign stock exchanges, brokers and listed companies. In addition, such companies may use different accounting and financial standards (and certain currencies may become unavailable for transfer from a foreign currency), resulting in a Fund’s possible inability to convert immediately into U.S. currency proceeds realized upon the sale of portfolio securities of the affected foreign companies. The issuers of unsponsored depositary receipts generally are not obligated to disclose material information about the underlying securities to investors in the United States. Ownership of unsponsored depositary receipts may not entitle a Fund to the same benefits and rights as ownership of a sponsored depositary receipt or the underlying security. Please see “Foreign and Emerging Market Securities” below for a description of the risks associated with investments in foreign securities.

**Common Stocks.** Common stocks represent the residual ownership interest in the issuer and are generally subordinate to all of its other obligations, including preferred stock. Common stocks generally have voting rights. Common stocks fluctuate in price in response to many factors including historical and prospective earnings of the issuer, the value of its assets, factors affecting companies in the same industry or sector, general economic conditions, interest rates, currency exchange rates, investor perceptions and market liquidity. The price of a company’s stock may also be affected by changes in financial markets that are relatively unrelated to the particular company, such as currency exchange rates or industry regulation. Companies that elect to pay dividends on their common stock generally only do so after they invest in their own business and make required payments to bondholders and on other debt and preferred stock. Therefore, the value of a company’s common stock will usually be more volatile than its bonds, other debt and preferred stock. Common stock may be exchange-traded or traded over-the-counter (“OTC”). OTC stock may be less liquid than exchange-traded stock. In the event of an issuer’s bankruptcy, there is a substantial risk that there will be nothing left to pay common stockholders after payments, if any, to bondholders and preferred stockholders have been made.

**Convertible Securities.** A convertible security is a bond, debenture, note or other security that entitles the holder to acquire common stock or other equity securities of the same or a different issuer within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. A convertible security generally entitles the holder to receive interest paid or accrued until the convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. Before conversion, convertible securities have characteristics similar to nonconvertible debt securities. Convertible securities rank senior to common stock in a corporation’s capital structure and, therefore, may entail less risk than the corporation’s common stock, although 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. The market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, to increase as interest rates decline. While convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible debt securities of similar quality, they do enable the investor to benefit from increases in the market price of the underlying common stock. Holders of convertible securities have a claim on the assets of the issuer prior to the common stockholders but may be subordinated to holders of similar non-convertible securities of the same issuer. A convertible security may be subject to redemption at the option of the issuer at a predetermined price. If a convertible security held by a Fund is called for redemption, the Fund would be required to permit the issuer to redeem the security and convert it to underlying common stock, or would sell the convertible security to a third party.

**Preferred Stocks.** Preferred stock generally offers a stated dividend rate payable from the corporation’s earnings. These preferred stock dividends may be cumulative or non-cumulative, participating, or auction rate. If interest rates rise, the fixed dividend on preferred stocks may be less attractive, causing the price of preferred stocks to decline. Preferred stock may have mandatory sinking fund provisions, as well as call/redemption provisions prior to maturity, a negative feature when interest rates decline. The rights of preferred stocks are generally subordinate to rights associated with a corporation’s debt securities. Dividends on some preferred stock may be “cumulative” if stated dividends from prior periods have not been paid. Preferred stock also generally has a preference over common stock on the distribution of a corporation’s assets in the event of liquidation of the corporation, and may be “participating,” which means that it may be entitled to a dividend exceeding the stated dividend in certain cases.

**Real Estate Investment Trusts.** The Funds may invest in shares of REITs. Equity REITs invest in income-producing real estate. They produce income from rental and lease payments as well as occasional sales of property. Mortgage REITs make construction, development, and long-term mortgage loans. They produce income from repayment of the loans and sales of the loan obligations. Hybrid REITs may invest in both real estate and real estate loans.

Unlike most corporations (and trusts and associations otherwise taxable as such for federal tax purposes), REITs do not have to pay federal income tax on net income and net realized gains they distribute to their shareholders if they meet certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. To qualify for that treatment, a REIT must, among other things, (1) distribute to its shareholders for each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of its “real estate investment trust taxable income” (which includes all net realized capital gains) and certain other income and (2) derive at least 75% of its gross income each taxable year from rents from real property, interest on mortgages secured by real property, gains from the disposition of real property or such mortgages, and certain



other real estate related income. The failure of a company in which a Fund invests to qualify for treatment as a REIT under federal tax law may have an adverse impact on the Fund. REITs generally offer investors greater liquidity and diversification than direct ownership of real estate, as well as greater income potential than an investment in common stocks.

REITs are subject to real estate industry risk. These risks may include the following: declines in the value of real estate; risks related to general and local economic conditions; possible lack of availability of mortgage funds; lack of ability to access the credit or capital markets; overbuilding; extended vacancies of properties; defaults by borrowers or tenants, particularly during an economic downturn; increasing competition; increases in property taxes and operating expenses; changes in zoning laws; losses due to costs resulting from the clean-up of environmental problems; liability to third parties for damages resulting from environmental problems; casualty or condemnation losses; regulatory limitations on rents and operating expenses; changes in market and sub-market values and the appeal of properties to tenants; and changes in interest rates. In general, real estate values can be affected by a variety of factors, including supply and demand for properties, the economic health of the country as well as different regions, and the strength of specific industries that rent properties. Ultimately, an individual REIT's performance depends on the types and locations for the properties it owns and on how well the REIT manages its properties. For instance, rental income could decline because of extended vacancies, increased competition from nearby properties, tenants' failures to pay rent, or incompetent management. Property values could decrease because of overbuilding in the area, environmental liabilities, uninsured damages caused by natural disasters, a general decline in the neighborhood, losses due to casualty or condemnation, increases in property taxes, or changes in zoning laws. Any domestic REIT could be adversely affected by the failure of a REIT to qualify for federal income-tax-free "pass-through" of net income and net realized gains that are distributed to shareholders and exemption from registration as an investment company. The failure of a company to qualify for treatment as a REIT under the federal tax law likely would have an adverse impact on a Fund's after-tax performance.

REITs are also subject to interest rate risk. REIT stock prices overall will decline over short or even long periods in an environment of rising interest rates. In general, during periods of high interest rates, REITs may lose some of their appeal for investors who may be able to obtain higher yields from other income-producing investments. Higher interest rates also mean that financing for real estate purchases and improvements may be more costly and difficult to obtain.

REITs tend to be small or medium-size companies. Because small and mid-cap stocks are typically less liquid than large-cap stocks, REIT stocks may sometimes experience greater share-price fluctuation than the stocks of larger companies. REITs are pooled investment vehicles with their own fees and expenses and a Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of those fees and expenses, which can be significant.

**Rights and Warrants.** Rights and warrants are options to purchase equity securities at specific prices valid for a specific period of time. Their prices do not necessarily move parallel to the prices of the underlying securities. Rights are similar to warrants but normally have a short duration and are distributed by the issuer to its shareholders. Warrants and rights have no voting rights, receive no dividends and have no rights with respect to the assets of the issuer. The percentage increase or decrease in the value of a warrant may be greater than the percentage increase or decrease in the value of the underlying equity security. The market for warrants or rights may be very limited and it may be difficult to sell them promptly at an acceptable price.

**Securities Subject to Special Situations.** The Funds may invest in equity securities for which a tender or exchange offer has been made or announced and in securities of companies for which a merger, consolidation, bankruptcy, liquidation, restructuring or reorganization proposal or other unusual event has been announced or is anticipated. The primary risk of such investments is that if the contemplated transaction is abandoned, revised, delayed or becomes subject to uncertainty, the market price of the securities may decline below the purchase price paid by a Fund. Generally, securities which are the subject of such an offer or proposal sell at a premium to their historic market price immediately prior to the announcement of the offer or may also discount what the stated or appraised value of the security would be if the contemplated transaction were approved or consummated. Such investments may be advantageous when the discount significantly overstates the risk of the contingencies involved, significantly undervalues the securities, assets or cash to be received by shareholders of the target company as a result of the contemplated transaction, or fails adequately to recognize the possibility that the offer or proposal may be replaced or superseded by an offer or proposal of greater value.

The evaluation of such contingencies requires broad knowledge and experience on the part of the Adviser which must appraise not only the value of the issuer and its component businesses as well as the assets or securities to be received as a result of the contemplated transaction but also the financial resources and business motivation of the offeror and the dynamics and business and regulatory climate when the offer or proposal is in process. It may be difficult to obtain complete financial or other information about companies involved in certain special situations and management of such companies may be addressing a situation with which it has little experience. Since such investments are ordinarily short-term in nature, they will tend to increase the turnover ratio of a Fund, thereby increasing its brokerage and other transaction expenses, and be more speculative. Conversely, the terms of certain special situation investments may be subject to restrictions that prevent a Fund from selling the position until the special situation is largely resolved, which may limit a Fund's ability to pursue other opportunities as they arise.

## **FOREIGN AND EMERGING MARKET SECURITIES**

**Foreign Securities.** The Funds may invest in securities of foreign issuers. The Balanced Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in foreign securities. Investing in foreign issuers involves certain special considerations that are not typically associated with investing in securities of U.S. issuers. Since the securities of foreign issuers are frequently denominated in foreign currencies, the Funds may purchase or sell non-U.S. currency futures contracts and options on non-U.S. currency futures, and the Funds may temporarily hold invested reserves in bank deposits in foreign currencies, the Funds will be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in currency rates and in exchange control regulations, and may incur costs in connection with conversions between various currencies. Foreign currencies will fluctuate, and may decline, in value relative to the U.S. dollar and affect a Fund's investments in foreign currencies or in securities that trade in, and receive revenues in, or in derivatives that provide exposure to, foreign currencies.

As foreign companies are not generally subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and practices comparable to those applicable to domestic companies, there may be less publicly available information about certain foreign companies than about domestic companies. Securities of some foreign companies are generally less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable domestic companies. There is generally less government supervision and regulation of stock exchanges, brokers and listed companies than in the U.S. In addition, with respect to certain foreign countries, there is the possibility of expropriation or confiscatory taxation, political or social instability, or diplomatic developments that could affect U.S. investments in those countries. Although each Fund will endeavor to achieve most favorable execution costs in its portfolio transactions, fixed commissions on many foreign stock exchanges are generally higher than negotiated commissions on U.S. exchanges. In addition, it is expected that the expenses for custodian arrangements of the Funds' foreign securities will be somewhat greater than the expenses for the custodian arrangements for handling U.S. securities of equal value, especially for emerging market securities. Foreign markets have different clearance and settlement procedures. In certain markets, there have been times when settlements have been unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, making it difficult to conduct such transactions. Delays in settlement could result in temporary periods when a portion of the assets of the Funds are not invested and no return is earned thereon. The inability of the Funds to make intended security purchases due to settlement problems could cause the Funds to miss attractive investment opportunities. The inability of the Funds to dispose of portfolio securities due to settlement problems could result in losses to the Funds due to subsequent declines in value of the securities or, if the Funds have entered into a contract to sell the securities, could result in possible liability to the purchaser.

Interest rates prevailing in other countries may affect the prices of foreign securities and exchange rates for foreign currencies. Local factors, including the strength of the local economy, the demand for borrowing, the government's fiscal and monetary policies, and the international balance of payments, often affect interest rates in other countries. Individual foreign economies may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency, and balance of payments position.

Certain foreign governments levy withholding or other taxes against dividend and interest income paid by citizens or corporations operating therein to investors from other countries. Although in some countries a portion of these taxes are recoverable, the non-recovered portion of those taxes will reduce a Fund's income received from an issuer subject thereto.

Investing in foreign securities may involve a greater risk for excessive trading due to "time-zone arbitrage." If an event occurring after the close of a foreign market, but before the time a Fund computes its current NAV, causes a change in the price of the foreign securities and such price is not reflected in the Funds' current NAV, investors may attempt to take advantage of anticipated price movements in securities held by the Funds based on such pricing discrepancies.

**Securities of European Issuers.** A Fund's performance may be affected by political, social and economic conditions in Europe, such as the growth of the economic output (the gross national product of the countries in the region), the rate of inflation, the rate at which capital is reinvested into European economies, the success of governmental actions to reduce budget deficits, the resource self-sufficiency of European countries, interest rates in European countries, monetary exchange rates between European countries, and conflict between European countries.

The Economic and Monetary Union ("EMU") of the European Union ("EU") is comprised of EU members that have adopted the euro currency. By adopting the euro as its currency, a member state relinquishes control of its own monetary policies and is subject to fiscal and monetary controls. The EMU requires Eurozone countries to comply with restrictions on interest rates, deficits, debt levels, and inflation rates, fiscal and monetary controls, and other factors. Although the EMU has adopted a common currency and central bank, there is no fiscal union; therefore, money does not automatically flow from countries with surpluses to those with deficits. These restrictions and characteristics may limit the ability of EMU member countries to implement monetary policy to address regional economic conditions and significantly impact every European country and their economic partners, including those countries that are not members of the EMU. In addition, those EU member states that are not currently in the Eurozone (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Sweden), excluding Denmark, are required to seek to comply with convergence criteria to permit entry to the Eurozone. The economies and markets of European countries are often closely connected and interdependent, and events in one country in Europe can have an adverse impact on other European countries. Decreasing imports or exports, changes in governmental or other regulations on trade, changes in the exchange rate of the euro or other European currency, the threat of default or actual default by one or more EU member countries, or other European countries, on its sovereign debt, and/or an economic recession in one or more European countries may have a significant adverse effect on the economies of other European countries and major trading partners outside Europe.

The European financial markets have experienced and may continue to experience volatility and adverse trends due to concerns relating to economic downturns; rising government debt levels and national unemployment; the possible default of government debt in several European countries; public health crises; political unrest; economic sanctions; inflation; energy crises; the future of the euro as a common currency; and war and military conflict, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine. These events have adversely affected the exchange rate of the euro and may continue to significantly affect European countries. Responses to financial problems by European governments, central banks, and others, including austerity measures and other reforms, may not produce the desired results, may result in social unrest and may limit future growth and economic recovery or may have unintended consequences. In order to prevent further economic deterioration, certain countries, without prior warning, can institute "capital controls." Countries may use these controls to restrict volatile movements of capital entering and exiting their country. Such controls may negatively affect a Fund's investments. In addition, one or more countries may abandon the euro and/or withdraw from the EU. The impact of these actions, especially if they occur in a disorderly fashion, could be significant and far-reaching. Many European nations are susceptible to economic risks associated with high levels of debt. Non-governmental issuers, and even certain governments, have defaulted on, or been forced to restructure, their debts, and other issuers have faced difficulties obtaining credit or refinancing existing obligations. A default or debt restructuring by any European country could adversely impact holders of that country's debt and sellers of credit default swaps linked to that country's creditworthiness, which may be located in other countries. Such a default or debt restructuring

could affect exposures to other European countries and their financial companies as well. Further defaults on, or restructurings of, the debt of governments or other entities could have additional adverse effects on economies, financial markets and asset valuations around the world. In addition, issuers may face difficulties obtaining credit or refinancing existing obligations; financial institutions may require government or central bank support, or need to raise capital, and/or be impaired in their ability to extend credit. Furthermore, certain European countries have had to accept assistance from supranational agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, the European Stability Mechanism or others. The European Central Bank has also intervened to purchase Eurozone debt in an attempt to stabilize markets and reduce borrowing costs. There can be no assurance that any creditors or supranational agencies will continue to intervene or provide further assistance, and markets may react adversely to any expected reduction in the financial support provided by these creditors. Certain European countries have also developed increasingly strained relationships with the U.S., and if these relationships were to worsen, they could adversely affect European issuers that rely on the U.S. for trade.

In addition, the national politics of European countries have been unpredictable and subject to influence by disruptive political groups, ideologies, and polarizing political events such as the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Secessionist movements, as well as government or other responses to such movements, may create instability and uncertainty in a country or region. European governments may be subject to change and such countries may experience social and political unrest. Unanticipated or sudden political or social developments may result in sudden and significant investment losses. The occurrence of terrorist incidents throughout Europe and in the Middle East also could impact financial markets, as could military conflicts. For example, Houthi attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and retaliatory action, may disrupt supply chains and cause difficulties for impacted businesses, including those that wish to ship goods through that route. The impact of these kinds of events could be significant and far-reaching and materially impact the value and liquidity of a Fund's investments. Russia's war with Ukraine has negatively impacted European economic activity. The Russia/Ukraine war and Russia's response to sanctions imposed by the U.S. and other countries are impossible to predict, but have severely impacted the performance of the economies of European and other countries, including through adverse effects to global financial and energy markets, global supply chains and global growth, and consequential inflation.

Certain countries have applied to become new member countries of the EU, and these candidate countries' accessions may become more controversial to the existing EU members. Some member states may repudiate certain candidate countries joining the EU due to concerns about the possible economic, immigration and cultural implications. Certain other countries have applied to join or, in the case of Finland and Sweden, have recently joined, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization ("NATO"). Russia is understood to oppose certain expansions, or potential expansions, of NATO and the EU, and its reaction to such developments could negatively impact European economic activity. The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union on January 31, 2020 and entered into a transition period, which ended on December 31, 2020. The longer-term economic, legal, and political framework between the United Kingdom and the EU is still developing and may lead to ongoing political and economic uncertainty in the United Kingdom, Europe, and the global market. Investments in companies with significant operations and/or assets in the United Kingdom could be adversely impacted by the new legal, political, and regulatory environment, whether by increased costs or impediments to the implementation of business plans. The uncertainty resulting from any further exits from the EU, or the possibility of such exits, would also be likely to cause market disruption in the EU and more broadly across the global economy, as well as introduce further legal, political, and regulatory uncertainty in Europe.

**Emerging Market Investments.** Investing in emerging markets can have more risk than investing in developed foreign 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 from more developed 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 or geopolitical developments, (iii) possible fluctuations in exchange rates, differing legal systems and the existence or possible imposition of exchange controls, custodial restrictions or other non-U.S. or U.S. governmental laws or restrictions applicable to such investments, (iv) national policies that may limit a Fund's investment opportunities such as restrictions on investment in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to national interests, (v) the lack or relatively early development of legal structures governing private and foreign investments and private property, and (vi) less diverse or immature economic structures. The risks of investing in these markets may be exacerbated relative to investments in developed markets and investments in these countries may be subject to erratic and abrupt price movements. In addition, emerging markets may impose capital restrictions and thus, may adversely affect the operations of a Fund and certain emerging markets impose constraints on currency exchange and some currencies in emerging markets may have been devalued significantly against the U.S. dollar. In addition to withholding taxes on investment income, some countries in emerging markets may impose differential capital gain taxes on foreign investors. For these and other reasons, the prices of securities in emerging markets can fluctuate more significantly than the prices of securities of companies in developed markets. The less developed the country, the greater effect these risks may have on your investment in a Fund.

Emerging markets have evolved in a dynamic political and economic environment brought about by events over recent years that have reshaped political boundaries and traditional ideologies. In such a dynamic environment, there can be no assurance that these emerging markets will continue to present viable investment opportunities for a Fund. In the past, governments of countries in emerging markets 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 event, it is possible that a Fund could lose the entire value of its investments in the affected markets.

Some economies are less well developed and less diverse and more vulnerable to the ebb and flow of international trade, trade barriers and other protectionist or retaliatory measures. The economies of emerging market countries may be based predominately on only a few industries or may be dependent on revenues from participating commodities or on international aid or developmental assistance, may be highly vulnerable to changes in local or global trade conditions, and may suffer from extreme and volatile debt burdens or inflation rates. Many of these countries are grappling with severe inflation or recession, high levels of national debt, currency exchange problems and government instability.

Certain emerging market countries have historically experienced, and may continue to experience, high rates of inflation, high interest rates, exchange rate fluctuations, large amounts of external debt, balance of payments and trade difficulties and extreme poverty and unemployment. The issuer or governmental authority that controls the repayment of an emerging market country's debt may not be able or willing to repay the principal and/or interest when due in accordance with the terms of such debt. A debtor's willingness or ability to repay principal and interest due in a timely manner may be affected by, among other factors, its cash flow situation, and, in the case of a government debtor, the extent of its foreign reserves, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange on the date a payment is due, the relative size of the debt service burden to the economy as a whole and the political constraints to which a government debtor may be subject. Government debtors may default on their debt and may also be dependent on expected disbursements from foreign governments, multilateral agencies and others abroad to reduce principal and interest arrearages on their debt. Holders of government debt may be requested to participate in the rescheduling of such debt and to extend further loans to government debtors. If such an event occurs, a Fund may have limited legal recourse against the issuer and/or guarantor. Remedies must, in some cases, be pursued in the courts of the defaulting party itself, and the ability of the holder of foreign government fixed income securities to obtain recourse may be subject to the political climate in the relevant country. In addition, no assurance can be given that the holders of commercial bank debt will not contest payments to the holders of other foreign government debt obligations in the event of default under their commercial bank loan agreements.

A Fund may encounter substantial difficulties in obtaining and enforcing judgments against individuals and companies located in certain emerging market countries, either individually or in combination with other shareholders. It may be difficult or impossible to obtain or enforce legislation or remedies against governments, their agencies and sponsored entities. Additionally, in certain emerging market countries, fraud, corruption and attempts at market manipulation may be more prevalent than in developed market countries. Shareholder claims that are common in the U.S. and are generally viewed as determining misconduct, including class action securities law and fraud claims, generally are difficult or impossible to pursue as a matter of law or practicality in many emerging markets.

Also, there may be less publicly available information about issuers in emerging markets than would be available for issuers in more developed 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 or issuers in more developed markets are subject. In certain countries with emerging markets, reporting standards vary widely. As a result, traditional investment measurements used in the U.S. may not be applicable. Emerging market investments may be substantially less liquid and more volatile than those of more developed markets, and securities may be held by a limited number of investors. This may adversely affect the timing and pricing of a Fund's acquisition or disposal of emerging market investments.

The laws in certain emerging market countries may be based upon or be highly influenced by religious codes or rules. The interpretation of how these laws apply to certain investments may change over time, which could have a negative impact on those investments and a Fund.

Practices in relation to settlement of securities transactions in emerging markets involve higher risks than those in developed markets, in part because a Fund may use brokers and counterparties that are less well capitalized, and custody and registration of assets in some countries may be unreliable.

Many emerging market countries have little experience with the corporate form of business organization and may not have well-developed corporation and business laws or concepts of fiduciary duty in the business context. The organizational structures of certain issuers in emerging markets may limit investor rights and recourse.

Regulatory authorities in some emerging markets currently do not provide the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board with the ability to inspect public accounting firms as required by U.S. law, including sufficient access to inspect audit work papers and practices, or otherwise do not cooperate with U.S. regulators, which potentially could expose investors to significant risks.

## **FIXED INCOME SECURITIES**

The fixed income securities in which the Funds may invest include securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities, and securities issued by domestic or foreign corporations and other entities. The Fixed Income Fund invests under normal circumstances at least 80% of its net assets in a portfolio of investment grade corporate fixed income securities and fixed income securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities.

**Recent Fixed Income Market Events.** Although interest rates were unusually low in recent years in the U.S. and abroad, in 2022, the Federal Reserve and certain foreign central banks began to raise interest rates as part of their efforts to address rising inflation. It is difficult to accurately predict the pace at which interest rates might increase or start decreasing, the timing, frequency or magnitude of any such changes in interest rates, or when such changes might stop or reverse course. Additionally, various economic and political factors could cause the Federal Reserve or another foreign central bank to change their approach in the future and such actions may result in an economic slowdown in the U.S. and abroad. Unexpected changes in interest rates could lead to significant market volatility or reduce liquidity in certain sectors of the market. Deteriorating economic fundamentals may, in turn, increase the risk of default or insolvency of particular issuers, negatively impact market value, cause credit spreads to widen, and reduce bank balance sheets. Any of these could cause an increase in market volatility or reduce liquidity across various markets. Additionally, high public debt in the U.S. and other countries creates ongoing systemic and market risks and policymaking uncertainty. There is a potential for materially increased regulation in the future, as well as higher taxes or taxes restructured to incentivize different activities. These changes, should they occur, may impose added costs on a Fund and its service providers, and affect the businesses of various portfolio companies, in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. Markets may react strongly to expectations about the changes in these policies, which could increase volatility, especially if the markets' expectations for changes in government policies are not borne out. Policy changes by the U.S. Government, the Federal Reserve or the central banks may expose a Fund's investments in debt securities and the fixed income markets to heightened volatility and may reduce liquidity for certain Fund investments, which could cause the value of a Fund's investments and share price to decline. To the extent that a Fund experiences

high redemptions because of these policy changes, the Fund may experience increased portfolio turnover, which will increase the costs that the Fund incurs and may lower the Fund's performance, and have trouble selling investments to meet shareholder redemptions.

**Ratings.** As noted above, all of the Funds may invest in various fixed income securities, including fixed income securities that are rated at the time of purchase as investment grade by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization ("NRSRO"), such as S&P Global Ratings ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), or Fitch Ratings, Inc. ("Fitch"), or of equivalent quality as determined by the Adviser. Investment grade fixed income securities include:

- Securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities;
- Bonds or bank obligations rated in one of the four highest categories (such as BBB- or higher by S&P);
- Short-term notes rated in one of the two highest categories (such as SP-2 or higher by S&P); and
- Commercial paper or short-term bank obligations rated in one of the three highest categories (such as A-3 or higher by S&P).

Investment grade fixed income securities are generally perceived to have a lower degree of credit risk. However, certain investment grade securities with lower ratings are considered medium quality and may be subject to greater credit risk than the highest rated securities. If a security's rating falls below that required at the time of purchase, the Adviser will consider what action, if any, should be taken consistent with a Fund's investment objective. Additional information concerning securities ratings is contained in Appendix A to this SAI.

**U.S. Government Agency Securities.** U.S. Government agency securities are issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities or government sponsored enterprises. Some obligations issued by U.S. Government agencies and instrumentalities are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury; others by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury; others by the discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase certain obligations of the agency or instrumentality; and others only by the credit of the agency or instrumentality. U.S. Government securities bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. While the U.S. Government may provide financial support to certain U.S. Government-sponsored agencies or instrumentalities, no assurance can be given that it will do so, since it is not so obligated by law. U.S. Government agency obligations and repurchase agreements secured thereby are primarily subject to market risk, credit risk and interest rate risk.

**U.S. Treasury Obligations.** U.S. Treasury obligations may differ in their interest rates, maturities, times of issuance and other characteristics, and include bills (initial maturities of one year or less), notes (initial maturities between two and ten years), and bonds (initial maturities over ten years) issued by the U.S. Treasury, Separately Traded Registered Interest and Principal component parts of such obligations known as STRIPS, which are traded independently, and Treasury inflation protected securities, whose principal value is periodically adjusted according to the rate of inflation. The prices of these securities (like all debt securities) change between issuance and maturity in response to fluctuating market interest rates. U.S. Treasury obligations are subject to credit risk and interest rate risk. The total amount of debt the Treasury is authorized to incur is subject to a statutory limit. Once the Treasury reaches the debt limit, Congress must raise, extend or otherwise modify the limit to enable the Treasury to incur additional debt to pay the obligations of the U.S. government, including principal and interest payments on certain U.S. Treasury obligations (such as Treasury bills, notes and bonds). The failure, or potential failure, to increase the statutory debt limit could: increase the risk that the U.S. government defaults on payments on certain U.S. Treasury obligations; cause the credit rating of the U.S. government to be downgraded or increase volatility in both stock and bond markets; result in higher debt servicing payments by the U.S. government; reduce prices of Treasury securities; and/or increase the costs of certain kinds of debt.

The Funds may invest in component parts of U.S. Treasury notes or bonds, namely either the principal of such Treasury obligations or one of the interest payments scheduled to be paid on such obligations. These obligations may take the form of: (1) Treasury obligations from which the interest coupons have been stripped; (2) the interest coupons that are stripped; (3) book-entries at a Federal Reserve member bank representing ownership of Treasury obligation components; or (4) receipts evidencing the component parts (principal or coupons) of Treasury obligations that have not actually been stripped. Such receipts evidence ownership of component parts of Treasury obligations (principal or coupons) purchased by a third party (typically an investment banking firm) and held on behalf of the third party in physical or book-entry form by a major commercial bank or trust company pursuant to a custody agreement with the third party. These custodial receipts are known by various names, including "Treasury Receipts," "Treasury Investment Growth Receipts" ("TIGRs") and "Certificates of Accrual on Treasury Securities" ("CATs"), and are not issued by the U.S. Treasury; therefore they are not U.S. Government securities, although the underlying bonds represented by these receipts are debt obligations of the U.S. Treasury.

**Investment Grade Fixed Income Securities.** The Funds may invest in fixed income securities of domestic or foreign issuers (corporate bonds, debentures, notes and other similar corporate debt instruments) rated as investment grade at the time of purchase by a NRSRO.

Even fixed income securities rated investment grade by a NRSRO possess some speculative characteristics. There are risks involved in applying credit ratings as a method for evaluating fixed income securities in that credit ratings evaluate the safety of principal and interest payments, not market value risk. In addition, credit ratings may not be correct and credit rating agencies may not change credit ratings on a timely basis to reflect changes in economic or company conditions that affect a security's market value. Changes in economic conditions or other circumstances may lead to a weakened capacity of the issuer to make principal and interest payments on such securities.

The Funds will rely on the judgment, analysis and experience of the Adviser in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issuer. In this evaluation, the Adviser may take into consideration, among other things, the issuer's financial resources and ability to cover its interest and fixed charges, factors relating to the issuer's industry and its sensitivity to economic conditions and trends, its operating

history, the quality of the issuer's management and regulatory matters. The rate of return or return of principal on some debt obligations may be linked or indexed to the level of exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and a foreign currency or currencies.

The risk of loss due to default by the issuer is significantly greater for the holders of lower quality fixed income securities because such securities are generally unsecured and are often subordinated to other obligations of the issuer. During an economic downturn or a sustained period of rising interest rates, highly leveraged issuers of lower quality fixed income securities may experience financial stress and may not have sufficient revenues to meet their interest payment obligations. An issuer's ability to service its debt obligations may also be adversely affected by specific corporate developments, its inability to meet specific projected business forecasts, or the unavailability of additional financing.

Factors adversely affecting the market value of fixed income securities may adversely affect the net asset value of a Fund if it invests in such securities. At this time, interest rates are at or near historic lows. In the future, interest rates may increase, perhaps significantly and/or rapidly, thereby heightening a Fund's exposure to the risks associated with rising interest rates. In addition, a Fund may incur additional expenses to the extent it is required to seek recovery upon a default in the payment of principal of or interest on its portfolio holdings.

The secondary trading market for lower-quality fixed income securities is generally not as liquid as the secondary market for higher-quality fixed income securities and is very thin for some fixed income securities. The relative lack of an active secondary market may have an adverse impact on market price and a Fund's ability to dispose of particular issues when necessary to meet the Fund's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. The relative lack of an active secondary market for certain securities may also make it more difficult for a Fund to obtain information for purposes of valuing the Fund's portfolio. Pricing data is generally available on many high yield issues only from a limited number of dealers and may not necessarily represent firm bids of such dealers or prices for actual sales. During such times, the ability to value the securities becomes more difficult and judgment plays a greater role in valuation because there is less reliable, objective data available.

**Variable and Floating Rate Obligations.** The interest rates payable on certain fixed income securities in which a Fund may invest are not fixed and may fluctuate based upon changes in market rates. A variable rate obligation has an interest rate which is adjusted at predesignated periods in response to changes in the market rate of interest on which the interest rate is based. Variable and floating rate obligations are generally less effective than fixed rate instruments at locking in a particular yield. Nevertheless, such obligations may fluctuate in value in response to interest rate changes if there is a delay between changes in market interest rates and the interest reset date for the obligation, or for other reasons.

The Funds may invest in floating rate debt instruments ("floaters") and engage in credit spread trades. The interest rate on a floater is a variable rate which is tied to another interest rate, such as a money-market index or Treasury bill rate. The interest rate on a floater resets periodically, typically every six months. While, because of the interest rate reset feature, floaters provide a Fund with a certain degree of protection against rises in interest rates, a Fund will participate in any declines in interest rates as well. A credit spread trade is an investment position relating to a difference in the prices or interest rates of two securities or currencies, where the value of the investment position is determined by movements in the difference between the prices or interest rates, as the case may be, of the respective securities or currencies.

The floating rate obligations in which a Fund invests typically have multiple reset periods during the year with each reset period applicable to a designated portion of the obligations. If a Fund does so, it will consider the shortened period to be the adjustment period of the obligations. As short-term interest rates rise, interest payable to a Fund should increase. As short-term interest rates decline, interest payable to the Fund should decrease. The amount of time that will pass before a Fund experiences the effects of changing short-term interest rates will depend on the dollar-weighted average time until the next interest rate adjustment on the Fund's portfolio of obligations.

Obligations usually have mandatory and optional prepayment provisions. Because of prepayments, the actual remaining maturity of an obligation may be considerably less than its stated maturity. If an obligation is prepaid, a Fund will have to reinvest the proceeds in other obligations or securities, which may have a lower fixed spread over its base rate. In such a case, the amount of interest paid to a Fund would likely decrease.

In the event of a change in the benchmark interest rate on an obligation, the rate payable to lenders under the obligation will, in turn, change at the next scheduled reset date. If the benchmark rate goes up, a Fund as lender would earn interest at a higher rate, but only on and after the reset date. If the benchmark rate goes down, a Fund as lender would earn interest at a lower rate, but only on and after the reset date.

Market interest rate changes may also cause a Fund's NAV to experience volatility. This is because the value of an obligation asset in a Fund is partially a function of whether it is paying what the market perceives to be a market rate of interest for the particular obligation given its individual credit and other characteristics. If market interest rates change, an obligation's value could be affected to the extent the interest rate paid on that obligation does not reset at the same time. The rates of interest paid on the obligation in which a Fund invests have a weighted average reset period that typically is less than 90 days. Therefore, the impact of the lag between a change in market interest rates and the change in the overall rate on the portfolio is expected to be minimal.

Finally, to the extent that changes in market rates of interest are reflected, not in a change to a base rate, but in a change in the spread over the base rate which is payable on obligations of the type and quality in which a Fund invests, the Fund's NAV could be adversely affected. Again, this is because the value of an obligation asset in a Fund is partially a function of whether it is paying what the market perceives to be a market rate of interest for the particular obligation given its individual credit and other characteristics. However, unlike changes in market rates of interest for which there is only a temporary lag before the portfolio reflects those changes, changes in an obligation's value based on changes in the market spread on obligations in a Fund's portfolio may be of longer duration.

**Interest Rates and Portfolio Maturity.** Interest rates on securities in which a Fund invests may adjust periodically based on a base rate plus a premium or spread over the base rate. The base rate usually is the federal funds rate, the prime rate, or other base lending rates or Reference Rates (as defined below) used by commercial lenders. The prime rate quoted by a major U.S. bank is generally the interest rate at which that bank is willing to lend U.S. dollars to its most creditworthy borrowers, although it may not be the bank's lowest available rate.

Certain variable or floating securities have coupon rates that were based on the London Interbank Offered Rate ("ICE LIBOR" or "LIBOR"), or are based on the Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR"), Euro Interbank Offered Rate and other similar types of reference rates (each, a "Reference Rate"). These Reference Rates are generally intended to represent the rate at which contributing banks may obtain short-term borrowings within certain financial markets. LIBOR was produced daily by averaging the rates reported by a number of banks and may have been a significant factor in determining a Fund's payment obligations under a derivative instrument, the cost of financing to a Fund, or an investment's value or return to a Fund, and may have been used in other ways that affected a Fund's performance.

LIBOR was phased out at the end of June 2023. SOFR was selected by a committee established by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to replace LIBOR as a Reference Rate in the United States and U.S. law requires that contracts without a practicable LIBOR alternative default to SOFR plus a set spread beginning in mid-2023. SOFR is a secured, nearly risk-free rate, while LIBOR was an unsecured rate that included an element of bank credit risk. In addition, SOFR is strictly an overnight rate, while LIBOR historically was published for various maturities, ranging from overnight to one year. Certain contracts provided for a spread adjustment when transitioning to SOFR from LIBOR, but there is no assurance that it provided adequate compensation. Other countries have undertaken similar initiatives to identify replacement Reference Rates for LIBOR in their respective markets. However, certain issuers may have encountered obstacles to converting their investments and transactions to a new Reference Rate, as well as risks associated with using a new Reference Rate with respect to new investments and transactions. Market participants may have transitioned Reference Rates through contractual amendments, legislation, market wide protocols, fallback contractual provisions, bespoke negotiations or otherwise.

The termination of certain Reference Rates presents risks to a Fund. The failure of issuers to transition could lead to increased volatility and illiquidity in markets for instruments that have yet to rely on a substitute to determine their next coupon rates and a reduction in the values of those investments, all of which would impact a Fund. Various complexities brought about by significant changes to operational processes and IT systems may not be complete, and coordination with other market participants may be severely impacted, which may negatively impact a Fund.

In addition, the alternative reference or benchmark rate may be an ineffective substitute, potentially resulting in prolonged adverse market conditions for a Fund. The elimination of a Reference Rate or any other changes or reforms to the determination or supervision of Reference Rates could have an adverse impact on the market for or value of any securities or payments linked to those Reference Rates and other financial obligations held by a Fund or on its overall financial condition or results of operations. Any substitute Reference Rate and any pricing adjustments imposed by a regulator or by counterparties or otherwise may adversely affect a Fund's performance and/or NAV. At this time, it is not possible to completely identify or predict the effect of any such changes, any establishment of alternative Reference Rates or any other reforms to Reference Rates that may be enacted in the UK or elsewhere.

**Non-Investment Grade Fixed Income Securities.** The Funds may invest in non-investment grade fixed income securities (commonly known as "junk bonds"). The Small Cap Equity, Small-Mid Cap Equity, Equity, Balanced and International Equity Funds may only invest up to 5% of their respective total assets in non-investment grade fixed income securities. Investments in such securities are inherently speculative. The lower ratings reflect a greater possibility that adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer or in general economic conditions, or both, or an unanticipated rise in interest rates, may impair the ability of the issuer to make payments of interest and principal. The inability (or perceived inability) of issuers to make timely payment of interest and principal would likely make the values of such securities held by a Fund more volatile and could limit the Fund's ability to sell its securities at prices approximating the values the Fund had placed on such securities. In the absence of a liquid trading market for securities held by a Fund, it may be difficult to establish a fair value of such securities. If the issuer defaults on its obligation, the value of the security would fall and a Fund's income also would decline.

Securities ratings are based largely on the issuer's historical financial condition and the rating agencies' analysis at the time of rating. Consequently, the rating assigned to any particular security is not necessarily a reflection of the issuer's current financial condition, which may be better or worse than the rating would indicate. In addition, the rating assigned to a security by an NRSRO does not reflect an assessment of the volatility of the security's market value or the liquidity of an investment in the security.

Like those of other fixed income securities, the values of non-investment grade securities generally go up and down in response to changes in interest rates. A decrease in interest rates generally will result in an increase in the value of fixed income securities. Conversely, during periods of rising interest rates, the value of a Fund's fixed income securities generally will decline. The values of non-investment grade fixed income securities often may be affected to a greater extent by changes in general economic conditions and business conditions affecting the issuers of such securities and their industries. Negative publicity or investor perceptions also may adversely affect the values of non-investment grade fixed income securities. Changes by NRSROs in their ratings of any fixed income security and changes in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal also may affect the value of these investments. Changes in the value of portfolio securities generally will not affect income derived from these securities, but will affect a Fund's net asset value.

Issuers of lower rated securities often are highly leveraged, so that their ability to service their debt obligations during an economic downturn or during sustained periods of rising interest rates may be impaired. Such issuers may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them and may be unable to repay outstanding obligations at maturity by refinancing. The risk of loss

due to default in payment of interest or repayment of principal by such issuers is significantly greater because such securities frequently are unsecured and subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness.

**Mortgage Pass-Through Securities.** The Balanced and Fixed Income Funds may invest in residential and commercial mortgage pass-through securities. Mortgage pass-through securities represent interests in pools of mortgages in which payments of both principal and interest on the securities are generally made monthly, in effect “passing through” monthly payments made by borrowers in the residential or commercial mortgage loans which underlie the securities (net of any fees paid to the issuer or guarantor of the securities). Mortgage pass-through securities differ from other forms of debt securities, which normally provide for periodic payment of interest in fixed amounts with principal payments at maturity or specified call dates. Early repayment of principal on mortgage pass-through securities (arising from prepayments of principal due to the sale of underlying property, refinancing, or foreclosure, net of fees and costs which may be incurred) may expose a Fund to a lower rate of return upon reinvestment of principal. Also, if a security subject to repayment has been purchased at a premium, in the event of prepayment, the value of the premium would be lost.

There are generally three types of mortgage pass-through securities: (1) those issued by the U.S. Government, one of its agencies or instrumentalities or a government sponsored enterprise, such as Government National Mortgage Association (“GNMA”), Fannie Mae (“FNMA”), and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“FHLMC”); (2) those issued by private issuers that represent an interest in or are collateralized by pass-through securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or one of its agencies or instrumentalities; and (3) those issued by private issuers that represent an interest in or are collateralized by whole mortgage loans or pass-through securities without a government guarantee but may have some form of private credit enhancement.

GNMA is authorized to guarantee, with the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, the timely payment of principal and interest on securities issued by institutions approved by GNMA (such as savings and loan institutions, commercial banks and mortgage banks), and backed by pools of FHA-insured or VA-guaranteed mortgages. Obligations of FNMA and FHLMC are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. In the case of obligations not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, a Fund must look principally to the agency issuing or guaranteeing the obligation for ultimate repayment. FNMA and FHLMC may attempt to borrow from the U.S. Treasury to meet their obligations, but the U.S. Treasury is under no obligation to lend to FNMA or FHLMC.

The FHFA and the U.S. Treasury have imposed strict limits on the size of FNMA and FHLMC’s mortgage portfolios. Discussions among policymakers continue, however, as to whether FNMA and FHLMC should be nationalized, privatized, restructured, or eliminated altogether. FNMA and FHLMC also are the subject of several continuing legal actions and investigations over certain accounting, disclosure or corporate governance matters, which (along with any resulting financial restatements) may continue to have an adverse effect on the guaranteeing entities. Importantly, the future of FNMA and FHLMC remains in question as the U.S. Government considers multiple options.

Under the direction of the FHFA, FNMA and FHLMC jointly developed a common securitization platform for the issuance of a uniform mortgage-backed security (“UMBS”) (the “Single Security Initiative”) that aligns the characteristics of FNMA and FHLMC certificates. In June 2019, under the Single Security Initiative, FNMA and FHLMC started issuing UMBS in place of their prior offerings of to-be-announced mortgage-backed securities (“TBA”). The Single Security Initiative seeks to support the overall liquidity of the TBA market by aligning the characteristics of FNMA and FHLMC certificates. The effects that the Single Security Initiative may have on the market for TBA and other mortgage-backed securities are uncertain.

Private mortgage pass-through securities are structured similarly to GNMA, FNMA, and FHLMC mortgage pass-through securities and are issued by originators of and investors in mortgage loans, including depository institutions, mortgage banks, investment banks and special purpose subsidiaries of the foregoing.

Pools created by private mortgage pass-through issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than government and government-related pools to compensate for the fact that there are no direct or indirect government or agency guarantees of payments in the private pools. The timely payment of interest and principal on mortgage loans in these pools may be supported by various other forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, pool and hazard insurance, subordination and letters of credit. Such insurance and guarantees may be issued by private insurers, banks and mortgage poolers. There is no assurance that private guarantors or insurers, if any, will meet their obligations. Timely payment of interest and principal of these pools also may be partially supported by various enhancements such as over-collateralization and senior/subordination structures and by various forms of insurance or insured by governmental entities, private insurers and the mortgage poolers. Some mortgage pass-through securities issued by private organizations may not be readily marketable, may be more difficult to value accurately and may be more volatile than similar securities issued by a government entity.

## **WHEN-ISSUED SECURITIES**

The Small Cap Equity, Small-Mid Cap Equity, Balanced, Fixed Income, and International Equity Funds may purchase securities on a “when-issued” basis. In buying “when-issued” securities, a Fund commits to buy securities at a certain price even though the securities may not be delivered for up to 120 days. No payment or delivery is made by a Fund in a “when-issued” transaction until the Fund receives payment or delivery from the other party to the transaction. Although a Fund receives no income from the above-described securities prior to delivery, the market value of such securities is still subject to change. As a consequence, it is possible that the market price of the securities at the time of delivery may be higher or lower than the purchase price. When a Fund purchases securities on a when-issued basis, it will maintain with its custodian cash or liquid securities having an aggregate value equal to the amount of its purchase commitment until payment is made. The purpose and effect of such maintenance is to prevent a Fund from gaining investment leverage from when-issued transactions. When-issued securities may decline or increase in value during the period from a Fund’s investment commitment to the settlement of the purchase.



## INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERINGS

The Small Cap Equity, Small-Mid Cap Equity, Equity, Balanced, and International Equity Funds may invest in initial public offerings (“IPOs”). By definition, IPOs have not traded publicly until the time of their offerings. Special risks associated with IPOs may include a limited number of shares available for trading, unseasoned trading, lack of investor knowledge of the company, and limited operating history, all of which may contribute to price volatility. Many IPOs are issued by undercapitalized companies of small or microcap size. Some of the companies involved in new industries may be regarded as developmental state companies, without revenues or operating income, or the near-term prospects of them. Investments in IPOs may have a magnified performance impact relative to other investments.

Pursuant to the Adviser’s allocation policies and procedures, the Small Cap Equity, Small-Mid Cap Equity, Equity, Balanced and International Equity Funds generally will be eligible to participate on a rotating basis in any applicable IPOs that may come available to eligible clients of the Adviser.

## ILLIQUID INVESTMENTS, RESTRICTED SECURITIES AND PRIVATE PLACEMENT OFFERINGS

**Illiquid Investments.** The SEC’s liquidity risk management rule, Rule 22e-4 (the “Liquidity Rule”), defines the term “illiquid investments” to mean any investments that the Funds reasonably expect cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less in the ordinary course of business without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. Under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, the Adviser determines the liquidity of a Fund’s investments and, through reports from the Adviser and the Funds’ administrator, the Board monitors investments in illiquid investments. Illiquid investments may include securities and other financial instruments that do not have a readily available market, repurchase agreements which have a maturity of longer than seven calendar days, restricted securities, other than certain foreign securities, restricted securities pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act and commercial paper sold in reliance on Section 4(2) of the Securities Act, unless, based upon a review of the relevant market, trading and investment-specific considerations, those investments are determined not to be illiquid. The absence of a trading market can make it difficult to ascertain a market value for illiquid investments. When no market quotations are available, illiquid investments are priced at fair value as determined in good faith by the Adviser using guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees. The Funds may not acquire any illiquid investment if, immediately after the acquisition, a Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. If through a change in values, net assets, or other circumstances, a Fund was in a position where more than 15% of its net assets were invested in illiquid investments, the Fund would take appropriate steps to protect liquidity. If the limitation on illiquid investments is exceeded, other than by a change in market values, the condition will be reported to the Board of Trustees and, when required by the Liquidity Rule, to the SEC. Disposing of these investments may involve time-consuming negotiation and legal expenses, and it may be difficult or impossible for a Fund to sell them promptly at an acceptable price and may have to dispose of such investments over extended periods of time.

**Restricted Securities.** Restricted securities can generally be sold in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to an exemption from registration under the Securities Act or in a registered public offering. Where registration is required, a Fund may be obligated to pay all or part of the registration expense and a considerable period may elapse between the time the Fund decides to seek registration and the time the Fund may be permitted to sell a security under an effective registration statement. If, during such a period, adverse market conditions were to develop, a Fund might obtain a less favorable price than prevailed at the time it decided to seek registration of the security.

**Private Placement Offerings.** The Small Cap Equity, Small-Mid Cap Equity, Balanced, Fixed Income and International Equity Funds may invest in private placement offerings. Investments in private placement offerings are made in reliance on the “private placement” exemption from registration afforded by Section 4(2) or Regulation D of the Securities Act (“Section 4(2) securities”). Section 4(2) securities are restricted as to disposition under the federal securities law and generally are sold to institutional investors such as the Funds that agree they are purchasing the securities for investment and not with an intention to distribute to the public.

## OTHER INVESTMENT COMPANIES

The Funds may invest in shares of other investment companies, including open-end funds, closed-end funds, business development companies, exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), exchange-traded notes (“ETNs”), and interests in unit investment trusts. Investments in the securities of other investment companies may involve duplication of advisory fees and certain other expenses. By investing in another investment company, a Fund becomes a shareholder of that investment company. As a result, Fund shareholders indirectly will bear a 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, and are indirectly exposed to the risks of the investments held by the other investment company. These other fees and expenses would be reflected as Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses and would be included in the Fees and Expenses Table in the Prospectus, if applicable. Investment in other investment companies may involve the payment of substantial premiums above the value of such issuer’s portfolio securities or a Fund may have to sell such investments at a discount to the issuer’s portfolio securities. Exchange-traded and closed-end funds may trade at premiums or discounts to their net asset values and be subject to trading halts.

Although a money market fund is designed to be a relatively low risk investment, it is not free of risk. Despite the short maturities and high credit quality of a money market fund’s investments, increases in interest rates and deteriorations in the credit quality of the instruments the money market fund has purchased may reduce the money market fund’s yield and can cause the price of a money market security to decrease. In addition, a money market fund is subject to the risk that the value of an investment may be eroded over time by inflation.

ETFs trade like a common stock and passive ETFs usually represent a fixed portfolio of securities designed to track the performance and dividend yield of a particular domestic or foreign market index. If a Fund invests in ETFs, a Fund would typically purchase passive ETF shares to obtain exposure to all or a portion of the stock or bond market. As a shareholder of an ETF, a Fund would be subject to its ratable share of the ETF’s expenses, including its advisory and administration expenses.

An investment in an ETF generally presents the same primary risks as an investment in a conventional mutual fund (i.e., one that is not exchange-traded) that has the same investment objective, strategies, and policies. The price of an ETF can fluctuate within a wide range, and a Fund could lose money investing in an ETF if the prices of the securities owned by the ETF go down. In addition, ETFs are subject to the following risks that do not apply to conventional funds: (1) the market price of the ETF's shares may trade at a discount or premium to their NAV; (2) an active trading market for an ETF's shares may not develop or be maintained; or (3) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. A Fund may also invest in ETNs, which are structured debt securities. Whereas ETFs' liabilities are secured by their portfolio securities, ETNs' liabilities are unsecured general obligations of the issuer. ETFs and ETNs have expenses associated with their operation, typically including, with respect to ETFs, advisory fees.

Each Fund's investment in securities of other investment companies is generally limited to (i) 3% of the total voting stock of any one investment company, (ii) 5% of the Fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company and (iii) 10% of the Fund's total assets in all investment companies in the aggregate. However, a Fund may exceed these limits when investing in shares of an ETF or other investment company, subject to the terms and conditions of an exemptive order from the SEC obtained by the ETF or other investment company that permits an investing fund, such as the Fund, to invest in the ETF or other investment company in excess of the limits described above. A Fund may also exceed these limits when investing in shares of money market funds to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act and applicable rules and regulations adopted by the SEC thereunder.

Additionally, Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act permits certain types of fund of fund arrangements without an exemptive order, subject to certain conditions, including limits on control and voting of acquired funds' shares, evaluations and findings by investment advisers, fund investment agreements, and limits on most three-tier fund structures.

## **SECURITIES LENDING**

The Small Cap Equity, Small-Mid Cap Equity, Balanced, Fixed Income and, International Equity Funds may lend securities to qualified brokers, dealers, banks and other financial institutions. Securities lending would allow a Fund to retain ownership of the securities loaned and, at the same time, to earn additional income. Since there may be delays in the recovery of loaned securities, or even a loss of rights in collateral supplied should the borrower fail financially, loans would be made only to parties deemed by the Adviser to be of good standing. In addition, they would only be made if, in the Adviser's judgment, the consideration to be earned from such loans would justify the risk. Such loans would not be made if, as a result, the aggregate of all outstanding loans of a Fund exceed one-third of the value of its total assets (including the value of all assets received as collateral for the loan). The Funds do not currently engage in securities lending activities.

## **TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS**

The temporary investments that the Funds may make include:

(1) Cash, time deposits, certificates of deposit (including marketable variable rate certificates of deposit) and bankers' acceptances issued by a commercial bank or savings and loan association. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained in a banking institution for a specified period of time at a stated interest rate. Time deposits maturing in more than seven days will not be purchased by the Funds. Certificates of deposit are negotiable short-term obligations issued by commercial banks or savings and loan associations against funds deposited in the issuing institution. Variable rate certificates of deposit are certificates of deposit on which the interest rate is periodically adjusted prior to their stated maturity based upon a specified market rate. A bankers' acceptance is a time draft drawn on a commercial bank by a borrower usually in connection with an international commercial transaction (to finance the import, export, transfer or storage of goods).

The Funds may invest in obligations of U.S. banks, foreign branches of U.S. banks (Eurodollars), and U.S. branches of foreign banks (Yankee dollars). Euro and Yankee dollar investments will involve the same risks of investing in foreign securities discussed previously. Although the Adviser carefully considers these factors when making investments, the Funds do not limit the amount of its assets which can be invested in any one type of instrument or in any foreign country in which a branch of a U.S. bank or the parent of a U.S. branch is located.

The Funds will not invest in any security issued by a commercial bank unless (i) the bank has total assets of at least \$1 billion, or the equivalent in other currencies, or, in the case of a domestic bank that does not have total assets of at least \$1 billion, the aggregate investment made in any one such bank is limited to \$250,000 and the principal amount of such investment is insured in full by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and (ii) in the case of U.S. banks, it is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(2) Commercial paper that at the time of purchase is rated in the highest rating category by a NRSRO or, if not rated, issued by a corporation having an outstanding unsecured debt issue that meets such rating requirement at time of purchase;

(3) Short-term corporate obligations rated in the highest rating category by a NRSRO at time of purchase;

(4) U.S. Government obligations, including bills, notes, bonds and other debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury. These are direct obligations of the U.S. Government and differ mainly in interest rates, maturities and dates of issue;

(5) U.S. Government agency securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government sponsored instrumentalities and federal agencies. These include securities issued by the Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal Land Bank, Farmers Home Administration, Farm Credit Banks, Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, Fannie Mae, Federal Financing Bank, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and others; and

(6) Repurchase agreements.

## REGULATORY AND RECENT MARKET EVENTS

Policy changes by the U.S. government and/or Federal Reserve and political events within the U.S. and abroad, such as changes in the U.S. presidential administration and Congress, the U.S. government's inability at times to agree on a long-term budget and deficit reduction plan, the threat or occurrence of a federal government shutdown or the occurrence of a failure to increase the federal government's debt limit, which could result in a default on the government's obligations, may affect investor and consumer confidence and may adversely impact financial markets and the broader economy, perhaps suddenly and to a significant degree. The severity or duration of adverse economic conditions may also be affected by policy changes made by governments or quasi-governmental organizations. Global economies and financial markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, which increases the possibility of many markets being affected by events in a single country or events affecting a single or small number of issuers. Both U.S. and international markets have experienced significant volatility in recent years. As a result of such volatility, investment returns may fluctuate significantly, and the risks discussed herein associated with an investment in a Fund may be increased. Deteriorating economic fundamentals may increase the risk of default or insolvency of particular issuers, negatively impact market value, increase market volatility, cause credit spreads to widen, reduce bank balance sheets and cause unexpected changes in interest rates. Any of these could cause an increase in market volatility, reduce liquidity across various sectors or markets or decrease confidence in the markets. Historical patterns of correlation among asset classes may break down in unanticipated ways during times of high volatility, disrupting investment programs and potentially causing losses.

Although interest rates were unusually low in recent years in the U.S. and abroad, in 2022, the U.S. Federal Reserve and certain foreign central banks began to raise interest rates as part of their efforts to address rising inflation. It is difficult to accurately predict the pace at which interest rates might increase or start decreasing, the timing, frequency or magnitude of any such changes in interest rates, or when such changes might stop or reverse course. Unexpected changes in interest rates could lead to significant market volatility or reduce liquidity in certain sectors of the market. Over the longer term, rising interest rates may present a greater risk than has historically been the case due to the prior period of relatively low rates and the effect of government fiscal and monetary policy initiatives and potential market reaction to those initiatives, or their alteration or cessation. It is difficult to predict the impact on various markets of significant rate changes or other significant policy changes.

Markets and market participants are increasingly reliant upon both publicly available and proprietary information data systems. Data imprecision, software or other technology malfunctions, programming inaccuracies, unauthorized use or access, the execution of ransomware and other cyberattacks, and similar circumstances may impair the performance of these systems and may have an adverse impact upon a single issuer, a group of issuers, or the market at large. In certain cases, an exchange or market may close or issue trading halts on either specific securities or even the entire market, which may result in a Fund being, among other things, unable to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments or accurately price its investments. These fluctuations in securities prices could be a sustained trend or a drastic movement. The financial markets generally move in cycles, with periods of rising prices followed by periods of declining prices. The value of your investment may reflect these fluctuations.

Some countries, including the U.S., have in recent years adopted more protectionist trade policies. Slowing global economic growth, the rise in protectionist trade policies, changes to international trade agreements, risks associated with the aftermath of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union and the trade agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union, the risks associated with ongoing trade negotiations with China, the possibility of changes to some international trade agreements, tensions, war, or open conflict between nations, such as between Russia and Ukraine or in eastern Asia, political or economic dysfunction within some nations, including major producers of oil, and dramatic changes in commodity and currency prices could have adverse effects that cannot be foreseen at the present time. Tensions, war or open conflict between nations, such as between Russia and Ukraine, in the Middle East or in eastern Asia could affect the economies of many nations, including the United States. The duration of ongoing hostilities and any sanctions and related events cannot be predicted. Those events present material uncertainty and risk with respect to markets globally and the performance of a Fund and its investments or operations could be negatively impacted.

Regulators in the U.S. have proposed and recently adopted a number of changes to regulations involving the markets and issuers, some of which apply to a Fund. The full effect of various newly-adopted regulations is not currently known. Additionally, it is not clear whether the proposed regulations will be adopted. However, due to the broad scope of the new and proposed regulations, certain changes could limit a Fund's ability to pursue its investment strategies or make certain investments, or may make it more costly for a Fund to operate, which may impact performance. Further, advancements in technology may also adversely impact market movements and liquidity and may affect the overall performance of a Fund. For example, the advanced development and increased regulation of artificial intelligence may impact the economy and the performance of a Fund. As artificial intelligence is used more widely, the value of a Fund's holdings may be impacted, which could impact the overall performance of a Fund.

High public debt in the U.S. and other countries creates ongoing systemic and market risks and policymaking uncertainty. There is no assurance that the U.S. Congress will act to raise the nation's debt ceiling; a failure to do so could cause market turmoil and substantial investment risks that cannot now be fully predicted. Unexpected political, regulatory and diplomatic events within the U.S. and abroad may affect investor and consumer confidence and may adversely impact financial markets and the broader economy.

Certain illnesses spread rapidly and have the potential to significantly and adversely affect the global economy. The impact of epidemics and/or pandemics that may arise in the future could negatively affect the economies of many nations, individual companies and the global securities and commodities markets, including their liquidity, in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time and could last for an extended period of time. China's economy, which has been sustained through debt-financed spending on housing and infrastructure, appears to be experiencing a significant slowdown and growing at a lower rate than prior years. Due to the size of China's economy, such a slowdown could impact financial markets and the broader economy.

In March 2023, the shutdown of certain financial institutions in the U.S. and questions regarding the viability of other financial institutions raised economic concerns over disruption in the U.S. and global banking systems. There can be no certainty that the actions taken by the U.S. or foreign governments to strengthen public confidence in the U.S. and global banking systems will be

effective in mitigating the effects of financial institution failures on the economy and restoring public confidence in the U.S. and global banking system.

Economists and others have expressed increasing concern about the potential effects of global climate change on property and security values. Impacts from climate change may include significant risks to global financial assets and economic growth. A rise in sea levels, an increase in powerful windstorms and/or a climate-driven increase in sea levels or flooding could cause coastal properties to lose value or become unmarketable altogether. Certain issuers, industries and regions may be adversely affected by the impacts of climate change, including on the demand for and the development of goods and services and related production costs, and the impacts of legislation, regulation and international accords related to climate change, as well as any indirect consequences of regulation or business trends driven by climate change. Regulatory changes and divestment movements tied to concerns about climate change could adversely affect the value of certain land and the viability of industries whose activities or products are seen as accelerating climate change. These losses could adversely affect, among others, corporate issuers and mortgage lenders, the value of mortgage-backed securities, the bonds of municipalities that depend on tax or other revenues and tourist dollars generated by affected properties, and insurers of the property and/or of corporate, municipal or mortgage-backed securities.

## **CYBERSECURITY**

With the increased use of technologies such as the internet and the dependence on computer systems to perform necessary business functions, the Funds and their service providers and third-party fund distribution platforms may have become more susceptible to operational and related risks through breaches in cybersecurity. A cybersecurity incident may refer to intentional or unintentional events that allow an unauthorized party to gain access to Fund assets, shareholder data, or proprietary information, or cause a Fund or Fund service providers (including, but not limited to, the Adviser, distributor, fund accountants, custodian, transfer agent, sub-advisers (if applicable), and financial intermediaries), as well as securities trading venues and their service providers, to suffer data corruption, lose operational functionality, or be the target of ransomware. A cybersecurity incident could, among other things, result in the loss or theft of shareholder data or funds, impact a Fund's ability to calculate NAV per share, cause the release of private shareholder information or confidential business information, impede trading, subject the Funds to regulatory fines or financial losses and/or cause reputational damage. A cyber attack may also result in shareholders or service providers being unable to access electronic systems ("denial of services"), loss or theft of proprietary information or corporate data, physical damage to a computer or network system, or remediation costs associated with system repairs. The Funds may also incur additional costs for cybersecurity risk management purposes. Similar types of cybersecurity risks are also present for issuers or securities in which the Funds may invest, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers and may cause a Fund's investment in such companies to lose value. A Fund's service providers also may be negatively impacted due to operational risks arising from non-cybersecurity related factors such as processing errors and human errors, inadequate or failed internal or external processes, failures in systems and technology errors or malfunctions, changes in personnel, and errors caused by Fund service providers or counterparties.

In addition, other events or circumstances — whether foreseeable, unforeseeable, or beyond the Funds' control, such as acts of war, other conflicts, terrorism, natural disaster, widespread disease, pandemic or other public health crises may result in, among other things, quarantines and travel restrictions, workforce displacement and loss or reduction in personnel and other resources. In the above circumstances, the Funds and the Funds' service providers' operations may be significantly impacted, or even temporarily halted. The Funds' securities market counterparties or vendors may face the same or similar systems failure, cybersecurity breaches and other business disruptions risks.

Any of these results could have a substantial adverse impact on a Fund and its shareholders. For example, if a cybersecurity incident results in a denial of service, Fund shareholders could lose access to their electronic accounts and be unable to buy or sell Fund shares for an unknown period of time, and service providers could be unable to access electronic systems to perform critical duties for the Fund, such as trading, NAV calculation, shareholder accounting or fulfilment of Fund share purchases and redemptions. Cybersecurity incidents could cause a Fund or Fund service provider to incur regulatory penalties or scrutiny, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures, or financial loss of a significant magnitude and could result in allegations that a Fund or Fund service provider violated privacy and other laws. Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity incidents affecting issuers of securities in which a Fund invests, counterparties with which a Fund engages in transactions, governmental and other regulatory authorities, exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, insurance companies, and other financial institutions and other parties. Risk management systems and business continuity plans seek to reduce the risks associated with cybersecurity in the event there is a cybersecurity breach, but there are inherent limitations in these systems and plans, including the possibility that certain risks may not have been adequately identified or prepared for, in large part because different or unknown threats may emerge in the future. Furthermore, the Funds do not control the cybersecurity systems and plans of the issuers of securities in which the Funds invest or the Funds' third party service providers or trading counterparties or any other service providers whose operations may affect the Funds or their shareholders. The widespread use of work from home arrangements, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic, may increase operational and information security risks. Most issuers in which the Funds invest are heavily dependent on computers and other technological platforms and resources for data storage and operations, which require ready access to the internet to conduct their business. Thus, cybersecurity incidents could also affect issuers of securities in which a Fund invests, leading to significant loss of value in the securities of issuers impacted by any such cybersecurity incidents.

## **TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS OF THE LKCM FUNDS**

### **The Board of Trustees**

The Trust is governed by its Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible for and oversees the overall management and operations of the Trust and the Funds, which includes the general oversight and review of the Funds' investment activities, in accordance with federal law and the law of the State of Delaware, as well as the stated policies of the Funds. The Board oversees the Trust's officers and service providers, including the Adviser, which is responsible for the management of the day-to-day operations of the Funds based on policies and agreements reviewed and approved by the Board. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Board regularly interacts with and receives reports from senior personnel of service providers, including the Adviser's personnel and the

Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"). The Board also is assisted by the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm (who reports directly to the Trust's Audit and Compliance Committee), independent counsel and other experts as appropriate, all of whom are selected by the Board. The Board met four times during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

### *Risk Oversight*

Consistent with its responsibility for oversight of the Trust and the Funds, the Board oversees the management of risks relating to the administration and operation of the Trust and the Funds. The Adviser, as part of its responsibilities for the day-to-day operations of the Funds, is responsible for day-to-day risk management for the Funds. The Board, in the exercise of its reasonable business judgment, also separately considers potential risks that may impact the Funds. The Board performs this risk management oversight directly and, as to certain matters, through its committees and through the Independent Trustees. The following provides an overview of the principal, but not all, aspects of the Board's oversight of risk management for the Trust and the Funds.

In general, a Fund's risks include, among others, investment risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, valuation risk and operational risk. The Board has adopted, and periodically reviews, policies and procedures designed to address risks to the Trust and the Funds. In addition, under the general oversight of the Board, the Adviser and other service providers to the Funds have adopted a variety of policies, procedures and controls designed to address particular risks to the Funds. Different processes, procedures and controls are employed with respect to different types of risks.

The Board also oversees risk management for the Trust and the Funds through review of regular reports, presentations and other information from officers of the Trust and other persons. The Funds' CCO and senior officers of the Adviser regularly report to the Board on a range of matters, including those relating to risk management. The Board also regularly receives reports from the Adviser with respect to the Funds' investments. In addition to regular reports from the Adviser, the Board also receives reports regarding other service providers to the Trust, either directly or through the Adviser or the Funds' CCO, on a periodic or regular basis. At least annually, the Board receives a report from the Funds' CCO regarding the effectiveness of the Funds' compliance program. Also, on an annual basis, the Board receives reports, presentations and other information from the Adviser in connection with the Board's consideration of the renewal of the Trust's advisory agreement with the Adviser and the Trust's distribution plans under Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act.

The CCO also reports regularly to the Board on Fund valuation matters. In addition, the Audit and Compliance Committee receives regular reports from the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm on internal control and financial reporting matters. On at least a quarterly basis, the Independent Trustees meet with the Funds' CCO to discuss matters relating to the Funds' compliance program.

### *Board Structure and Related Matters*

Board members who are not "interested persons" of the Funds as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act ("Independent Trustees") constitute a majority of the Board. Larry J. Lockwood, an Independent Trustee, serves as Chairman of the Board. As Chairman, Mr. Lockwood's responsibilities include: setting an agenda for each meeting of the Board; presiding at all meetings of the Board and Independent Trustees; and serving as a liaison with other Trustees, the Trust's officers and other management personnel, and counsel to the Funds. As Chairman, Mr. Lockwood also performs such other duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

The Trustees discharge their responsibilities collectively as a Board, as well as through Board committees, each of which operates pursuant to a charter approved by the Board that delineates the specific responsibilities of that committee. The Board has established three standing committees: the Audit and Compliance Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee. The members and responsibilities of each Board committee are summarized below.

The Board periodically evaluates its structure and composition as well as various aspects of its operations. The Board believes that its leadership structure, including its independent Chairman and Board committees, is appropriate for the Trust in light of, among other factors, the asset size and nature of the Funds, the number of Funds overseen by the Board, the arrangements for the conduct of the Funds' operations, the number of Trustees, and the Board's responsibilities. On an annual basis, the Board conducts a self-evaluation that considers, among other matters, whether the Board and its committees are functioning effectively and whether, given the size and composition of the Board and each of its committees, the Trustees are able to oversee effectively the number of Funds in the complex.

The Board holds four regularly scheduled meetings each year. The Board may hold special meetings, as needed, either in person or by telephone, to address matters arising between regular meetings. During a portion of each regular meeting, the Independent Trustees meet outside of management's presence. The Independent Trustees may hold special meetings, as needed, either in person or by telephone.

The Trustees of the Trust are identified in the tables below, which provide information as to their year of birth and positions with the Trust, term of office with the Trust and length of time served, their principal occupations for the past five years and other directorships held in public companies during the past five years.

## Independent Trustees

Name, Address and Age	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served <sup>(1)</sup>	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years
Richard J. Howell 301 Commerce Street Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Year of Birth: 1942	Trustee  Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee	Since 2005  Since 2008	CPA; Adjunct Faculty at SMU Cox School of Business from 2004 to 2009; Consulting Services, since 2002; Audit Partner, Arthur Andersen LLP from 1974 to 2002.	7	None
Larry J. Lockwood 301 Commerce Street Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Year of Birth: 1953	Chairman of the Board of Trustees  Trustee	Since 2021  Since 2013	C. R. Williams Professor of Finance, Stan Block Endowed Chair in Finance, Department of Finance, Neeley School of Business, Texas Christian University since 1994.	7	None
Steven R. Purvis 301 Commerce Street Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Year of Birth: 1964	Trustee	Since 2013	Principal, Luther King Capital Management Corporation from 2004 to 2021, Vice President and Portfolio Manager, Luther King Capital Management Corporation from 1996 to 2021.	7	AZZ Incorporated
Mauricio Rodriguez 301 Commerce Street Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Year of Birth: 1966	Trustee	Since 2021	Chair, Department of Finance, Neeley School of Business; Texas Christian University since 2002.	7	None

## Interested Trustees

J. Luther King, Jr. <sup>(2)</sup> 301 Commerce Street Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Year of Birth: 1940	Trustee, President and Chief Executive Officer	Since 1994	Chairman, President and Director, Luther King Capital Management Corporation since 1979.	7	TXO Partners, L.P.
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<sup>(1)</sup> Each Trustee holds office during the lifetime of the Trust until that individual resigns, retires or is otherwise removed or replaced.

<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. King is considered to be an "interested person" of the Trust (as defined in the 1940 Act) because of his affiliation with the Adviser.

In addition to the information set forth in the tables above and other relevant qualifications, experience, attributes or skills applicable to a particular Trustee, the following provides further information about the qualifications and experience of each Trustee.

*Richard J. Howell:* Mr. Howell has extensive audit and business experience as a certified public accountant, service as a partner in a global accounting firm, service as a faculty member at a private university's business school, service as a director of a publicly held corporation and multiple years of service as a Trustee.

*J. Luther King, Jr.:* Mr. King has extensive experience in the investment management industry as chairman, president and director of an investment management firm, service on the board of numerous public and private corporations and foundations, and multiple years of service as a Trustee.

*Larry J. Lockwood:* Mr. Lockwood has extensive experience in finance as professor of finance at the business school of a private university and service as a chartered financial analyst, business consultant and lecturer, and multiple years of service as a Trustee.

*Steven R. Purvis:* Mr. Purvis has extensive experience as principal of an investment management firm and service as a portfolio manager, director of research and senior analyst, and multiple years of service as a Trustee.

*Mauricio Rodriguez:* Mr. Rodriguez has extensive experience in finance as professor of finance at the business school of a private university and service as a business consultant, expert witness in securities and commercial litigation, and lecturer, and multiple years of service as a Trustee.

The table below sets forth the compensation paid by the Trust to each Trustee of the Trust during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023:

### COMPENSATION TABLE

Name of Trustee	Aggregate Compensation from the Funds	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued As Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from all Funds in the Trust Complex <sup>(1)</sup>
<u>Interested Trustees</u>				
J. Luther King, Jr. ....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Independent Trustees</u>				
Richard J. Howell.....	\$71,761	\$0	\$0	\$76,000
Larry J. Lockwood .....	\$75,578	\$0	\$0	\$80,000
Steven R. Purvis .....	\$66,036	\$0	\$0	\$70,000
Mauricio Rodriguez.....	\$66,036	\$0	\$0	\$70,000

<sup>(1)</sup> There are currently seven series comprising the Trust, one of which is offered in a separate prospectus and SAI.

Effective January 1, 2024, the Independent Trustees receive an annual retainer of \$54,000, with the Chairman of the Board receiving an additional \$14,000 retainer and the Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee receiving an additional \$8,000 retainer. Each Independent Trustee also receives a meeting fee of \$4,500 for each Board meeting attended in person and a meeting fee of \$2,000 for each telephonic meeting, and is reimbursed for their reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Board meetings. For this purpose, the Board considers attendance at regular meetings held by videoconference to constitute in-person attendance at a Board meeting. Independent Trustees may also receive a meeting fee for each Board committee meeting attended in person or by telephone if so determined by the chairman of the applicable Board committee.

#### Board Ownership in the Funds

The table below sets forth the dollar range of the value of the shares of each Fund, and the dollar range of the aggregate value of the shares of all Funds overseen by a Trustee, owned beneficially by each Trustee as of December 31, 2023. For purposes of this table, beneficial ownership is defined to mean a direct or indirect pecuniary interest. Exact dollar amounts of securities held are not listed in the table. Rather, the ranges are identified according to the following key:

#### Key

- A. None
- B. \$1 - \$10,000
- C. \$10,001 - \$50,000
- D. \$50,001 - \$100,000
- E. over \$100,000

Name of Trustee	Small Cap Equity Fund	Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund	Equity Fund	Balanced Fund	Fixed Income Fund	International Equity Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in Trust Complex <sup>(1)</sup>
Richard J. Howell Independent Trustee	E	D	E	B	C	A	E
Larry J. Lockwood Independent Trustee	A	A	C	A	A	A	C
Steven R. Purvis Independent Trustee	E	A	A	A	A	A	E
Mauricio Rodriguez Independent Trustee	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
J. Luther King, Jr. <sup>(2)</sup> Interested Trustee, President and Chief Executive Officer	E	E	E	E	E	E	E

<sup>(1)</sup> There are currently seven series comprising the Trust, one of which is offered in a separate prospectus and SAI.

<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. King is a Principal of the Adviser and a participant in the Adviser's profit sharing plan, which owns shares of the Funds as indicated under "Portfolio Managers – Ownership of Securities."

## Board Committees

**Audit and Compliance Committee.** The Trust has an Audit and Compliance Committee, consisting of Messrs. Howell, Lockwood, Purvis and Rodriguez. The members of the Audit and Compliance Committee are Independent Trustees. The primary responsibilities of the Audit and Compliance Committee are to make recommendations to the Board as to: the engagement or discharge of the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm (including the audit fees charged by the accounting firm); the supervision of investigations into matters relating to audits; the review with the independent registered public accounting firm of the results of audits; oversight of the Trust's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, internal control over financial reporting and independent audits; and addressing any other matters regarding audits and compliance. The Audit and Compliance Committee met two times during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

**Nominating Committee.** The Trust has a Nominating Committee, consisting of Messrs. Howell, Lockwood, Purvis and Rodriguez. The Nominating Committee is responsible for the selection and nomination for appointment of candidates to serve as Trustees of the Trust. The Nominating Committee will review shareholders' nominations to fill vacancies on the Board. Shareholders can submit recommendations in writing addressed to the attention of the chair of the Nominating Committee, 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. A shareholder's recommendation must include the following information about the nominee: (1) name; (2) date of birth; (3) education; (4) business, professional or other relevant experience and areas of expertise; (5) current business, professional or other relevant experience and areas of expertise; (6) current business and home addresses and contact information; (7) other board positions or prior experience; and (8) any knowledge and experience relating to investment companies and investment company governance. The Nominating Committee met once during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

With respect to the criteria the Nominating Committee uses for selecting nominees, a successful candidate should have certain uniform characteristics, such as a very high level of integrity, appropriate experience, and a commitment to fulfill the fiduciary duties inherent in Board membership. The Nominating Committee also will consider the extent to which potential candidates possess sufficiently diverse skill sets and diversity characteristics that would contribute to the Board's overall effectiveness.

**Qualified Legal Compliance Committee.** The Trust has a Qualified Legal Compliance Committee, consisting of Messrs. Howell, Lockwood, Purvis and Rodriguez. The members of the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee are Independent Trustees. The primary responsibility of the Trust's Qualified Legal Compliance Committee is to receive, review and take appropriate action with respect to any report made or referred to the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee by an attorney of evidence of a material violation of applicable U.S. federal or state securities law, material breach of a fiduciary duty under U.S. federal or state law or a similar material violation by the Trust or by any officer, director, employee, or agent of the Trust. The Qualified Legal Compliance Committee did not meet during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

The Trust does not hold annual shareholder meetings and, therefore, does not have a policy with respect to Trustees' attendance at such meetings.

## Principal Officers of the Trust

The officers of the Trust conduct and supervise its daily business. As of the date of this SAI, the officers of the Trust are identified in the following table, which provides information as to their year of birth and positions with the Trust, term of office with the Trust and length of time served, their principal occupations for the past five years and, for officers who also serve as Trustees, other directorships held in public companies during the past five years.

Name, Address and Age	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served <sup>(1)</sup>	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee/Officer	Other Directorships Held by Trustee/Officer During the Past Five Years
J. Luther King, Jr. <sup>(2)</sup> 301 Commerce Street Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Year of Birth: 1940	Trustee, President and Chief Executive Officer	Since 1994	Chairman, President and Director, Luther King Capital Management Corporation since 1979.	7	TXO Partners, L.P.
Paul W. Greenwell 301 Commerce Street Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Year of Birth: 1950	Vice President	Since 1996	Principal, Luther King Capital Management Corporation since 1986, Vice President and Portfolio Manager, Luther King Capital Management Corporation since 1983.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Richard Lenart 301 Commerce Street Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Year of Birth: 1966	Secretary and Treasurer	Since 2006	Luther King Capital Management Corporation since 2005.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Jacob D. Smith 301 Commerce Street Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Year of Birth: 1974	Chief Financial Officer  Chief Compliance Officer	Since 2010  Since 2006	General Counsel, Luther King Capital Management Corporation since 2006; Chief Compliance Officer, Luther King Capital Management Corporation from 2006-2022; Principal, Luther King Capital Management Corporation since 2013.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

<sup>(1)</sup> Each officer holds office during the lifetime of the Trust until that individual resigns, retires or is otherwise removed or replaced.

<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. King is considered to be an "interested person" of the Trust (as defined in the 1940 Act) because of his affiliation with the Adviser.



## CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of any of the Funds. 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. A person who controls a Fund may be able to determine the outcome of any matter submitted to a vote of shareholders. As of April 2, 2024, the following persons owned of record or are known by the Funds to own beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Funds.

### PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS SMALL CAP EQUITY FUND

Name and Address	Percent of Fund	Record or Beneficial
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1905	38.58%	Record
Capinco c/o U.S. Bank, NA 1555 North RiverCenter Dr., Suite 302 Milwaukee, WI 53212-3958	11.12%	Record
Luther King Capital Management Corporation For the Exclusive Benefit of its Client 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	11.04%	Beneficial
National Financial Services LLC For the Exclusive Benefit of its Customers Attn: Mutual Funds Department, 4 <sup>th</sup> Fl 499 Washington Blvd. Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	10.06%	Record
Muir & Co 0 c/o Frost Bank Trust Dept. P.O. Box 2950 San Antonio, TX 78299-2950	7.81%	Record
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC 1111 Polaris Pkwy., FL 2J Columbus, OH 43240-2031	5.50%	Record

**PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS  
SMALL-MID CAP EQUITY FUND**

Name and Address	Percent of Fund	Record or Beneficial
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	44.88%	Record
Muir & Co 0 c/o Frost Bank Trust Dept. P.O. Box 2950 San Antonio, TX 78299-2950	33.64%	Record
National Financial Services LLC For the Exclusive Benefit of its Customers Attn: Mutual Funds Department, 4 <sup>th</sup> Fl 499 Washington Blvd. Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	11.03%	Record
Luther King Capital Management Corporation Profit Sharing Plan 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	17.55%	Beneficial
Luther King Capital Management Corporation For the Exclusive Benefit of its Client 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	8.08%	Beneficial
Luther King Capital Management Corporation For the Exclusive Benefit of its Client 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	6.06%	Beneficial
Luther King Capital Management Corporation For the Exclusive Benefit of its Client 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	5.48%	Beneficial
Luther King Capital Management Corporation For the Benefit of its Client 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	5.42%	Beneficial

**PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS  
EQUITY FUND**

Name and Address	Percent of Fund	Record or Beneficial
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	64.18%	Record
Luther King Capital Management Corporation Profit Sharing Plan 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	10.70%	Beneficial
Muir & Co 1 c/o Frost Bank Trust Dept. P.O. Box 2950 San Antonio, TX 78299-2950	8.11%	Record

**PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS  
BALANCED FUND**

Name and Address	Percent of Fund	Record or Beneficial
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	79.76%	Record
Luther King Capital Management Corporation Profit Sharing Plan 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	10.69%	Beneficial

**PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS  
FIXED INCOME FUND**

Name and Address	Percent of Fund	Record or Beneficial
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	52.71%	Record
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC 1111 Polaris Pkwy., FL 2J Columbus, OH 43240-2031	17.20%	Record
Muir & Co 1 c/o Frost Bank Trust Dept. P.O. Box 2950 San Antonio, TX 78299-2950	14.93%	Record
Luther King Capital Management Corporation For the Benefit of its Client 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	6.02%	Beneficial

**PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS  
INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND**

Name and Address	Percent of Fund	Record or Beneficial
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	62.28%	Record
Muir & Co 0 c/o Frost Bank Trust Dept. P.O. Box 2950 San Antonio, TX 78299-2950	28.89%	Record
Luther King Capital Management Corporation Profit Sharing Plan 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	10.87%	Beneficial
Luther King Capital Management Corporation For the Exclusive Benefit of its Client 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	9.58%	Beneficial
Luther King Capital Management Corporation For the Exclusive Benefit of its Client 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	8.99%	Beneficial
Luther King Capital Management Corporation For the Exclusive Benefit of its Client 301 Commerce Street, Suite 1600 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	7.99%	Beneficial

Shareholders with a controlling interest could affect the outcome of proxy voting or the direction of management of the Funds.

**PROXY VOTING PROCEDURES**

The Funds have delegated their authority to vote proxies to the Adviser, subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees. The Adviser's proxy voting policies are summarized below.

**GENERAL**

The Adviser's Chief Compliance Officer ("Adviser CCO") is responsible for monitoring the proxy voting process, including engaging and overseeing any third-party vendor retained to review, monitor, or vote proxies.

The Adviser has engaged Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. ("ISS") as its voting delegate to:

- (1) research and make voting determinations in accordance with the policies and procedures described herein;
- (2) vote and submit proxies in a timely manner;
- (3) handle other administrative functions of proxy voting;
- (4) maintain records of proxy statements received in connection with proxy votes and provide copies of such proxy statements promptly upon request;
- (5) maintain records of votes cast; and
- (6) provide recommendations with respect to proxy voting matters in general.

The Adviser has determined that, except as set forth below, proxies will be voted in accordance with the voting recommendations contained in the applicable domestic or global ISS Voting Guidelines in effect at the time of voting (as applicable, the "ISS Voting Guidelines"). The Adviser will periodically review the ISS Voting Guidelines, including any significant changes or updates thereto. In connection with such reviews, the Adviser may determine that it is not in the best interest of the Funds to vote proxies in accordance with the ISS Voting Guidelines on certain matters. In such event, the Adviser will follow the procedures below in connection with voting any such proxies contrary to the ISS Voting Guidelines.

In the event the ISS Voting Guidelines do not address how a proxy should be voted, the Adviser will vote the proxy in accordance with ISS recommendations. If ISS refrains from making any such recommendations, the Adviser will vote the proxy consistent with what it believes to be a Fund's best interest. Prior to voting any proxies in the absence of ISS recommendations, however, the Adviser CCO will determine whether any material conflict of interest may exist between the Adviser and a Fund with

respect thereto. If the Adviser CCO determines that any such material conflict of interest may exist, the Adviser will follow the procedures below in connection with the voting of such proxies.

There may be circumstances under which the Adviser believes that it is in the best interest of a Fund to vote proxies in a manner inconsistent with the ISS Voting Guidelines or ISS recommendations. Prior to voting any proxies inconsistent with the ISS Voting Guidelines or ISS recommendations, however, the Adviser CCO will determine whether any material conflict of interest may exist between the Adviser and a Fund with respect thereto. If the Adviser CCO determines that any such material conflict of interest may exist, the Adviser will follow the procedures below in connection with the voting of such proxies.

The Adviser maintains records relating to the implementation of its proxy voting policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, (i) records of each vote cast, which ISS maintains on the Adviser’s behalf, and (ii) documents considered or prepared by the Adviser that are material in making a decision to vote proxies on behalf of a Fund or that memorialize the basis for that decision.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Adviser periodically reviews ISS’ conflicts of interest policy and code of ethics, which address conflicts of interest that could arise in connection with proxy advisory services provided by ISS or its affiliates. The Adviser believes that ISS’ conflicts of interest policy and code of ethics contain policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to minimize any such potential conflicts of interest.

In the event that the Adviser or the Adviser CCO determines that voting a proxy may present a material conflict of interest between the Adviser and a Fund, the Adviser will (1) in cases where ISS had made a recommendation, take no further action, in which case ISS shall vote such proxy in accordance with the ISS Voting Guidelines or ISS recommendations, as applicable, (2) disclose such conflict of interest to the Board of Trustees and obtain written direction from the Board as to how to vote the proxy, (3) suggest that the Board engage another party to determine how to vote the proxy, or (4) engage another independent third party to determine how to vote the proxy.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Adviser must vote proxies in what it believes to be in the best interest of the Funds when material conflicts of interest may exist with respect thereto. The Adviser believes that these policies and procedures are reasonably designed to address material conflicts of interest that may arise as to the manner in which proxies are voted.

## MORE INFORMATION

The actual voting records relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 are available without charge, upon request by calling toll-free, (800) 688-LKCM or by accessing the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, a copy of the Funds’ proxy voting policies and procedures are currently available by calling (800) 688-LKCM and will be sent within three business days of receipt of a request.

## INVESTMENT ADVISER

The investment adviser of the Funds is Luther King Capital Management Corporation a Delaware corporation controlled by J. Luther King, Jr. (the “Adviser”). The Adviser’s parent company is Southwest JLK Corporation, a Texas corporation of which Mr. King is the majority owner and controlling shareholder. Mr. King is a member of the Board of Trustees and President, Chief Executive Officer and Portfolio Manager of the Trust. Under an Investment Advisory Agreement (the “Agreement”) with the Funds, the Adviser manages the investment and reinvestment of the Funds’ assets, subject to the control and supervision of the Board of Trustees. The Adviser is responsible for making investment decisions for the Funds and for placing the Funds’ purchase and sale orders. Under the Agreement, the Funds pay the Adviser an advisory fee, calculated daily and payable quarterly, equal to the annual rate set forth under “Contractual Advisory Fee” in the table below based on the Fund’s average daily net assets for the quarter. However, the Adviser has contractually agreed to waive all or a portion of its advisory fees and/or reimburse the Funds through May 1, 2025 to limit the total annual operating expenses of the Funds from exceeding the respective caps as shown in the following table. This expense limitation excludes interest, taxes, brokerage commissions, indirect fees and expenses relating to investments in other investment companies, including money market funds (“Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses”), and extraordinary expenses. The fee waiver and expense reimbursement agreement may be terminated or changed only with the consent of the Board of Trustees.

The advisory fees and expense caps for the current fiscal year are as follows:

	Contractual Advisory Fee	Cap on Total Annual Operating Expenses
Small Cap Equity Fund .....	0.75%	1.00%
Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund .....	0.75%	1.00%
Equity Fund .....	0.70%	0.80%
Balanced Fund .....	0.65%	0.80%
Fixed Income Fund .....	0.50%	0.50%
International Equity Fund .....	0.90%	1.00%

As compensation for the services rendered by the Adviser under the Agreement, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, the Adviser earned and waived and/or reimbursed the amounts listed below.

	Contractual Advisory Fees Incurred	Waived Fees and/or Expenses Reimbursed by the Adviser	Net Advisory Fees paid to the Adviser
<b>Small Cap Equity Fund</b>			
Year Ended December 31, 2021 ...	\$1,718,396	\$(74,254)	\$1,644,142
Year Ended December 31, 2022	\$1,395,312	\$(125,665)	\$1,269,647
Year Ended December 31, 2023	\$1,488,393	\$(140,774)	\$1,347,619
<b>Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund</b>			
Year Ended December 31, 2021 ...	\$119,726	\$(118,194)	\$1,532
Year Ended December 31, 2022	\$124,143	\$(131,696)	\$(7,553) <sup>(1)</sup>
Year Ended December 31, 2023	\$144,536	\$(142,893)	\$1,643
<b>Equity Fund</b>			
Year Ended December 31, 2021 ...	\$3,547,029	\$(804,807)	\$2,742,222
Year Ended December 31, 2022	\$3,343,687	\$(830,646)	\$2,513,041
Year Ended December 31, 2023	\$3,301,184	\$(941,230)	\$2,359,954
<b>Balanced Fund</b>			
Year Ended December 31, 2021 ...	\$883,371	\$(217,130)	\$666,241
Year Ended December 31, 2022	\$778,799	\$(233,447)	\$545,352
Year Ended December 31, 2023	\$713,831	\$(269,008)	\$444,823
<b>Fixed Income Fund</b>			
Year Ended December 31, 2021 ...	\$1,461,765	\$(818,913)	\$642,852
Year Ended December 31, 2022	\$1,410,331	\$(805,761)	\$604,570
Year Ended December 31, 2023	\$1,392,057	\$(868,939)	\$523,118
<b>International Equity Fund</b>			
Year Ended December 31, 2021 ...	\$431,451	\$(189,401)	\$242,050
Year Ended December 31, 2022	\$415,306	\$(206,382)	\$208,924
Year Ended December 31, 2023	\$507,186	\$(233,343)	\$273,843

<sup>(1)</sup> A negative amount indicates advisory fees waived and expenses reimbursed in excess of the advisory fees accrued.

#### PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

The portfolio managers listed below have responsibility for the day-to-day management of accounts other than the Funds. The information listed below for such other accounts is as of December 31, 2023.

	Number of Other Accounts Managed and Assets by Account Type			Number of Accounts and Assets for which Advisory Fee is Performance Based		
	Registered Investment Companies	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Other Accounts	Registered Investment Companies	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Other Accounts
J. Luther King, Jr. ....	0	12	254	0	8	0
	0	\$4.0 billion	\$5.7 billion	\$0	\$2.6 billion	\$0
Scot C. Hollmann .....	1	\$0	344	0	0	0
	\$58.3 million	\$0	\$2.2 billion	\$0	\$0	\$0
Joan M. Maynard .....	0	0	15	0	0	0
	\$0	\$0	\$193 million	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mark L. Johnson .....	0	0	152	0	0	0
	\$0	\$0	\$504.7 million	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mason D. King .....	0	1	81	0	0	0
	\$0	\$14.9 million	\$285.8 million	\$0	\$0	\$0
Brittney G. Allred .....	0	0	55	0	0	0
	\$0	\$0	\$158.7 million	\$0	\$0	\$0
Daniel C. Downes .....	0	0	20	0	0	0
	\$0	\$0	\$45.4 million	\$0	\$0	\$0

### Conflicts of Interest

The portfolio managers are responsible for managing the Funds and other separately managed accounts, including accounts for investment companies, employee benefit plans, pension plans, endowments, foundations, trusts, high net worth individuals, and pooled investment vehicles. When a portfolio manager is responsible for the management of more than one account, the potential arises for the portfolio manager to favor one account over another. The principal types of conflicts of interest that may arise are discussed below. The Adviser believes that it has established policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to mitigate these potential conflicts of interest.

- The portfolio managers are responsible for managing other accounts that may have investment objectives, guidelines, strategies, risk profiles or other considerations that may differ from those of the Funds. The portfolio managers make investment decisions for each account based on its investment objectives and guidelines, policies, and other relevant considerations. Consequently, the portfolio managers may purchase or sell securities at the same or different times for one account and not another account or the Funds. The portfolio managers may also make investment decisions on behalf of other accounts that are directly or indirectly contrary to investment decisions made on behalf of the Funds, or make investment decisions that are similar to those made for the Funds, any of which has the potential to adversely impact the Funds depending on market conditions.
- The portfolio managers may purchase or sell for their own account securities that are purchased or sold on behalf of the Funds. The portfolio managers also have a beneficial interest in pooled investment vehicles or other accounts managed by the Adviser, other than the Funds. The Adviser has implemented a code of ethics and other policies and procedures in an effort to mitigate these potential conflicts of interest.
- The portfolio managers could favor one account over another in allocating new investment opportunities of a limited nature, such as initial public offerings and private placements. The Adviser has implemented policies and procedures, including a rotational system for allocating initial public offerings, in an effort to ensure that investment opportunities of a limited nature are allocated fairly and equitably among eligible accounts.
- The portfolio managers could favor one account over another in the order in which trades for accounts are placed. If the portfolio managers determine to purchase a security for more than one account in an aggregate amount that may influence the market price of the security, accounts that purchased or sold the security first may receive a more favorable price than accounts that made subsequent transactions. In addition, the Funds and other accounts, including pooled investment vehicles, managed by the portfolio managers may participate in aggregated purchase or sale transactions. To the extent that accounts participating in aggregated trades do not receive their full allocation, a potential conflict of interest exists because the Adviser and portfolio managers have an incentive to allocate trades to accounts in which the Adviser and portfolio managers have a financial interest. The Adviser has implemented trade allocation and aggregation policies and procedures in an effort to mitigate this potential conflict of interest.
- The portfolio managers are responsible for managing other accounts and pooled investment vehicles, some of which entitle the Adviser to incentive fees and/or management fees exceeding those paid by the Funds. This compensation structure presents a potential conflict of interest because the Adviser and the portfolio managers may be incentivized to favor such accounts over the Funds.

- The Adviser and the portfolio managers have significant personal investments in some of the private investment funds managed by the Adviser. As a result of such investments, the Adviser and the portfolio managers may be motivated to favor these funds over the Funds.
- Under Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Adviser may pay commissions to brokers for the Funds' transactions that exceed the amount of commissions that would be charged by another broker for the same transactions, provided that the Adviser determines in good faith that the amount of commissions paid are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided by such broker, either in terms of a particular transaction or the Adviser's overall responsibilities with respect to accounts for which it exercises investment discretion. Pursuant to Section 28(e), the Adviser has entered into soft dollar and commission sharing arrangements with third parties and brokers for eligible brokerage and research products and services. A potential conflict of interest may exist because the Adviser receives these brokerage and research products and services from brokers in exchange for directing commissions from the Funds' transactions, rather than paying for these products and services with its own assets. The Adviser has implemented policies and procedures governing its use of such soft dollar and commission sharing arrangements.

### **Compensation**

As an independent firm, the Adviser has full control over its compensation structure. The Adviser seeks to maintain a compensation program that is competitively positioned to attract and retain high-caliber investment professionals. Each member of the professional staff is provided a salary. They also are eligible to participate in the Adviser's profit sharing plan. The majority of compensation is derived from bonuses, which are discretionary and based on individual merit as well as success of the Adviser in any given year. Criteria for individual bonuses include, among other factors, stock selection, relationship building, investment performance, client service, and portfolio management. There is no standard formula or method for determining bonuses and the factors considered for bonuses vary by individual. Compensation is not based directly on the performance of the Funds or the net asset levels of the Funds.

### **Ownership of Securities**

As of March 31, 2024, the officers and Trustees of the Trust as a group owned approximately 4.24% of the Equity Fund, approximately 1.82% of the Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund, approximately 1.98% of the Small Cap Equity Fund, approximately 2.43% of the International Equity Fund, and less than one percent of the Balanced Fund and Fixed Income Fund.

The Adviser's employees, including officers of the Trust and portfolio managers of the Funds, are participants in the Luther King Capital Management Corporation Profit Sharing Plan ("LKCM Profit Sharing Plan"). As of March 31, 2024, the LKCM Profit Sharing Plan owned approximately 10.70% of the Equity Fund, approximately 10.69% of the Balanced Fund, approximately 3.32% of the Fixed Income Fund, approximately 17.55% of the Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund, approximately 4.84% of the Small Cap Equity Fund, and approximately 10.87% of the International Equity Fund. J. Luther King, Jr. serves as trustee of the LKCM Profit Sharing Plan.

As of March 31, 2024, the Adviser owned approximately 4.32% of the Balanced Fund, approximately 2.82% of the Small Cap Equity Fund, approximately 3.44% of the International Equity Fund, approximately 1.11% of the Equity Fund, approximately 1.12% of the Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund, and less than one percent of the Fixed Income Fund. J. Luther King, Jr. controls the Adviser and is the majority shareholder of the Adviser's parent company.



Each portfolio manager of the Funds also owned the following amounts of shares of each of the Funds as of December 31, 2023:

Key

- A. None
- B. \$1 - \$10,000
- C. \$10,001 - \$50,000
- D. \$50,001 - \$100,000
- E. \$100,001 - \$500,000
- F. \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- G. Over \$1,000,000

Fund Name	Name of Portfolio Manager	Dollar Range of Shares Owned
Small Cap Equity Fund	Mason D. King J. Luther King, Jr. Mark L. Johnson	E G A
Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund	Daniel C. Downes J. Luther King, Jr. Mason D. King	F F C
Equity Fund	J. Luther King, Jr. Scot C. Hollmann Mason D. King	G A G
Balanced Fund	Scot C. Hollmann J. Luther King, Jr. Mark L. Johnson	F E A
Fixed Income Fund	Joan M. Maynard Scot C. Hollmann Mark L. Johnson	C D A
International Equity Fund	Mason D. King J. Luther King, Jr. Brittney G. Allred	E G C

### PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE

The Agreement authorizes the Adviser to select the brokers or dealers that will execute the purchases and sales of investment securities for the Funds and directs the Adviser to use its best efforts in seeking best execution with respect to all securities transactions for the Funds. In selecting brokers or dealers for securities transactions for the Funds, the Adviser may consider, among other things: the quality of executions and liquidity provided by the broker; the ability of the broker to maintain confidentiality of client orders and order flow; the ability of the broker to minimize market impact for client transactions; the commission rates charged by the broker in comparison to the rates of other brokers for similar transactions; the broker's provision of eligible brokerage and research services; the broker's ability to obtain timely, accurate, and cost-effective executions; the ability of the broker to accurately communicate the nature of the market for a particular security; the broker's execution policies and commitment to providing best execution; the size and volume of the broker's order flow; and the efficiency and accuracy of the broker's operations area with regard to settlement procedures.

As permitted by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Adviser may cause the Funds to pay higher commission rates than the lowest available when the Adviser believes in good faith that the commissions paid are reasonable in light of the value of the brokerage or research services provided by the broker, either in terms of a particular transaction or the Adviser's overall responsibilities with respect to accounts for which it has investment discretion. These services generally include third-party and proprietary analyses and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, general economic and market conditions and trends, portfolio strategy; third-party and proprietary analyses and reports regarding the value of securities, the advisability of purchasing or selling securities, and the availability of sellers and purchasers of securities; and services related to effecting securities transactions and performing functions incidental thereto. The Adviser may use some of these services in providing investment advisory services to all of its clients, and not all of these services may be used by the Adviser in providing investment advisory services to the Funds. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the Small Cap Equity Fund, Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund, Equity Fund and Balanced Fund directed transactions to brokers pursuant to which the brokers provided third-party or proprietary research or brokerage services to the Adviser. Pursuant to these arrangements to receive research and brokerage services, during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 it is estimated that the Small Cap Equity Fund paid total commissions of approximately \$70,400 on transactions with a principal value of approximately \$57.3 million, the Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund paid total commissions of approximately \$9,200 on transactions with a principal value of approximately \$13.7 million, the Equity Fund paid total commissions of approximately \$7,700 on transactions with a principal value of approximately \$16.6 million, and the Balanced Fund paid total commissions of approximately \$3,700 on transactions with a principal value of approximately \$11.1 million.

It is not the Adviser’s practice to allocate brokerage or principal business on the basis of sales of shares of Funds that may be made through intermediary brokers or dealers. However, the Adviser may place orders with qualified broker-dealers who recommend the Funds or who act as agents in the purchase of shares of the Funds for their clients, without considering these factors in selecting a broker-dealer. The Adviser does not have an affiliated broker, therefore it has not engaged in any affiliated brokerage transactions.

The aggregate amount of brokerage commissions paid by each Fund during the past three fiscal years ended December 31 is as follows:

	2021	2022	2023
Small Cap Equity Fund .....	\$294,239	\$259,196	\$179,317
Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund .....	\$17,628	\$19,190	\$18,512
Equity Fund .....	\$55,546	\$53,005	\$78,005
Balanced Fund .....	\$6,796	\$14,791	\$5,324
Fixed Income Fund .....	\$0	\$0	\$0
International Equity Fund .....	\$58,046	\$41,213	\$39,292

Some securities considered for investment by the Funds may also be appropriate for other clients served by the Adviser. If purchases or sales of securities consistent with the investment policies of the Funds and one or more of these other clients serviced by the Adviser are considered at or about the same time, transactions in such securities may be aggregated and allocated among the Funds and such clients in accordance with the Adviser’s allocation policies and procedures or in any other manner deemed fair and reasonable by the Adviser.

As of December 31, 2023, the Funds did not hold securities of their “regular brokers or dealers” (as defined in the 1940 Act) or their parent companies.

#### PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

Although the Funds generally will not invest for short-term trading purposes, portfolio securities may be sold without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Adviser, investment or other considerations warrant such action. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing (1) the lesser of purchases or sales of long-term portfolio securities for the fiscal year by (2) the monthly average of the value of long-term portfolio securities owned during the fiscal year. A 100% turnover rate would occur if all the securities in a Fund’s portfolio, with the exception of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less, were sold and either repurchased or replaced within one year. A high rate of portfolio turnover (100% or more) generally leads to higher transaction costs and may result in a greater number of transactions on which net taxable gains are realized. Portfolio turnover may vary significantly from year to year due to a variety of factors, including fluctuating volume of shareholder purchase and redemption orders, market conditions, investment strategy changes, and/or changes in the Adviser’s investment outlook.

The Funds had the following portfolio turnover rates for the past two fiscal years ended December 31:

	2022	2023
Small Cap Equity Fund .....	42%	28%
Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund .....	50%	32%
Equity Fund .....	11%	10%
Balanced Fund .....	13%	11%
Fixed Income Fund .....	21%	23%
International Equity Fund .....	26%	11%

#### CUSTODIAN

As custodian of the Funds’ assets, U.S. Bank, N.A. (the “Custodian”), 1555 N. RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, WI 53212, has custody of all securities and cash of the Funds, delivers and receives payment for securities sold, receives and pays for securities purchased, collects income from investments, and performs other duties, all as directed by the officers of the Trust. U.S. Bank, N.A. and Fund Services (as defined below) are affiliates.

#### TRANSFER AGENT

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (“Fund Services”), 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53202 serves as transfer agent, dividend disbursing agent and shareholder servicing agent for the Funds. In such capacity, Fund Services’ responsibilities include: receiving and processing all orders for purchases, exchanges and redemptions of Fund shares; responding to shareholder inquiries and instructions concerning their accounts; updating of shareholder accounts to reflect declaration and payment of dividends and other distributions; and preparing and distributing account statements and tax documents to shareholders regarding their accounts. U.S. Bank, N.A. and Fund Services are affiliates.

## ADMINISTRATOR

Pursuant to a Fund Administration Agreement, Fund Services provides each Fund with administrative services. The services under this Agreement are subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees and officers of the Trust, and include day-to-day administration of matters necessary to the Funds' operations, maintenance of their records, preparation of reports, compliance testing of the Funds' activities, and preparation of periodic updates of the registration statement under federal and state laws. For administration services, Fund Services receives from each Fund a fee, calculated daily and paid monthly. U.S. Bank, N.A. and Fund Services are affiliates.

Administration fees incurred during the past three fiscal years ended December 31 were as follows:

	2021	2022	2023
Small Cap Equity Fund .....	\$212,708	\$174,684	\$202,777
Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund .....	\$43,551	\$52,050	\$62,321
Equity Fund .....	\$438,476	\$422,510	\$443,684
Balanced Fund .....	\$125,271	\$117,072	\$119,441
Fixed Income Fund .....	\$264,709	\$264,080	\$278,270
International Equity Fund .....	\$47,981	\$52,857	\$68,833

Fund Services also acts as Transfer Agent, Dividend-Disbursing Agent, and Fund Accountant for the Funds.

## DISTRIBUTOR

Quasar Distributors, LLC (the "Distributor"), 3 Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101, a registered broker-dealer and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, distributes the Funds' shares. The Distributor uses its best efforts to distribute the Funds' shares, which shares are offered for sale by the Funds continuously at net asset value per share without the imposition of a sales charge. The Funds pay that portion of the compensation owed to the Distributor that is permitted under Rule 12b-1 of the 1940 Act (if the Funds currently pay any fees under their Rule 12b-1 Plans), and the Adviser pays the remaining portion of any such compensation.

## DISTRIBUTION PLAN

The Board has adopted a Distribution Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act (the "Distribution Plan"). Pursuant to the Distribution Plan, the Funds can pay up to an aggregate maximum of 0.75% per annum of each Fund's average daily net assets for the distribution and promotion of the shares of the Funds and the retention of shares by Fund shareholders. These services include, but are not limited to, the printing of Prospectuses, Statements of Additional Information, reports used for sales purposes, advertisements, expenses of preparation and printing of sales literature, other distribution-related expenses and providing services to shareholders. Although approved, the Board of Trustees has not authorized payments under the Distribution Plan at this time. As a result, the Funds did not pay any amounts in Rule 12b-1 expenses for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

The Distribution Plan is regulated by Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, which requires that the Board receive and review at least quarterly reports concerning the amount and purpose of expenses which are made, and that the Distribution Plan may be continued from year-to-year only if the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, concludes at least annually that continuation of the Distribution Plan is reasonably likely to benefit the Trust and its shareholders.

## PAYMENTS TO FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

A financial intermediary through which you purchase your shares may receive all or a portion of the Distribution Plan Rule 12b-1 fees, if applicable, discussed above. In addition to those payments, the Adviser makes additional cash payments to certain intermediaries in connection with the promotion and sale of shares of the Funds. The Adviser and the Funds also make payments for certain sub-transfer agency and administrative services. Payments made by the Adviser are from its own resources. The categories described below are not mutually exclusive. The same financial intermediary may receive payments under more than one or all categories.

*Revenue Sharing Payments.* The Adviser makes revenue sharing payments as incentives to certain financial intermediaries to promote and sell shares of the Funds. The benefits that the Adviser receives when it makes these payments include, among other things, placing the Funds on the financial intermediary's funds sales system. The Adviser compensates financial intermediaries differently depending typically on the level and/or type of considerations provided by the financial intermediary.

Revenue sharing payments may be calculated on sales of shares of the Funds ("Sales-Based Payments"). Such payments also may be calculated on the average daily net assets of the applicable Funds attributable to that particular financial intermediary ("Asset-Based Payments"). Sales-Based Payments primarily create incentives to make new sales of shares of the Funds and Asset-Based Payments primarily create incentives to retain previously sold shares of the Funds in shareholder accounts. The Adviser may pay a financial intermediary either or both Sales-Based Payments and Asset-Based Payments.

*Administrative and Processing Support Payments.* Firms that establish omnibus accounts and provide substantially the same services to their clients as are provided by Fund Services to direct shareholders of the Funds may receive sub-transfer agent fees for such services from the respective Fund. In an omnibus account, the Funds maintain a single account in the name of a financial intermediary such as a broker, dealer, record-keeper or other service provider and the financial intermediary maintains all of the individual shareholder accounts.

Record-keeping and shareholder services typically include: establishing and maintaining shareholder accounts and records; recording shareholder account balances and changes thereto; arranging for the wiring of funds; providing statements to shareholders; furnishing proxy materials, periodic reports of the Funds, prospectuses and other communications to current shareholders as required; transmitting shareholder transaction information; and providing information in order to assist the Funds in their compliance with federal and state securities laws. Each Fund typically would be paying these shareholder servicing fees directly if the financial intermediary did not hold all of its customer accounts in a single omnibus account with the Funds. Likewise, for many retirement plans, a third party administrator may open an omnibus account with the Funds and the administrator will then maintain all of the participant accounts. The Adviser and the Funds make payments to certain financial intermediaries for certain administrative services, including record keeping and sub-accounting shareholder accounts. The Adviser, the Distributor and the Funds also make payments to certain financial intermediaries in connection with client account maintenance support, statement preparation and transaction processing.

*Other Cash Payments.* From time to time, the Adviser, at its own expense, may provide additional compensation to financial intermediaries which sell or arrange for the sale of shares of the Funds. This additional compensation may be offered to the extent not prohibited by state laws or any self-regulatory agency, such as Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. Such compensation may include financial assistance to financial intermediaries that enables the Adviser to: (1) participate in and/or present at conferences or seminars for invited registered representatives and other employees, (2) participate in client entertainment, client and investor events, and other financial intermediary-sponsored events, and (3) pay expenses incurred by registered representatives and other employees in connection with client prospecting, retention and due diligence trips.

The Adviser is motivated to make the payments described above since they promote the sale of Fund shares and the retention of those investments by clients of financial intermediaries. To the extent financial intermediaries sell more shares of Funds or retain shares of Funds in their clients' accounts, the Adviser benefits from the incremental management and other fees paid to the Adviser by the Funds with respect to those assets.

In certain cases these payments could be significant to the financial intermediary. Your financial intermediary may charge you additional fees or commissions other than those disclosed in the prospectus and this SAI. You may ask your financial intermediary about any payments it receives from the Adviser or the Funds, as well as about fees and/or commissions it charges.

## INTERESTS OF CERTAIN PERSONS

With the exception of the Adviser, no "interested person" of the Funds, as defined in the 1940 Act, and no Trustee of the Trust who is not an "interested person", has or had a direct or indirect financial interest in the Distribution Plan or any related agreement.

## CODE OF ETHICS

The Trust, Adviser and Distributor have each adopted a written Code of Ethics. These Codes of Ethics govern the personal securities transactions of trustees, directors, officers and employees who may have access to current trading information of the Funds. The Codes of Ethics permit such persons to invest in the Funds and/or other securities for their personal accounts, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Funds, subject to certain conditions. The Codes of Ethics include reporting and other obligations to monitor personal transactions and confirm that such transactions do not disadvantage the Funds.

## PURCHASE AND PRICING OF SHARES

### PURCHASE OF SHARES

The Funds will be deemed to have received a purchase or redemption order when an authorized broker or, if applicable, a broker's designee receives the order.

**Purchasing Shares with Liquid Securities.** Certain clients of the Adviser may, subject to the approval of the Trust, purchase shares of the Funds with liquid securities that are eligible for purchase by a Fund (consistent with the Fund's investment policies and restrictions) and that have a value that is readily ascertainable (and not

established only by fair valuation procedures) as evidenced by a listing on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") or NASDAQ. These transactions will be effected only if the Adviser intends to retain the security in the Funds as an investment. Assets so purchased by the Funds will be valued in generally the same manner as they would be valued for purposes of pricing a Fund's shares, if such assets were included in the Fund's assets at the time of purchase.

**Automatic Investment Program.** The Automatic Investment Program ("AIP") permits investors who own shares of a Fund with a value of \$2,000 or more to purchase shares (minimum of \$100 per transaction) at regular intervals selected by the investor. Provided the investor's financial institution allows automatic withdrawals, shares are purchased by transferring funds from an investor's checking or savings account. The financial institution must be a member of the Automatic Clearing House network. There is

no charge for this service. A \$25 fee will be charged if the investor's bank rejects the scheduled transaction. At the investor's option, the account designated will be debited in the specified amount, and shares will be purchased on a specified day or days of a month.

The AIP is one means by which an investor may use "dollar cost averaging" in making investments. Instead of trying to time market performance, a fixed dollar amount is invested in shares at predetermined intervals. This may help investors to reduce their average cost per share because the agreed upon fixed investment amount allows more shares to be purchased during periods of lower share prices and fewer shares during periods of higher prices. In order to be effective, dollar cost averaging should usually be followed on a sustained, consistent basis. Investors should be aware, however, that shares bought using dollar cost averaging are purchased without regard to their price on the day of investment or market trends. In addition, while investors may find dollar cost averaging to be beneficial, it will not prevent a loss if an investor ultimately redeems his or her shares at a price that is lower than their purchase price.

To establish the AIP, an investor must complete the appropriate sections of the New Account Application. Please call the Trust at 800-688-LKCM if you have questions. An investor may cancel his or her participation in this Program or change the amount of purchase at any time by notifying the Transfer Agent by telephone or in writing, five days prior to the effective date of the next transaction. The Trust may modify or terminate this privilege at any time or charge a service fee, although no such fee currently is contemplated.

## **PRICING OF SHARES**

Shares of the Funds are sold and redeemed on a continual basis at the net asset value per share next computed following acceptance of an order by a Fund. A Fund's net asset value per share for the purpose of pricing purchase and redemption orders is normally determined as of the scheduled close of normal trading (generally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on each day the NYSE is scheduled to be open for trading. The NYSE is generally scheduled to be closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Equity securities listed or traded on a U.S. securities exchange for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last quoted sale price on the exchange on which the security is primarily traded. Nasdaq Global Market securities are valued at the Nasdaq Official Closing Price. Unlisted U.S. equity securities and listed U.S. equity securities not traded on a particular valuation date are valued at the mean of the most recent quoted bid and ask price on the relevant exchanges or markets.

Equity securities listed on a foreign exchange for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last quoted sales price on the exchange on which the security is primarily traded.

Debt securities are normally valued at the mean of the closing bid and ask price and/or by using a combination of broker quotations or evaluated prices provided by an independent pricing service. Futures and options on futures are valued at the settlement prices established each day on the principal exchange on which they are traded. Forward contracts are valued based on the forward rate using information provided by an independent pricing service. Other assets and securities for which no market or broker quotations or evaluated prices are readily available are valued in good faith at fair value using guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees.

Rule 2a-5 under the Investment Company Act (the "Valuation Rule") establishes requirements for determining fair value in good faith for purposes of the Investment Company Act, including related oversight and reporting requirements. The Valuation Rule also defines when market quotations are "readily available" for purposes of the Investment Company Act, the threshold for determining whether a security must be fair valued.

The Valuation Rule permits a Fund's board to designate the Fund's investment adviser as "valuation designee" to perform the Fund's fair value determinations subject to board oversight and certain reporting and other requirements intended to ensure that the registered investment company's board receives the information it needs to oversee the investment adviser's fair value determinations. The Board has designated the Adviser as valuation designee under the Valuation Rule to perform fair value functions in accordance with the requirements of the Valuation Rule. The Adviser may value securities at fair value in good faith pursuant to the Adviser's and the Fund's procedures. The Adviser may use prices provided by independent pricing services to assist in the fair valuation of the Fund's portfolio securities.

The policies and procedures adopted by the Funds and the Adviser authorize the Adviser to fair value a security in good faith if, among other things, the Adviser determines that (i) closing prices of foreign securities do not reflect their fair market value due to events that occur between the closing of foreign markets and the time at which a Fund calculates its NAV, (ii) trading in a security is halted and does not resume prior to the closing of the exchange or other market on which such security normally trades, or (iii) the price for such security provided by the Funds' independent pricing services appears invalid, is not readily available, or otherwise provides a valuation that in the judgment of the Adviser does not represent the fair market value of such security. Prices provided by independent pricing services may be used to assist in the fair valuation of the Funds' portfolio securities. For foreign securities held by the International Equity Fund, such fair value prices generally are based on such independent pricing services' proprietary multi-factor models that measure movements in relevant indices, market indicators and other factors between the time the relevant foreign markets have closed and the time a Fund calculates its NAV, and therefore may differ from quoted or official closing prices for such foreign securities in such foreign markets. If fair value pricing is utilized, the fair values assigned to such Fund's foreign investments may not be the quoted or published prices of the investments on their primary markets or exchanges.

An example of how each Fund calculated its total offering price per share as of December 31, 2023 is as follows:

	<u>Net Assets</u> <u>Shares Outstanding</u>	=	Net Asset Value per share
<b>Small Cap Equity Fund</b> .....	\$231,550,097 11,856,139	=	\$19.53
<b>Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund</b> .....	\$28,493,771 2,876,562	=	\$9.91
<b>Equity Fund</b> .....	\$494,676,681 14,377,853	=	\$34.41
<b>Balanced Fund</b> .....	\$113,667,125 4,372,486	=	\$26.00
<b>Fixed Income Fund</b> .....	\$286,492,175 27,662,742	=	\$10.36
<b>International Equity Fund</b> .....	\$60,245,489 4,752,938	=	\$12.68

### PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

It is the policy of LKCM Funds to protect the confidentiality of portfolio holdings and prevent the selective disclosure of non-public information concerning the Funds. No information concerning the portfolio holdings of the Funds may be disclosed to any person except as provided below.

The Adviser and the Funds maintain portfolio holdings disclosure policies that govern the timing and circumstances of disclosure to shareholders and third parties of information regarding the portfolio investments held by the Funds. These portfolio holdings disclosure policies have been approved by the Board of Trustees. Disclosure of the Funds' complete holdings is required to be made quarterly within 60 days of the end of each fiscal quarter in the Annual Report and Semi-Annual Report to Fund shareholders. Monthly portfolio disclosures are filed quarterly with the SEC on Form N-PORT, with quarter-end disclosures being made public 60 days after the end of each fiscal quarter. These reports are available, free of charge, on the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, each Fund also makes available on the Funds' website a complete schedule of its portfolio holdings no sooner than 30 days following the end of each calendar quarter. Information contained within Fund Fact Sheets is made publicly available on the website upon completion (generally within 10-15 days after the close of the calendar quarter). In an effort to prevent parties from potentially misusing portfolio holdings information, the Funds will generally only disclose the Fund Fact Sheets and complete schedules of portfolio holdings as of the end of the most recent calendar quarter, no earlier than 10 days and 30 days after the end of the calendar quarter, respectively.

In addition, the Funds' service providers, including the administrator, custodian, legal counsel, proxy voting administrator, independent pricing service, and independent registered public accounting firm, receive portfolio holdings information in connection with their services to the Funds. The Funds' service providers have a duty to keep nonpublic information about the Funds, some of which is received on a daily basis with no lag time, confidential based on existing laws and due to the nature of their roles with the Funds. An officer of the Adviser or the Chief Compliance Officer of the Funds may distribute (or authorize the Funds' administrator to distribute) portfolio holdings to rating and ranking agencies for a legitimate business purpose on a quarterly basis. Except as noted above, this information is provided no earlier than 30 days after the end of a calendar quarter and no compensation is received by the Adviser or the Funds as consideration for such disclosure. The Funds' Chief Compliance Officer may waive certain of the requirements of this policy. The Board of Trustees and the Adviser may, on a case-by-case basis, impose additional restrictions on the dissemination of portfolio holdings information beyond those required by the Funds' policy. Notwithstanding these policies, the Funds may disclose portfolio holdings information to the extent required by applicable law.

The Funds' Chief Compliance Officer will report any violations of these policies to the Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis. In no event shall the Adviser, its affiliates or employees, or the Funds receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Funds' portfolio holdings.

If the disclosure of portfolio holdings presents a conflict of interest between the shareholders and the Adviser, the Funds' principal distributor or any of their respective affiliates, then such conflict will be reported to the Board for its consideration prior to the dissemination of portfolio holdings information.

## EXCHANGES

Shareholders of a Fund may exchange shares of the Fund for shares of another series of the Trust.

## REDEMPTIONS IN KIND

The Trust has made an election with the SEC to pay in cash all redemptions requested by any shareholder of record limited in amount during any 90-day period to the lesser of (i) \$250,000 or (ii) 1% of the net assets of a Fund at the beginning of such period. Such commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the SEC. Redemptions in excess of the above limits may be paid in whole or in part in investment securities or in cash, as the Trustees may deem advisable; however, payment will be made wholly in cash unless the Trustees believe that economic or market conditions exist which would make such a practice detrimental to the best interests of the applicable Fund. If redemptions are paid in investment securities the redeeming shareholders might incur brokerage expenses if they converted these securities to cash. Securities used to make such “in-kind” redemptions will be readily marketable. The method of valuing such securities will be the same as the method of valuing Fund securities described under “Pricing of Shares,” and such valuation will be made as of the same time the redemption price is determined.

## TAXATION

### TAXATION OF THE FUNDS

The following discussion of certain federal tax matters concerning the Funds and the purchase, ownership and disposition of Fund shares is not complete and may not deal with all aspects of federal taxation that may be relevant to you in light of your particular circumstances. This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), the regulations promulgated thereunder and judicial and administrative interpretations thereof, publicly available as of the date hereof; all these authorities are subject to change, which may be applied retroactively. You should consult your own tax advisers with regard to the federal tax consequences to you of the purchase, ownership and disposition of Fund shares, as well as the tax consequences thereof to you arising under the laws of any state, locality, foreign country or other taxing jurisdiction.

Each Fund, which is treated as a separate corporation for federal tax purposes, intends to continue to qualify annually for treatment as a “regulated investment company” under Subchapter M of Chapter 1 of Subtitle A of the Code (“RIC”). If so qualified, a Fund (but not its shareholders) will not be liable for federal income tax to the extent it distributes its net earnings and realized net gains to its shareholders on a timely basis.

To continue to qualify for treatment as a RIC for a taxable year, a Fund must distribute to its shareholders at least the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (consisting generally of net investment income, the excess, if any, of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss (“net short-term capital gain”) and net gains and losses from certain foreign currency transactions, if any, all determined without regard to any deduction for dividends paid) and 90% of its net exempt interest income for that year (“Distribution Requirement”) and must meet several additional requirements. With respect to each Fund, these requirements include the following: (1) the Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income for the taxable year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans and gains (without regard to losses) from the sale or other disposition of securities or foreign currencies, or other income derived with respect to its business of investing in securities or those currencies and income from qualified publicly traded partnerships (“Income Requirement”); and (2) at the close of each quarter of the Fund’s taxable year, (a) at least 50% of the value of its total assets must be represented by cash and cash items, Government securities, securities of other RICs and other securities, with these other securities limited, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount that does not exceed 5% of that value and that does not represent more than 10% of the issuer’s outstanding voting securities, and (b) not more than 25% of that value may be invested in (i) the securities (other than Government securities or securities of other RICs) of any one issuer, (ii) the securities (other than securities of other RICs) of two or more issuers the Fund controls (by owning 20% or more of their voting power) that are determined to be engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses, or (iii) interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships (“Diversification Requirements”).

If a Fund fails to qualify for treatment as a RIC for any taxable year – either (1) by failing to satisfy the Distribution Requirement, even if it satisfies the Income and Diversification Requirements, or (2) by failing to satisfy the Income Requirement and/or Diversification Requirements and is unable, or determines not, to avail itself of Code provisions that enable a RIC to cure a failure to satisfy any of the Income and Diversification Requirements as long as the failure “is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect” and the RIC pays a deductible tax calculated in accordance with those provisions and meets certain other requirements – then for federal tax purposes it would be treated as a regular corporation. In that case, it would be subject to federal income tax, and any distributions that it made to its shareholders would not be deductible by it and would be taxable to them as ordinary income (with no part treated as a capital gain distribution) to the extent of its earnings and profits, except for the part of those dividends that is “qualified dividend income” (described in the Prospectus), which is subject to maximum federal income tax rates of 15% and 20% for certain shareholders. That treatment would increase the cost of investing in that Fund for shareholders and would make it more economical for shareholders to invest directly in securities held by the Fund instead of investing indirectly in those securities through the Fund.

Each Fund will be subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax (“Excise Tax”) to the extent it fails to distribute by the end of any calendar year substantially all of its ordinary income for that year and capital gain net income for the one-year period ending on October 31 (or December 31, if it so elects) of that year, plus certain other amounts.

Some futures contracts, foreign currency contracts, and “non-equity” options (i.e., certain listed options, such as those on a “broad-based” securities index) — except any “securities futures contract” that is not a “dealer securities futures contract” (both as defined in the Code) and any interest rate swap, currency swap, basis swap, interest rate cap, interest rate floor, commodity swap, equity swap, equity index swap, credit default swap, or similar agreement—in which the Fund invests may be subject to Code section

1256 (collectively, “Section 1256 contracts”). Any Section 1256 contract the Fund holds at the end of its taxable year must be “marked-to-market” (that is, treated as having been sold at that time for its fair market value) for federal income tax purposes, with the result that unrealized gains or losses will be treated as though they were realized. Sixty percent of any net gain or loss realized on these deemed sales, and 60% of any net realized gain or loss from any actual sales of Section 1256 contracts, will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss, and the balance will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. Section 1256 contracts also may be marked-to-market for purposes of the Excise Tax. These rules may operate to increase the amount that a Fund must distribute to satisfy the Distribution Requirement (i.e., with respect to the portion treated as short-term capital gain), which will be taxable to its shareholders as ordinary income when distributed to them, and to increase the net capital gain the Fund recognizes, without in either case increasing the cash available to it.

Section 988 of the Internal Revenue Code also may apply to a Fund’s forward currency contracts and options and futures contracts on foreign currencies. Under that section, each foreign currency gain or loss generally is computed separately and treated as ordinary income or loss. These gains or losses will increase or decrease the amount of the Fund’s investment company taxable income to be distributed to its shareholders as ordinary income, rather than affecting the amount of its net capital gain. If a Fund’s section 988 losses exceed its other investment company taxable income during a taxable year, the Fund would not be able to distribute any dividends, and any distributions made during that year (including those made before the losses were realized) would be characterized as a non-taxable “return of capital” to shareholders, rather than as a dividend, thereby reducing each shareholder’s basis in his or her Fund shares and treating any part of such distribution exceeding that basis as gain from the disposition of those shares.

Offsetting positions a Fund enters into or holds in any actively traded option, futures or forward contract may constitute a “straddle” for federal income tax purposes. Straddles are subject to certain rules that may affect the amount, character and timing of recognition of the Fund’s gains and losses with respect to positions of the straddle by requiring, among other things, that (1) losses realized on disposition of one position of a straddle be deferred to the extent of any unrealized gain in an offsetting position until the latter position is disposed of, (2) the Fund’s holding period in certain straddle positions not begin until the straddle is terminated (possibly resulting in gain being treated as short-term rather than long-term capital gain), and (3) losses recognized with respect to certain straddle positions, that otherwise would constitute short-term capital losses, be treated as long-term capital losses. Applicable regulations also provide certain “wash sale” rules, which apply to transactions where a position is sold at a loss and a new offsetting position is acquired within a prescribed period, and “short sale” rules applicable to straddles. Different elections are available, which may mitigate the effects of the straddle rules, particularly with respect to “mixed straddles” (i.e., a straddle at least one, but not all, positions of which are Section 1256 contracts).

When a covered call option written (sold) by a Fund expires, it will realize a short-term capital gain equal to the amount of the premium it received for writing the option. When the Fund terminates its obligations under such an option by entering into a closing transaction, it will realize a short-term capital gain (or loss), depending on whether the cost of the closing transaction is less (or more) than the premium it received when it wrote the option. When a covered call option written by the Fund is exercised, it will be treated as having sold the underlying security, producing long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the holding period of the underlying security and whether the sum of the option price received on the exercise plus the premium received when it wrote the option is more or less than the underlying security’s basis.

If a Fund has an “appreciated financial position” – generally, an interest (including an interest through a short sale) with respect to any stock, debt instrument (other than “straight debt”) or partnership interest the fair market value of which exceeds its adjusted basis – and enters into a “constructive sale” of the position, the Fund will be treated as having made an actual sale thereof, with the result that it will recognize gain at that time. A constructive sale generally consists of a short sale or an offsetting notional principal contract a Fund or a related person enters into with respect to the same or substantially identical property. In addition, if the appreciated financial position is itself a short sale or such a contract, acquisition of the underlying property or substantially identical property will be deemed a constructive sale. The foregoing will not apply, however, to any transaction by a Fund during any taxable year that would otherwise be treated as a constructive sale if the transaction is closed within 30 days after the end of that year and the Fund holds the appreciated financial position unhedged for 60 days after that closing (i.e., at no time during that 60-day period is the Fund’s risk of loss regarding that position reduced by reason of certain specified transactions with respect to substantially identical or related property, such as having an option to sell, being contractually obligated to sell, making a short sale or granting an option to buy substantially identical stock or securities).

Certain aspects of the tax treatment of derivative instruments are currently unclear and may be affected by changes in legislation, regulations, administrative rules, and/or other legally binding authority that could affect the treatment of income from those instruments and the character, timing of recognition and amount of the Fund’s taxable income or net realized gains and distributions. If the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) were to assert successfully that income a Fund derives from those investments does not constitute Qualifying Other Income, the Fund might cease to qualify as a RIC (with the consequences described above) or might be required to reduce its exposure to such investments.

**Investments in Foreign Securities.** Dividends and interest a Fund receives, and gains it realizes, on foreign securities may be subject to income, withholding or other taxes imposed by foreign countries and U.S. possessions that would reduce the yield and/or total return on its securities. Tax conventions between certain countries and the United States may reduce or eliminate those taxes, however, and many foreign countries do not impose taxes on capital gains in respect of investments by foreign investors.

Each Fund may invest in the stock of “passive foreign investment companies” (“PFICs”). A PFIC is any foreign corporation (with certain exceptions) that, in general, meets either of the following tests for a taxable year:

- (1) at least 75% of its gross income is passive; or
- (2) an average of at least 50% of its assets produce, or are held for the production of, passive income.



Under certain circumstances, a Fund will be subject to federal income tax on a portion of any “excess distribution” it receives on the stock of a PFIC and of any gain on disposition of the stock (collectively, “PFIC income”), plus interest thereon, even if the Fund distributes the PFIC income as a taxable dividend to its shareholders. The balance of the PFIC income will be included in the Fund’s investment company taxable income and, accordingly, will not be taxable to it to the extent it distributes that income to its shareholders. Fund distributions attributable to PFIC income will not be eligible for the 15% and 20% maximum federal income tax rates on “qualified dividend income” mentioned above.

If a Fund invests in a PFIC and elects to treat the PFIC as a “qualified electing fund” (“QEF”), then in lieu of the foregoing tax and interest obligation, the Fund would be required to include in income each taxable year its *pro rata* share of the QEF’s annual ordinary earnings and net capital gain even if the QEF did not distribute those earnings and gain to the Fund. In most instances it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to make this election because of certain requirements thereof.

Each Fund may elect to “mark to market” its stock in any PFIC. “Marking-to-market,” in this context, means including in gross income (and treating as ordinary income) each taxable year the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the stock over a Fund’s adjusted basis therein as of the end of that year. Pursuant to the election, a Fund also may deduct (as an ordinary, not a capital, loss) the excess, if any, of its adjusted basis in PFIC stock over the fair market value thereof as of the taxable year-end, but only to the extent of any net mark-to-market gains with respect to that stock the Fund included in income for prior taxable years under the election. A Fund’s adjusted basis in each PFIC’s stock subject to the election would be adjusted to reflect the amounts of income included and deductions taken thereunder.

Investors should be aware that determining whether a foreign corporation is a PFIC is a fact-intensive determination that is based on various facts and circumstances and thus is subject to change, and the principles and methodology used therein are subject to interpretation. As a result, a Fund may not be able, at the time it acquires a foreign corporation’s shares, to ascertain whether the corporation is a PFIC, and a foreign corporation may become a PFIC after a Fund acquires shares therein. While each Fund generally will seek to avoid investing in PFIC shares to avoid the tax consequences detailed above, there are no guarantees that it will be able to do so and it reserves the right to make such investments as a matter of its investment policy.

Gains or losses (1) from the disposition of foreign currencies, (2) on the disposition of a debt security denominated in a foreign currency that are attributable to fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency between the dates of acquisition and disposition of the security and (3) that are attributable to exchange rate fluctuations between the time a Fund accrues interest, dividends or other receivables or expenses or other liabilities denominated in a foreign currency and the time it actually collects the receivables or pays the liabilities, generally are treated as ordinary income or loss. These gains or losses will increase or decrease the amount of investment company taxable income available to a Fund for distribution to its shareholders as ordinary income, rather than increasing or decreasing the amount of its net capital gain.

For federal income tax purposes, net capital losses incurred by a Fund in a particular taxable year can be carried forward to offset net capital gains in any subsequent year until such loss carryforwards have been fully used, and such capital losses carried forward will retain their character as either short-term or long term capital losses. To the extent subsequent net capital gains are offset by such losses, they would not result in federal income tax liability to the Fund and would not be distributed as such to shareholders.

At December 31, 2023, the capital loss carryforwards were as follows:

	Short-Term	Long-Term
LKCM Small-Mid Cap Equity Fund	\$—	\$162,339
LKCM Fixed Income Fund	\$396,545	\$1,975,866
LKCM International Equity Fund	\$801,583	\$2,949,909

## TAXATION OF THE SHAREHOLDERS

Distributions of net capital gain, if any, designated as capital gains dividends are taxable to a shareholder as long-term capital gains, regardless of how long the shareholder has held Fund shares. A distribution of an amount in excess of a Fund’s current and accumulated earnings and profits will be treated by a shareholder as a return of capital which is applied against and reduces the shareholder’s basis in his or her shares. To the extent that the amount of any such distribution exceeds the shareholder’s basis in his or her shares, the excess will be treated by the shareholder as gain from a sale or exchange of the shares. Distributions of gains from the sale of investments that a Fund owned for one year or less will be taxable as ordinary income.

A Fund may elect to retain its net capital gain or a portion thereof for investment and be taxed at corporate rates on the amount retained. In such case, it may designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its shareholders who will be treated as if each received a distribution of his *pro rata* share of such gain, with the result that each shareholder will (i) be required to report his *pro rata* share of such gain on his tax return as long-term capital gain, (ii) receive a refundable tax credit for his *pro rata* share of tax paid by the Fund on the gain and (iii) increase the tax basis for his shares by an amount equal to the deemed distribution less the tax credit.

If Fund shares are sold at a loss after being held for six months or less, the loss will be treated as a long-term, instead of a short-term, capital loss to the extent of any capital gain distributions received on those shares.

Effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026, the Code generally allows individuals and certain non-corporate entities a deduction for 20% of qualified REIT dividends. Regulations allow a RIC to pass the character of its qualified REIT dividends through to its shareholders provided certain holding period requirements are met. As a result, individuals or other shareholders eligible for the deduction with respect to qualified REIT dividends will also be eligible to receive the

benefit of this deduction with respect to qualified REIT dividends received by a Fund that are thereafter included in Fund dividends to shareholders, provided that the eligible shareholders have held their Fund shares for at least 46 days during the 91-day period beginning on the date that is 45 days before the date on which the shares become ex-dividend with respect to such Fund dividend.

As noted in the Prospectus, a shareholder's basis in Fund shares that he or she acquired or acquires after December 31, 2011 ("Covered Shares"), will be determined in accordance with the Funds' default method, which is average basis, unless the shareholder affirmatively elects in writing (which may be electronic) to use a different acceptable basis determination method, such as a specific identification method. The basis determination method a Fund shareholder elects (or the default method) may not be changed with respect to a redemption (including a redemption that is part of an exchange) of Covered Shares after the settlement date of the redemption.

In addition to the requirement to report the gross proceeds from redemptions of shares, each Fund (or its administrative agent) must report to the IRS and furnish to its shareholders the basis information for Covered Shares and indicate whether they had a short-term (one year or less) or long-term (more than one year) holding period. Fund shareholders should consult with their tax advisers to determine the best IRS-accepted basis determination method for their tax situation and to obtain more information about how the basis reporting law applies to them.

If more than 50% of the value of a Fund's total assets at the close of any taxable year consists of securities of foreign corporations, it will be eligible to file an election for that year with the IRS that would enable its shareholders to benefit from any foreign tax credit or deduction available with respect to any foreign taxes it pays. Pursuant to the election, a Fund would treat those taxes as dividends paid to its shareholders and each shareholder (1) would be required to include in gross income, and treat as paid by the shareholder, the shareholder's proportionate share of those taxes, (2) would be required to treat that share of those taxes and of any dividend the Fund paid that represents income from foreign or U.S. possessions sources ("foreign-source income") as the shareholder's own income from those sources, and (3) could either use the foregoing information in calculating the foreign tax credit against the shareholder's federal income tax or, alternatively, deduct the foreign taxes deemed paid by the shareholder in computing taxable income. If a Fund makes this election for a taxable year, it will report to its shareholders shortly after that year their respective shares of the foreign taxes it paid and its foreign-source income for that year.

Individual shareholders of a Fund who, for a taxable year, have no more than \$300 (\$600 for married persons filing jointly) of creditable foreign taxes included on IRS Forms 1099 and all of whose foreign-source income is "qualified passive income" may elect for that year to be exempt from the extremely complicated foreign tax credit limitation for federal income tax purposes (about which shareholders may wish to consult their tax advisers), in which event they would be able to claim a foreign tax credit without having to file the detailed Form 1116 that otherwise is required. A shareholder will not be entitled to credit or deduct its portion of foreign taxes a Fund paid that is allocable to Fund shares the shareholder has not held for at least 16 days during the 31-day period beginning 15 days before the ex-distribution date for those shares. The minimum holding period will be extended if the shareholder's risk of loss with respect to those shares is reduced by reason of holding an offsetting position. No deduction for foreign taxes may be claimed by a shareholder who does not itemize deductions. A foreign shareholder may not deduct or claim a credit for foreign taxes in determining its federal income tax liability unless the Fund dividends paid to it are effectively connected with the shareholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

#### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Deloitte & Touche LLP serves as the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm, whose services include an audit of the Funds' financial statements and the performance of other related audit and tax services.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The audited financial statements for the Funds are incorporated herein by reference to the Funds' [Annual Report](#) to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2023. Financial statements audited by the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm will be distributed to shareholders at least annually.

**APPENDIX A**  
**DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES RATINGS**  
**RATINGS DEFINITIONS**

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

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

Issue credit ratings can be either long-term or short-term. Short-term issue credit ratings are generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market, typically with an original maturity of no more than 365 days. Short-term issue credit ratings are also used to indicate the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to put features on long-term obligations. S&P Global would typically assign a long-term issue credit rating to an obligation with an original maturity of greater than 365 days. However, the ratings assigned to certain instruments may diverge from these guidelines based on market practices.

**Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings**

**A-1**

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

**A-2**

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

**A-3**

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

**B**

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

**C**

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

**D**

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

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

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

## **Dual Ratings**

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

## **S&P Global Ratings Disclaimers**

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

## **Qualifiers**

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

### **Active Qualifiers**

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

#### **1. Federal Deposit Insurance Limit: "L" qualifier**

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

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

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

#### **3. Preliminary Ratings: "prelim" qualifier**

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

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

#### **4. Termination Structures: “t” qualifier**

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

#### **5. Counterparty Instrument Rating: “cir” qualifier**

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

#### **Inactive Qualifiers**

Inactive qualifiers are no longer applied or outstanding.

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

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

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

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

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

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

##### **4. Interest Payment: ‘i’ inactive qualifier**

This suffix was used for issues in which the credit factors, terms, or both that determine the likelihood of receipt of payment of interest are different from the credit factors, terms, or both that determine the likelihood of receipt of principal on the obligation. The ‘i’ suffix indicated that the rating addressed the interest portion of the obligation only. The ‘i’ suffix was always used in conjunction with the ‘p’ suffix, which addresses likelihood of receipt of principal. For example, a rated obligation could have been assigned a rating of ‘AAApNRi’ indicating that the principal portion was rated ‘AAA’ and the interest portion of the obligation was not rated.

##### **5. Public Information Ratings: ‘pi’ qualifier**

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

##### **6. Provisional Ratings: “pr” inactive qualifier**

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

##### **7. Quantitative Analysis of public information: “q” inactive qualifier**

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

##### **8. Extraordinary risks: “r” inactive qualifier**

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

## **Active Identifiers**

S&P Global Ratings currently uses seven other identifiers. These words or symbols provide additional information but do not change the definition of a rating or our opinion about the issue's or issuer's creditworthiness. The identifiers are often required by regulation.

### **1. Unsolicited: 'unsolicited' and 'u' identifier**

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

### **2. Structured finance: "sf" identifier**

The 'sf' identifier shall be assigned to ratings on "securitization instruments" when required to comply with an applicable law or regulatory requirement or when S&P Global Ratings believes it appropriate. The addition of the 'sf' identifier to a rating does not change that rating's definition or our opinion about the issue's creditworthiness. For detailed information on the instruments assigned the 'sf' identifier, please see the appendix for the types of instruments that carry the 'sf identifier'.

### **3. Japan: 'JR' identifier**

The 'JR' identifier is assigned to all issue and issuer ratings assigned by either S&P Global Ratings Japan or S&P Global SF Japan, each of which is a registered credit rating agency in Japan, as ratings registered under Japanese regulation. The addition of the identifier does not change the definition of that rating or our opinion about the issue's or issuer's creditworthiness.

### **4. European Union: 'EU' identifier**

S&P Global Ratings applies the 'EU' identifier to global scale ratings assigned by S&P Global Ratings Europe (SPGRE) (including through its branches), which is registered with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) and subject to EU regulation on credit rating agencies. The addition of the 'EU' identifier to a rating does not change that rating's definition or our opinion about the issue's or issuer's creditworthiness.

### **5. European Endorsed: 'EE' identifier**

S&P Global Ratings applies the 'EE' identifier to global scale ratings assigned by S&P Global Ratings affiliates established outside the European Union and endorsed by SPGRE. SPGRE is registered with ESMA and subject to EU regulation on credit rating agencies. The addition of the 'EE' identifier to a rating does not change that rating's definition or our opinion about the issue's or issuer's creditworthiness.

### **6. United Kingdom: 'UK' identifier**

S&P Global Ratings applies the 'UK' identifier to global scale ratings assigned by S&P Global Ratings UK (SPGRUK) which is registered with the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and subject to UK regulation on credit rating agencies. The addition of the 'UK' identifier to a rating does not change that rating's definition or our opinion about the issue's or issuer's creditworthiness.

### **7. United Kingdom Endorsed: 'UKE' identifier**

S&P Global Ratings applies the 'UKE' identifier to global scale ratings assigned by S&P Global Ratings' affiliates established outside the U.K. and endorsed by SPGRUK. SPGRUK is registered with the FCA and subject to UK regulation on credit rating agencies. The addition of the 'UKE' identifier to a rating does not change that rating's definition or our opinion about the issue's or issuer's creditworthiness.

### **8. S&P Global SF Japan: 'XN' identifier**

S&P Global SF Japan assigns the 'XN' identifier to credit ratings assigned by S&P Global SF Japan. S&P Global SF Japan is not a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization. The addition of the 'XN' identifier to a rating does not change that rating's definition or our opinion about the issue's or issuer's creditworthiness.

### **9. Under criteria observation 'UCO' identifier**

The 'UCO' identifier may (or shall, if an EU regulatory requirement) be assigned to credit ratings under review as a result of a criteria revision. The addition of the 'UCO' identifier to a rating does not change that rating's definition or our opinion about the issue's or issuer's creditworthiness.

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

S&P Global Ratings' issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. A foreign currency rating on an issuer can differ from the local currency rating on it when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, versus obligations denominated in a foreign currency.

## **Moody's Credit Rating Definitions**

Ratings assigned on Moody's global long-term and short-term rating scales are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issued by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles, and public sector entities. Moody's defines credit risk as the risk that an entity may not meet its contractual financial obligations as they come due and any estimated financial loss in the event of default or impairment. The contractual financial obligations<sup>1</sup> addressed by Moody's ratings are those that call for, without regard to enforceability, the payment of an ascertainable amount, which may vary based upon standard sources of variation (e.g., floating interest rates), by an ascertainable date. Moody's rating addresses the issuer's ability to obtain cash sufficient to service the obligation, and its willingness to pay.<sup>2</sup> Moody's ratings do not address non-standard sources of variation in the amount of the principal obligation (e.g., equity indexed), absent an express statement to the contrary in a press release accompanying an initial rating.<sup>3</sup> Long-term ratings are assigned to issuers or obligations with an original maturity of eleven months or more and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment.<sup>4,5</sup> Moody's issues ratings at the issuer level and instrument level on both the long-term scale and the short-term scale. Typically, ratings are made publicly available although private and unpublished ratings may also be assigned.<sup>6</sup>

Moody's differentiates structured finance ratings from fundamental ratings (i.e., ratings on nonfinancial corporate, financial institution, and public sector entities) on the global long-term scale by adding (sf) to all structured finance ratings.<sup>7</sup> The addition of (sf) to structured finance ratings should eliminate any presumption that such ratings and fundamental ratings at the same letter grade level will behave the same. The (sf) indicator for structured finance security ratings indicates that otherwise similarly rated structured finance and fundamental securities may have different risk characteristics. Through its current methodologies, however, Moody's aspires to achieve broad expected equivalence in structured finance and fundamental rating performance when measured over a long period of time.

1. In the case of impairments, there can be a financial loss even when contractual obligations are met. See the definition of Impairment in this publication.
2. For issuer level ratings, see the definition of Issuer Ratings in this publication. In some cases the relevant credit risk relates to a third party, in addition to, or instead of the issuer. Examples include credit-linked notes and guaranteed obligations.
3. Because the number of possible features or structures is limited only by the creativity of issuers, Moody's cannot comprehensively catalogue all the types of non-standard variation affecting financial obligations, but examples include equity indexed principal values and cash flows, prepayment penalties, and an obligation to pay an amount that is not ascertainable at the inception of the transaction.
4. For certain preferred stock and hybrid securities in which payment default events are either not defined or do not match investors' expectations for timely payment, long-term and short-term ratings reflect the likelihood of impairment (as defined below in this publication) and financial loss in the event of impairment.
5. Debts held on the balance sheets of official sector institutions – which include supranational institutions, central banks and certain government-owned or controlled banks – may not always be treated the same as debts held by private investors and lenders. When it is known that an obligation is held by official sector institutions as well as other investors, a rating (short-term or long-term) assigned to that obligation reflects only the credit risks faced by non-official sector investors.
6. For information on how to obtain a Moody's credit rating, including private and unpublished credit ratings, please see Moody's Investors Service Products. Please note that Moody's always reserves the right to choose not to assign or maintain a credit rating for its own business reasons.
7. Like other global scale ratings, (sf) ratings reflect both the likelihood of a default and the expected loss suffered in the event of default. Ratings are assigned based on a rating committee's assessment of a security's expected loss rate (default probability multiplied by expected loss severity), and may be subject to the constraint that the final expected loss rating assigned would not be more than a certain number of notches, typically three to five notches, above the rating that would be assigned based on an assessment of default probability alone. The magnitude of this constraint may vary with the level of the rating, the seasoning of the transaction, and the uncertainty around the assessments of expected loss and probability of default.

## **Rating Symbols**

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

### **Aaa**

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

### **Aa**

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

## **A**

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

## **Baa**

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

## **Ba**

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

## **B**

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

## **Caa**

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

## **Ca**

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

## **C**

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

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

Note: For more information on long-term ratings assigned to obligations in default, please see the definition "Long-Term Credit Ratings for Defaulted or Impaired Securities" in the Other Definitions section of this publication.

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

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

Moody's assigns ratings to long-term and short-term financial obligations. Long-term ratings are assigned to issuers or obligations with an original maturity of eleven months or more and reflect both on the likelihood of a default on contractually promised payments and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default on contractually promised payments and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default. Moody's employs the following designations to indicate the relative repayment ability of rated issuers:

#### **P-1**

Ratings of Prime-1 reflect a superior ability to repay short-term obligations.

#### **P-2**

Ratings of Prime-2 reflect a strong ability to repay short-term obligations.

#### **P-3**

Ratings of Prime-3 reflect an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations.

#### **NP**

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

The following table indicates the long-term ratings consistent with different short-term ratings when such long-term ratings exist.



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

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

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

National ratings express creditworthiness across the full range of the credit rating scale, using similar symbols to those used for international ratings. However, to assure differentiation between the two scales, a two- or three-letter suffix is appended to the national rating to reflect the specific nature of the national scale to the country concerned. For ease of reference, Fitch uses the suffix of (xxx) to indicate a national rating. Each country or monetary union's national rating scale is specific to that jurisdiction and is not comparable to national scales of different countries.

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

### **National Relativity**

National ratings are a measure of relative credit risk among issuers in a country or monetary union, except in circumstances when ratings are notched for support or at the instrument level to differentiate priority/recovery prospects relative to other local market instruments. Where national ratings are derived by notching, they reflect creditworthiness relative to the respective supporting entity's (parent or government) national rating, rather than to unsupported national ratings.

### **LC and FC Issuer National Ratings**

National ratings can be assigned to the issuer or at the specific debt instrument level. Issuer-level national ratings address the relative vulnerability to default of LC obligations (or legal tender) for local issuers within the country concerned when not notched for support. Therefore, national ratings exclude the risk that cross border investors may be unable to repatriate interest and principal repayments out of the country. Issuer-level national ratings do not incorporate transfer and convertibility risk associated with the FC obligations of a local issuer, and this is the reason the national scale rating analysis begins with an international LC rating or LC credit opinion as transfer and convertibility risk is only incorporated into FC ratings; there are some exceptions where ratings may be notched.

### **Issuer and Instrument-level National Ratings**

Fitch assigns national ratings to specific debt instruments denominated in LC and issued where the entity or issuer is domiciled. Fitch may also assign national instrument ratings to i) foreign issuers' obligations issued in LC in the country concerned, and ii) local or foreign issuers' (legal entities or branches) obligations where repayment is in FC and a national scale rating may be required to comply with local regulation and/or local market practices often found in Central America and countries with high levels of dollarization; national ratings of FC instruments are less common.

### **Convergence at 'C'**

A 'C' level rating on both the international and national rating scales reflects that the default of an issuer is imminent. As a result, a 'C' rating on one scale is necessarily a 'C' rating on the other scale. Due to the greater differentiation across national rating scales relative to the international rating scale, there can be more rating volatility and more significant rating transition for National Ratings compared with International Ratings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indicates an adequate capacity for timely payment of financial commitments relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

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

Indicates an uncertain capacity for timely payment of financial commitments relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

## **C(xxx)**

Indicates a highly uncertain capacity for timely payment of financial commitments relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

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

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

## **D(xxx)**

Indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a short-term obligation.

## **Notes:**

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

## **LONG-TERM RATINGS**

### **S&P Global**

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

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

- The likelihood of payment--the capacity and willingness of the obligor to meet its financial commitments on an obligation in accordance with the terms of the obligation;
- The nature and provisions of the financial obligation, and the promise we impute; and
- The protection afforded by, and relative position of, the financial obligation in the event of a bankruptcy, reorganization, or other arrangement under the laws of bankruptcy and other laws affecting creditors' rights.

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

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

#### **AAA**

An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is extremely strong.

#### **AA**

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

#### **A**

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

#### **BBB**

An obligation rated 'BBB' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

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

Obligations rated 'BB', 'B', 'CCC', 'CC', and 'C' are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. 'BB' indicates the least degree of speculation and 'C' the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposure to adverse conditions.

## **BB**

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

## **B**

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

## **CCC**

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

## **CC**

An obligation rated 'CC' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The 'CC' rating is used when a default has not yet occurred but S&P Global Ratings expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.

## **C**

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

## **D**

An obligation rated 'D' is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global

Ratings believes that such payments will be made within the next five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or the next 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. A rating on an obligation is lowered to 'D' if it is subject to a distressed debt restructuring.

\* Ratings from 'AA' to 'CCC' may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the rating categories.

### **Moody's Long-Term Obligation Ratings**

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

Ratings assigned on Moody's global long-term and short-term rating scales are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issued by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles, and public sector entities. Moody's defines credit risk as the risk that an entity may not meet its contractual financial obligations as they come due and any estimated financial loss in the event of default or impairment. The contractual financial obligations<sup>1</sup> addressed by Moody's ratings are those that call for, without regard to enforceability, the payment of an ascertainable amount, which may vary based upon standard sources of variation (e.g., floating interest rates), by an ascertainable date. Moody's rating addresses the issuer's ability to obtain cash sufficient to service the obligation, and its willingness to pay.<sup>2</sup> Moody's ratings do not address non-standard sources of variation in the amount of the principal obligation (e.g., equity indexed), absent an express statement to the contrary in a press release accompanying an initial rating.<sup>3</sup> Long-term ratings are assigned to issuers or obligations with an original maturity of eleven months or more and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment.<sup>4,5</sup> Moody's issues ratings at the issuer level and instrument level on both the long-term scale and the short-term scale. Typically, ratings are made publicly available although private and unpublished ratings may also be assigned.<sup>6</sup>

Moody's differentiates structured finance ratings from fundamental ratings (i.e., ratings on nonfinancial corporate, financial institution, and public sector entities) on the global long-term scale by adding (sf) to all structured finance ratings.<sup>7</sup> The addition of (sf) to structured finance ratings should eliminate any presumption that such ratings and fundamental ratings at the same letter grade level will behave the same. The (sf) indicator for structured finance security ratings indicates that otherwise similarly rated structured finance and fundamental securities may have different risk characteristics. Through its current methodologies, however, Moody's

aspires to achieve broad expected equivalence in structured finance and fundamental rating performance when measured over a long period of time.

1. In the case of impairments, there can be a financial loss even when contractual obligations are met. See the definition of Impairment in this publication.

2. For issuer level ratings, see the definition of Issuer Ratings in this publication. In some cases the relevant credit risk relates to a third party, in addition to, or instead of the issuer. Examples include credit-linked notes and guaranteed obligations.

3. Because the number of possible features or structures is limited only by the creativity of issuers, Moody's cannot comprehensively catalogue all the types of non-standard variation affecting financial obligations, but examples include equity indexed principal values and cash flows, prepayment penalties, and an obligation to pay an amount that is not ascertainable at the inception of the transaction.

4. For certain preferred stock and hybrid securities in which payment default events are either not defined or do not match investors' expectations for timely payment, long-term and short-term ratings reflect the likelihood of impairment (as defined below in this publication) and financial loss in the event of impairment.

5. Debts held on the balance sheets of official sector institutions – which include supranational institutions, central banks and certain government-owned or controlled banks – may not always be treated the same as debts held by private investors and lenders. When it is known that an obligation is held by official sector institutions as well as other investors, a rating (short-term or long-term) assigned to that obligation reflects only the credit risks faced by non-official sector investors.

6. For information on how to obtain a Moody's credit rating, including private and unpublished credit ratings, please see Moody's Investors Service Products. Please note that Moody's always reserves the right to choose not to assign or maintain a credit rating for its own business reasons.

7. Like other global scale ratings, (sf) ratings reflect both the likelihood of a default and the expected loss suffered in the event of default. Ratings are assigned based on a rating committee's assessment of a security's expected loss rate (default probability multiplied by expected loss severity), and may be subject to the constraint that the final expected loss rating assigned would not be more than a certain number of notches, typically three to five notches, above the rating that would be assigned based on an assessment of default probability alone. The magnitude of this constraint may vary with the level of the rating, the seasoning of the transaction, and the uncertainty around the assessments of expected loss and probability of default.

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

##### **Aaa**

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

##### **Aa**

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

##### **A**

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

##### **Baa**

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

##### **Ba**

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

##### **B**

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

##### **Caa**

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

## **Ca**

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

## **C**

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

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

Note: For more information on long-term ratings assigned to obligations in default, please see the definition "Long-Term Credit Ratings for Defaulted or Impaired Securities" in the Other Definitions section of this publication.

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

### **Fitch's National Long-Term Credit Ratings**

#### **AAA(xxx)**

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

#### **AA(xxx)**

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

#### **A(xxx)**

'A' National Ratings denote expectations of a low level of default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

#### **BBB(xxx)**

'BBB' National Ratings denote a moderate level of default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

#### **BB(xxx)**

'BB' National Ratings denote an elevated default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

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

'B' National Ratings denote a significantly elevated level of default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

#### **CCC(xxx)**

'CCC' National Ratings denote a very high level of default risk relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

#### **CC(xxx)**

'CC' National Ratings denote the level of default risk is among the highest relative to other issuers or obligations in the same country or monetary union.

## **C(xxx)**

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

- The issuer has entered into a grace or cure period following non-payment of a material financial obligation;
- The issuer has entered into a temporary negotiated waiver or standstill agreement following a payment default on a material financial obligation;
- The formal announcement by the issuer or their agent of a distressed debt exchange; and
- A closed financing vehicle where payment capacity is irrevocably impaired such that it is not expected to pay interest and/or principal in full during the life of the transaction, but where no payment default is imminent.

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

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

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

## **D(xxx)**

'D' National Ratings denote an issuer that has entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure or that has otherwise ceased business.

### **Notes:**

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

## **MUNICIPAL NOTE RATINGS**

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

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

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

### **SP-1**

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

### **SP-2**

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

### **SP-3**

Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

## **D**

'D' is assigned upon failure to pay the note when due, completion of a distressed debt restructuring, or the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions.

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

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

Moody's uses the global short-term 'Prime' rating scale for commercial paper issued by US municipalities and nonprofits. These commercial paper programs may be backed by external letters of credit or liquidity facilities, or by an issuer's self-liquidity. For other short-term municipal obligations, Moody's uses one of two other short-term rating scales, the Municipal Investment Grade (MIG) and Variable Municipal Investment Grade (VMIG) scales discussed below.

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

### **MIG 1**

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

### **MIG 2**

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

### **MIG 3**

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

### **SG**

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

### **VMIG Ratings**

In the case of variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs), a two-component rating is assigned. The components are a long-term rating and a short-term payment obligation rating. The long-term rating addresses the issuer's ability to meet scheduled principal and interest payments. The short-term payment obligation rating addresses the ability of the issuer or the liquidity provider to meet any purchase price payment obligation resulting from optional tenders ("on demand") and/or mandatory tenders of the VRDO. The short-term payment obligation rating uses the VMIG scale. Transitions of VMIG ratings with conditional liquidity support differ from transitions of Prime ratings reflecting the risk that external liquidity support will terminate if the issuer's long-term rating drops below investment grade. Please see Moody's methodology that discusses obligations with conditional liquidity support. For VRDOs, Moody's typically assigns the VMIG rating if the frequency of the payment obligation is less than every three years. If the frequency of the payment obligation is less than three years, but the obligation is payable only with remarketing proceeds, the VMIG short-term rating is not assigned and it is denoted as "NR." Industrial development bonds in the US where the obligor is a corporate may carry a VMIG rating that reflects Moody's view of the relative likelihood of default and loss. In these cases, liquidity assessment is based on the liquidity of the corporate obligor.

### **VMIG 1**

This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by the superior short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

### **VMIG 2**

This designation denotes strong credit quality. Good protection is afforded by the strong short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

### **VMIG 3**

This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Adequate protection is afforded by the satisfactory short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.




**SG**

This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Demand features rated in this category may be supported by a liquidity provider that does not have a sufficiently strong short-term rating or may lack the structural or legal protections.

The following table indicates the municipal long-term ratings consistent with the highest potential MIG and VMIG short-term ratings.

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

LONG-TERM RATING	SHORT-TERM MIG AND VMIG RATINGS
Aaa Aa1 Aa2 Aa3 A1 A2 A3  Baa1 Baa2 Baa3	 MIG 1 / VMIG 1  MIG 2 / VMIG 2 MIG 3 / VMIG 3
Ba1, Ba2, Ba3 B1, B2, B3, Caa1, Caa2, Caa3 Ca, C	SG