Filed Pursuant to Rule 497(e) File Nos. 333-195493; 811-22961

#### Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF Ticker Symbol: CAOS

#### (a series of EA Series Trust)

#### Listed on Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.

#### Supplement dated July 17, 2023 to the Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information both dated November 21, 2022

The information below replaces the information on the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm contained in the section **Other Service Providers**, found on page 19 of the Prospectus.

Tait, Weller & Baker, LLP, 50 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2900, Philadelphia, PA 19102, serves as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for auditing the annual financial statements of the Fund.

The information below replaces the information on the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm contained in the section **Accounting and Legal Service Providers**, found on page 30 of the Statement of Additional Information.

#### ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

#### **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Tait, Weller & Baker, LLP, 50 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2900, Philadelphia, PA 19102, serves as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for auditing the annual financial statements of the Fund.

The information below replaces the information on the Fund's Trustees and Officers contained in the section **Management of the Fund,** found on pages 19 of the Statement of Additional Information.

#### MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

#### **Trustees and Officers**

The business and affairs of the Trust are managed by its officers under the oversight of its Board. The Board sets broad policies for the Trust and may appoint Trust officers. The Board oversees the performance of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, and the Trust's other service providers. Each Trustee serves until his or her successor is duly elected or appointed and qualified.

The Board is comprised of four Trustees. One Trustee and certain of the officers of the Trust are directors, officers or employees of the Adviser. The other Trustees (the "Independent Trustees") are not "interested persons" (as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act) of the Trust. The fund complex includes all funds advised by the Adviser ("Fund Complex").

The Trustees, their age, term of office and length of time served, their principal business occupations during the past five years, the number of portfolios in the Fund Complex overseen and other directorships, if any, held by each Trustee, are shown below. The officers, their age, term of office and length of time served and their principal business occupations during the past five years are shown below. Unless noted otherwise, the address of each Trustee and each Officer is: c/o EA Series Trust, 19 East Eagle Road, Havertown, PA 19083.

Name, Address, and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years	
Independent T	rustees					
Daniel Dorn Born: 1975	Trustee	Since 2014	Associate Professor of Finance, Drexel University, LeBow College of Business (2003 – present).	36	None	
Michael S. Pagano, Ph.D., CFA <sup>®</sup> Born: 1962	Trustee	Since 2014	The Robert J. and Mary Ellen Darretta Endowed Chair in Finance, Villanova University (1999 – present); Founder, Michael S. Pagano, LLC (business consulting firm) (2008 – present).	36	Citadel Federal Credit Union (pro bono service for non- profit)	
Chukwuemeka (Emeka) O. Oguh Born: 1983	Trustee	Since 2018	Co-founder and CEO, PeopleJoy (2016 – present).	36	None	
Interested Tru	Interested Trustee*					
Wesley R. Gray, Ph.D. Born: 1980	Trustee and Chairman	Since 2014	Founder and Executive Managing Member, EA Advisers (2013 – present); Founder and Executive Managing Member, Empirical Finance, LLC d/b/a Alpha Architect (2010 – present).	36	None	

# Officers

Name, Address, and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
Patrick R. Cleary Born: 1982	President and Chief Executive Officer; Secretary		Chief Operating Officer (2014 – 2022) and Managing Member (2014 – present), Alpha Architect, LLC; Chief Executive Officer of EA Advisers (2021 – present).
Sean Hegarty Born: 1993	Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer; Assistant Treasurer		Chief Operating Officer, EA Advisers (2022 – present); Assistant Vice President – Fund Administration, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (2018 – 2022); Staff Accountant, Cohen & Company (2015 – 2018).
Jessica Leighty Born: 1981	Chief Compliance Officer	Since 2022	Chief Compliance Officer Alpha Architect (2021 – present); Chief Compliance Officer, Snow Capital (2015 – 2021).
Brian P. Massaro Born: 1997	Assistant Treasurer	Since 2023	Chief Data Officer, EA Advisers (2023 – present); Assistant Operating Officer, EA Advisers (2022 – 2023); Mutual Funds Administrator, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (2019 – 2022).

The information below replaces the table on the affiliated persons of the Fund that are also affiliated persons of the Adviser contained in the section **Investment Management and Other Services**, found on page 25 of the Statement of Additional Information.

#### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES**

The following table summarizes the affiliated persons of the Fund that are also affiliated persons of the Adviser.

NAME	AFFILIATION WITH FUND	AFFILIATION WITH ADVISER
Wesley R. Gray, PhD	Trustee	Executive Managing Member
Patrick R. Cleary	President, Chief Executive Officer, Secretary	Chief Executive Officer
Sean Hegarty	Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer	Chief Operating Officer
Jessica Leighty	Chief Compliance Officer	Chief Compliance Officer
Brian P. Massaro	Assistant Treasurer	Chief Data Officer

If you have any questions regarding the Fund, please call (215) 882-9983.

Please retain this Supplement with your Summary Prospectus, Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information.

Filed Pursuant to Rule 497(e) File Nos. 333-195493; 811-22961

# Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF

Ticker Symbol: CAOS Listed on CBOE BZX, Inc. (the "Fund")

# Supplement dated March 31, 2023, to the Fund's Summary Prospectus, dated March 3, 2023, and the Statutory Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), each dated November 21, 2022 (as supplemented on December 20, 2022 and February 1, 2023)

This supplement should be read in conjunction with your Summary Prospectus, Statutory Prospectus and SAI and should be retained for future reference. This supplement is in addition to any existing Fund Supplement(s).

Effective immediately, the Fund's fiscal year end is changed from February 28 to September 30.

### PLEASE RETAIN THIS SUPPLEMENT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

#### EA SERIES TRUST (the "Trust")

#### SUPPLEMENT DATED MARCH 6, 2023 TO THE SUMMARY PROSPECTUS, STATUTORY PROSPECTUS AND STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ("SAI") DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2022 FOR THE ALPHA ARCHITECT TAIL RISK ETF (THE "FUND"), AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED FROM TIME TO TIME

The Board of Trustees of the Trust has approved a reverse stock split of the issued and outstanding shares of the Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF (the "Reverse Stock Split"). The Reverse Stock Split for the Fund will be completed after the close of business March 22, 2023.

As a result of the Reverse Stock Split, for each share of the Fund that a shareholder holds as of the close of business on March 22, 2023, the shareholder will receive a proportional number of whole shares of the Fund with the same aggregate dollar value, plus the cash value (at net asset value) of any fractional shares resulting from the Reverse Stock Split. Thus, the total dollar value of a shareholder's investment in shares of the Fund, when added to any cash received in lieu of fractional shares, will not change due to the Reverse Stock Split, and each shareholder will continue to own approximately the same percentage (by value) of shares of the Fund immediately following the Reverse Stock Split (adjusted for any fractional shares paid in cash) as the shareholder owned immediately prior to the Reverse Stock Split. In addition, the Reverse Stock Split will not result in a material change in a shareholder's proportional Fund ownership or voting rights, as the shares received as part of the Reverse Stock Split will provide a shareholder with approximately the same proportional Fund ownership and voting rights as the shares of the Fund owned prior to the Reverse Stock Split, adjusted by any fractional shares paid in cash. Receipt of cash in lieu of fractional shares may result in a taxable event to shareholders, and each shareholder should consult with the shareholder's own tax advisers with respect to the appropriate treatment of the receipt of such cash payment.

See Schedule A for more information on the Reverse Stock Split.

#### SCHEDULE A

Fund Name	Ticker Symbol	Split Ratio	Date of Split
Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF	CAOS	1:8	March 22, 2023

#### PLEASE RETAIN THIS SUPPLEMENT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

#### STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION November 21, 2022 (as supplemented on December 20, 2022 and February 1, 2023)

# EA SERIES TRUST

# Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") describes the **Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF** (the "Fund"), a series of the EA Series Trust, formerly known as the Alpha Architect ETF Trust (the "Trust"). Shares of the Fund will be listed and traded on the CBOE BZX, Inc. (the "Exchange"). Empowered Funds, LLC (the "Adviser") serves as the investment adviser to the Fund, and Arin Risk Advisors, LLC ("Arin" or the "Sub-Adviser") serves as the sub-adviser to the Fund.

#### Shares of the Fund are neither guaranteed nor insured by the U.S. Government.

This SAI, dated November 21, 2022 as supplemented from time to time, is not a prospectus. It should be read in conjunction with the Fund's Prospectus, dated November 21, 2022 (as supplemented on December 20, 2022 and February 1, 2023), which may be further supplemented from time to time, which incorporates this SAI by reference. Capitalized terms used herein that are not defined have the same meaning as in the Prospectus, unless otherwise noted. A copy of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge by writing to the Distributor, calling (215) 882-9983 or visiting www. alphaarchitect.com/funds.

When available, a copy of the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports may be obtained without charge by writing to Alpha Architect, 19 East Eagle Road, Havertown PA 19083, calling 215-882-9983 or visiting www.alphaarchitect.com/funds

GLOSSARY	1
TRUST AND FUND OVERVIEW	2
EXCHANGE LISTING AND TRADING	3
DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS	3
INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RESTRICTIONS	3
INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS	5
MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND	15
CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES	19
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES	19
PORTFOLIO MANAGERS	21
PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE	23
THE DISTRIBUTOR	24
ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS	24
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING SHARES	24
DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE	31
TAXES	32
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	46
Appendix A Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures Empowered Funds, LLC	A-1

#### GLOSSARY

The following terms are used throughout this SAI, and have the meanings used below (note that various other terms are defined in the text of this SAI):

"1933 Act" means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

"1934 Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

"Authorized Participant" means a broker-dealer or other participant in the Continuous Net Settlement System of the National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCC) or a participant in DTC with access to the DTC system, and who has executed an agreement with the Distributor that governs transactions in the Fund's Creation Units.

"*Balancing Amount*" means an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of a Creation Unit and the market value of the In-Kind Creation (or Redemption) Basket, used to ensure that the NAV of a Fund Deposit (or Redemption) (other than the Transaction Fee), is identical to the NAV of the Creation Unit being purchased.

"Board" or "Trustees" means the Board of Trustees of the Trust.

"Business Day" means any day on which the Trust is open for business.

"Adviser" means Empowered Funds, LLC dba EA Advisers.

"Cash Component" means an amount of cash consisting of a Balancing Amount calculated in connection with creations.

"Cash Redemption Amount" means an amount of cash consisting of a Balancing Amount calculated in connection with redemptions.

"Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

"*Creation Unit*" means an aggregation of 10,000 Shares that the Fund issues and redeems on a continuous basis at NAV. Shares will not be issued or redeemed except in Creation Units.

"Distributor" means Quasar Distributors, LLC.

"Dodd-Frank Act" means the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

"DTC" means the Depository Trust Company.

"*Exchange*" means CBOE BZX, Inc.

"ETF" means an exchange-traded fund.

"FINRA" means the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

"Fund" means the series of the Trust described in this SAI: Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF.

"Fund Deposit" means the In-Kind Creation Basket and Cash Component necessary to purchase a Creation Unit from the Fund.

"*Fund Redemption*" means the In-Kind Redemption Basket and Cash Redemption Amount received in connection with the redemption of a Creation Unit.

"In-Kind Creation Basket" means the basket of securities to be deposited to purchase Creation Units of the Fund.

"In-Kind Redemption Basket" means the basket of securities a shareholder will receive upon redemption of a Creation Unit.

"Investment Company Act" or "1940 Act" means the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

"IRS" means the Internal Revenue Service.

"NAV" means the net asset value of the Fund.

"NSCC" means the National Securities Clearing Corporation.

"NYSE" means the New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

"*Prospectus*" means the Fund's Prospectus, dated November 21, 2022 (as supplemented on December 20, 2022 and February 1, 2023), which may be further supplemented from time to time.

"SAI" means this Statement of Additional Information, dated November 21, 2022 (as supplemented on December 20, 2022 and February 1, 2023), which may be further supplemented from time to time.

"SEC" means the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Shares" means the shares of the Fund.

"Sub-Adviser" means Arin Risk Advisors, LLC.

*"Transaction Fee"* is a fee that may be imposed to compensate the Trust or its custodian for costs incurred in connection with transactions for Creation Units. The Transaction Fee, when applicable, is comprised of a flat (or standard) fee and may include a variable fee. For the Transaction Fees applicable to the Fund, see "Transaction Fees" in this SAI.

"Trust" means the EA Series Trust, a Delaware statutory trust.

#### TRUST AND FUND OVERVIEW

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust formed on October 11, 2013. The Trust is an open-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act. The investment objective of the Fund seeks to maximize total return through a combination of capital appreciation and current income. The offering of the Shares is registered under the 1933 Act.

This SAI relates only to the following Fund: Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF.

The Fund is the successor to the Arin Large Cap Theta Fund (the "Predecessor Mutual Fund"), a series of the Starboard Investment Trust. The Predecessor Mutual Fund was managed by Arin Risk Advisors, LLC (for purposes of its management of the Predecessor Fund, the "Predecessor Adviser"). The Fund has the same investment objective and similar investment strategies as those of the Predecessor Mutual Fund.

#### Diversification

The Fund is a diversified ETF. Under applicable federal laws, to qualify as a diversified fund, the Fund, with respect to 75% of the value of its total assets is represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), Government securities, securities of other investment companies, and other securities in an amount greater than 5% of its total assets in any one issuer and may not hold greater than 10% of the securities of one issuer. The remaining 25% of the Fund's total assets does not need to be "diversified" and may be invested in securities of a single issuer, subject to other applicable laws. The diversification of the Fund's holdings is measured at the time the Fund purchases a security.

However, if the Fund purchases a security and holds it for a period of time, the security may become a larger percentage of the Fund's total assets due to movements in the financial markets. If the market affects several securities held by the Fund, the Fund may have a greater percentage of its assets invested in securities of fewer issuers.

The Fund principally offers and issues all of the Fund's Shares at NAV and only in aggregations of a specified number of Shares in exchange for an all-cash payment. Shares of the Fund are listed and traded on the Exchange. Shares will trade on the Exchange at market prices that may be below, at, or above NAV.

Unlike mutual funds, Shares are not individually redeemable securities. Rather, the Fund issues and redeems Shares on a continuous basis at NAV, primarily in exchange for cash for purchases and primarily for in-kind securities and cash in the case of redemptions, and only in Creation Units of 10,000 Shares, which amount may be changed from time to time.

In the instance of creations and redemptions, Transaction Fees may be imposed. Such fees are limited in accordance with requirements of the SEC applicable to management investment companies offering redeemable securities. Some of the information contained in this SAI and the Prospectus — such as information about purchasing and redeeming Shares from the Fund and Transaction Fees — is not relevant to most retail investors because it applies only to transactions for Creation Units and most retail investors do not transact for Creation Units.

Once created, Shares generally trade in the secondary market, at market prices that change throughout the day, in amounts less than a Creation Unit. Investors purchasing Shares in the secondary market through a brokerage account or with the assistance of a broker may be subject to brokerage commissions and charges.

# **EXCHANGE LISTING AND TRADING**

Shares of the Fund are listed and traded on the Exchange. Shares trade on the Exchange or in secondary markets at prices that may differ from their NAV, because such prices may be affected by market forces (such as supply and demand for Shares). As is the case of other securities traded on an exchange, when you buy or sell Shares on the Exchange or in the secondary markets your broker will normally charge you a commission or other transaction charges. Further, the Trust reserves the right to adjust the price of Shares in the future to maintain convenient trading ranges for investors (namely, to maintain a price per Share that is attractive to investors) by share splits or reverse share splits, which would have no effect on the NAV.

There can be no assurance that the requirements of the Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of Shares of the Fund will continue to be met. The Exchange may, but is not required to, remove the Shares of the Fund from listing if: (i) following the initial 12-month period beginning at the commencement of trading of the Fund, there are fewer than 50 beneficial owners of the Shares of the Fund for 30 or more consecutive trading days, or (ii) such other event shall occur or condition exist that, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable. The Exchange will remove the Shares of the Fund from listing and trading upon termination of the Fund.

The Fund is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by the Exchange. The Exchange makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of Shares of the Fund or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the Fund particularly or the ability of the Fund to achieve its objectives. The Exchange has no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the Fund.

# **DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

The Board has adopted a policy regarding the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio securities. Under the policy, portfolio holdings of the Fund, which will form the basis for the calculation of NAV on a Business Day, are publicly disseminated prior to the opening of trading on the Exchange that Business Day through financial reporting or news services, including the website www.alphaarchitect.com/funds. In addition, each Business Day a portfolio composition file, which displays the In-Kind Creation Basket and Cash Component, is publicly disseminated prior to the opening of the Exchange via the NSCC.

#### **INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RESTRICTIONS**

The Trust has adopted the following investment restrictions as fundamental policies with respect to the Fund. These restrictions cannot be changed with respect to the Fund without the approval of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities. For the purposes of the 1940 Act, a "majority of outstanding shares" means the vote of the lesser of: (1) 67% or more of the voting securities of the Fund present at the meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding voting securities are present or represented by proxy; or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

The investment policies enumerated in this section may be changed with respect to the Fund only by a vote of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities, except as noted below:

- 1. The Fund may not issue senior securities, except as permitted by the 1940 Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief;
- 2. The Fund may not borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act (including, without limitation, borrowing to meet redemptions). For purposes of this investment restriction, the entry into options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices shall not constitute borrowing;
- 3. The Fund may not pledge, mortgage, or hypothecate its assets, except to the extent necessary to secure permitted borrowings and to the extent related to the deposit of assets in escrow in connection with writing covered put and call options and the purchase of securities on a when-issued or forward commitment basis and collateral and initial or variation margin arrangements with respect to options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices;
- 4. The Fund may not engage in the business of underwriting securities except to the extent that the Fund may be considered an underwriter within the meaning of the 1933 Act in the acquisition, disposition or resale of its portfolio securities or in connection with investments in other investment companies, or to the extent otherwise permitted under the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief.

- 5. The Fund may not purchase or sell real estate or direct interests in real estate, except to the extent permitted under the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive; provided, however, that the Fund may purchase and sell securities which are secured by real estate and securities of companies that invest or deal in real estate (including, without limitation, investments in REITs, mortgage-backed securities, and privately-held real estate funds);
- 6. The Fund may not purchase or sell physical commodities, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, and provided that this limitation does not prevent the Fund from (i) purchasing or selling securities of companies that purchase or sell commodities or that invest in commodities; (ii) engaging in any transaction involving currencies, options, forwards, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, swaps, hybrid instruments or other derivatives; or (iii) investing in securities, or transacting in other instruments, that are linked to or secured by physical or other commodities;
- 7. The Fund may not make investments for the purpose of exercising control or management over a portfolio company;
- 8. The Fund may not make loans, except to the extent permitted under the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief;
- 9. The Fund will not concentrate its investments in a particular industry or group of industries, as that term is used in the Investment Company Act; or
- 10. The Fund may not, with respect to 75% of its total assets: (i) purchase 10% or more of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer; or (ii) purchase securities of any issuer if, as a result, 5% or more of the Fund's total assets would be invested in that issuer's securities. This limitation does not apply to investments in (i) cash and cash items; (ii) securities of other registered investment companies; and (iii) obligations of the United States government, its agencies, or instrumentalities.

The Fund may invest up to 15% of net assets in illiquid securities, which are investments that cannot be sold or disposed of in the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the prices at which they are valued. This restriction is not limited to the time of purchase.

The following notations are not considered to be part of the Fund's fundamental investment limitation and are subject to change without shareholder approval. If a percentage limitation is satisfied at the time of investment, a later increase or decrease in such percentage resulting from a change in the value of the Fund's investments will not constitute a violation of such limitation. Thus, the Fund may continue to hold a security even though it causes the Fund to exceed a percentage limitation because of fluctuation in the value of the Fund's assets, except that any borrowing by the Fund that exceeds the fundamental investment limitations stated above must be reduced to meet such limitations within the period required by the Investment Company Act or the relevant rules, regulations or interpretations thereunder, as described below.

With respect to the fundamental investment limitation relating to borrowing set forth in (2) above, pursuant to Section 18(f)(1) of the Investment Company Act, the Fund may not issue any class of senior security or sell any senior security of which it is the issuer, except that the Fund shall be permitted to borrow from any bank so long as immediately after such borrowings, there is an asset coverage of at least 300% and that in the event such asset coverage falls below this percentage, the Fund shall reduce the amount of its borrowings, within three days, to an extent that the asset coverage shall be at least 300%.

With respect to the fundamental investment restriction regarding real estate set forth in (5) above, the Fund will not make direct investments in real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments. Although the Fund may purchase and sell other interests in real estate including securities which are secured by real estate, or securities of companies which make real estate loans or own, or invest or deal in, real estate.

With respect to the fundamental investment limitation relating to lending set forth in (8) above, this means that the Fund may not make loans if, as a result, more than 33 1/3% of its total assets would be lent to other parties. The fundamental investment limitation relating to lending restricts, but does not prevent entirely, the Fund's (i) lending of portfolio securities, (ii) purchase of debt securities, other debt instruments, loan participations and/or engaging in direct corporate loans in accordance with its investment goals and policies, and (iii) use of repurchase agreements to the extent the entry into a repurchase agreement is deemed to be a loan.

With respect to the fundamental investment limitation relating to concentration set forth in (9) above, the Investment Company Act does not define what constitutes "concentration" in an industry. The SEC staff has taken the position that investment of more than 25% of the Fund's net assets in one or more issuers conducting their principal activities in the same industry or group of industries constitutes concentration. It is possible that interpretations of concentration could change in the future.

For purposes of applying the limitation set forth in the concentration policy, the Fund, with respect to its equity holdings, may use the FactSet Revere Business Industry Classification System, Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes, MSCI Global Industry Classification System, FTSE/Dow Jones Industry Classification Benchmark (ICB) system or any other reasonable industry classification system (including systems developed by the Adviser) to identify

each industry. Securities of the U.S. government (including its agencies and instrumentalities), some tax-free securities of state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions (and repurchase agreements collateralized by government securities) and securities of other investment companies, whether registered or excluded from registration under Section 3(c) of the Investment Company Act, are not considered to be issued by members of any industry.

The Fund's method of applying the limitation set forth in its concentration policy may differ from the methods used by the Trust's other series.

# **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS**

The investment objective, principal strategies of, and risks of investing in the Fund are described in the Prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated in the Prospectus or this SAI, the investment objective and policies of the Fund may be changed without shareholder approval.

**General Investment Risks.** All investments in securities and other financial instruments involve a risk of financial loss. No assurance can be given that the Fund's investment program will be successful. Investors should carefully review the descriptions of the Fund's principal investments and their risks described in the Prospectus and this SAI.

**Equity Securities.** The equity portion of the Fund's portfolio may be comprised of common stocks traded on domestic securities exchanges or on the over the counter ("OTC") market. In addition to common stocks, the equity portion of the Fund's portfolio may also include preferred stocks, convertible preferred stocks, and convertible bonds and warrants. Prices of equity securities in which the Fund invests (either directly or indirectly through the Fund's investment in shares of other investment companies) may fluctuate in response to many factors, including, but not limited to, the activities of the individual companies whose securities the Fund owns, general market and economic conditions, interest rates, and specific industry changes. Such price fluctuations subject the Fund to potential losses. In addition, regardless of any one company's prospects, a declining stock market may produce a decline in prices for all equity securities, which could also result in losses for the Fund. Market declines may continue for an indefinite period, and investors should understand that during temporary or extended bear markets, the value of equity securities will decline.

Convertible securities entitle the holder to receive interest payments or a dividend preference until the security matures or is redeemed, or the conversion privilege is exercised. As a result of the conversion feature, the interest rate or dividend preference on a convertible security is generally less than would be the case if the securities were issued in non-convertible form. Warrants entitle the holder to purchase equity securities at specific prices for a certain period of time. The prices do not necessarily move parallel to the prices of the underlying securities and the warrants have no voting rights, receive no dividends, and have no rights with respect to the assets of the issuer.

**Investment Companies.** The Fund may invest in securities of other investment companies, including, without limitation, money market funds, closed-end funds, and exchange traded funds. The Fund expects to rely on Rule 12d1-1 under the 1940 Act), when purchasing shares of a money market fund. Under Rule 12d1-1, the Fund may generally invest without limitation in money market funds as long as the Fund pay no sales charge, as defined in rule 2830(b)(8) of the Conduct Rules of FINRA, or service fee, as defined in Rule 2830(b)(9) of the Conduct Rules of FINRA, charged in connection with the purchase, sale, or redemption of securities issued by the money market fund; or the Sub-Adviser waives its management fee in an amount necessary to offset any sales charge or service fee. The Fund will also purchase shares of other investment companies that are not money market funds. The Fund's investments in such securities involve certain additional expenses and certain tax results, which would not be present in a direct investment in the underlying fund. Pursuant to Section 12(d)(1)(A) of the 1940 Act, the Fund will be prevented from: (i) purchasing more than 3% of an investment company's outstanding shares; (ii) investing more than 5% of the Fund's assets in any single such investment company, and (iii) investing more than 10% of the Fund's assets in investment companies overall; unless: (a) the underlying investment company and/or the applicable Fund has received an order for exemptive relief from such limitations from the SEC; and (b) the underlying investment company and the Fund take appropriate steps to comply with any conditions in such order. In addition, the Fund is subject to Section 12(d)(1)(C), which provides that the Fund may not acquire shares of a closed-end fund if, immediately after such acquisition, the Fund and other investment companies having the same adviser as the Fund would hold more than 10% of the closed-end fund's total outstanding voting stock. However, Rule 12d1-4 of the 1940 Act provides that the provisions of paragraph 12(d)(1) shall not apply to securities purchased or otherwise acquired by a Fund if (i) the Fund does not control the acquired fund; (ii) the Fund uses mirror voting if it holds more than 25% of an acquired open-end fund due to a decrease in the outstanding securities of the acquired fund and if it holds more than 10% of a closed-end fund (iii) the Sub-Adviser and the investment adviser to the acquired fund make certain findings regarding the fund of funds arrangement, after considering specific factors; (iv) the Fund and acquired funds not advised by the Sub-Adviser have entered into an agreement prior to exceeding the limits of section 12(d)(1); and (v) the Fund is not part of a three tiered or more fund of funds structure. Investments by the Fund in other investment companies entail a number of risks unique to a fund of funds structure. These risks include the following:

<u>Multiple Layers of Fees</u>. By investing in other investment companies indirectly through the Fund, prospective investors will directly bear the fees and expenses of the Fund's Sub-Adviser and indirectly bear the fees and expenses of other investment companies and other investment companies' managers as well. As such, this multiple or duplicative layer of fees will increase the cost of investments in the Fund.

Lack of Transparency. The Sub-Adviser will not be able to monitor the investment activities of the other investment companies on a continuous basis and the other investment companies may use investment strategies that differ from its past practices and are not fully disclosed to the Sub-Adviser and that involve risks that are not anticipated by the Sub-Adviser. The Fund has no control over the risks taken by the underlying investment companies in which they invest.

<u>Valuation of Investment Companies</u>. Although the Sub-Adviser will attempt to review the valuation procedures used by other investment companies' managers, the Sub-Adviser will have little or no means of independently verifying valuations of the Fund's investments in investment companies and valuations of the underlying securities held by other investment companies. As such, the Sub-Adviser will rely significantly on valuations of other investment companies and the securities underlying other investment companies that are reported by other investment companies' managers. In the event that such valuations prove to be inaccurate, the net asset value ("NAV") of the Fund could be adversely impacted and an investor could incur a loss of investment in the Fund.

<u>Illiquidity of Investments by and in Other Investment Companies</u>. Other investment companies may invest in securities that are not registered, are subject to legal or other restrictions on transfer, or for which no liquid market exists. The market prices, if any, for such securities tend to be volatile and restricted securities may sell at prices that are lower than similar securities that are not subject to legal restrictions on resale. Further, the Fund may not be able to redeem their interests in other investment companies' securities that it has purchased in a timely manner. If adverse market conditions were to develop during any period in which the Fund is unable to redeem interests in other investment companies, the Fund may suffer losses as a result of this illiquidity. As such, the lack of liquidity and volatility of restricted securities held by other investment companies could adversely affect the value of the other investment companies. Any such losses could adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments and an investor could incur a loss of investment in the Fund.

Lack of Control. Although the Fund and the Sub-Adviser will evaluate regularly other investment companies to determine whether their investment programs are consistent with the Fund's investment objective, the Sub-Adviser will not have any control over the investments made by other investment companies. Even though other investment companies are subject to certain constraints, the investment advisor to each such investment company may change aspects of their investment strategies at any time. The Sub-Adviser will not have the ability to control or influence the composition of the investment portfolio of other investment companies.

Lack of Diversification. There is no requirement that the underlying investments held by other investment companies be diversified. As such, other investment companies' managers may target or concentrate other investment companies' investments in specific markets, sectors, or types of securities. As a result, investments made by other investment companies are subject to greater volatility as a result of this concentration than if the other investment companies had non-concentrated and diversified portfolios of investments. Thus, the Fund's portfolio (and by extension the value of an investment in the Fund) may therefore be subject to greater risk than the portfolio of a similar fund with investments in diversified investment companies.

<u>Use of Leverage</u>. The other investment companies may utilize leverage (i.e., borrowing) to acquire their underlying portfolio investments. When other investment companies borrow money or otherwise leverage their portfolio of investments, doing so may exaggerate changes in the net asset value ("NAV") of the shares of the other investment companies and in the return on the other investment companies' investments. Borrowing will also cost other investment companies interest expense and other fees. As such, the value of the Fund's investments in other investment companies may be more volatile and all other risks (including the risk of loss of an investment in other investment companies) tend to be compounded or magnified. As a result, any losses suffered by other investment companies as a result of their use of leverage could adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments and an investor could incur a loss of investment in the Fund.

**Exchange Traded Funds.** The Fund will invest in ETFs, including the Alpha Architect 1-3 Month Box ETF. An ETF is an investment company that is traded on a securities exchange based on its market value. An investment in an ETF generally presents the same primary risks as an investment in a conventional registered investment company (i.e., one that is not exchange traded). In addition, all ETFs will have costs and expenses that will be passed on to the Fund as described in the Prospectus and these costs and expenses will in turn increase the Fund's expenses. ETFs are also subject to the following risks that often do not apply to conventional investment companies: (i) the market price of the ETF's shares may trade at a discount to the ETF's NAV, and as a result, ETFs may experience more price volatility than other types of portfolio investments and such volatility could negatively impact the Fund's NAVs; (ii) an active trading market for an ETF's shares may not develop or be maintained at a sufficient volume; (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange deems such action appropriate; and (iv) ETF shares may be delisted from the exchange on which they trade, or "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices used by the exchange) may temporarily halt trading in the ETF's stock. ETFs are also subject to the risks of the underlying securities or sectors that the ETF holds. Finally, there may be legal limitations and other conditions imposed by rules of the SEC on the amount of the ETF shares that the Fund may acquire.

**Fixed-Income Securities.** The Fund may invest in fixed-income securities directly or indirectly through its investments in shares of ETFs, including government and corporate bonds, money market instruments, high yield securities or "junk bonds" and zero-coupon bonds. Zero-coupon bonds are purchased at a discount from their face values and accrue interest at the applicable coupon rate over a period of time. Fixed-income securities purchased by the Fund may consist of obligations of any rating. Fixed-income securities in the

lowest investment grade categories have speculative characteristics, with changes in the economy or other circumstances more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the bonds to make principal and interest payments than would occur with bonds rated in higher categories. High yield bonds are typically rated below "Baa" by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") or below "BBB" by S&P Global Rating ("S&P") or below investment grade by other recognized rating agencies. The Fund may invest in unrated securities, but only if, at the time of purchase, the Sub-Adviser believes that they are of comparable quality to rated securities that the Fund may purchase. The Fund may also invest indirectly in unrated securities through ETFs and other investment companies that invest in unrated securities under certain circumstances. Such bonds are subject to greater market fluctuations and risk of loss of income and principal than higher rated bonds for a variety of reasons, including:

Sensitivity to Interest Rate and Economic Change. The economy and interest rates affect high yield securities differently than other securities. For example, the prices of high yield bonds have been found to be less sensitive to interest rate changes than higherrated investments, but more sensitive to adverse economic changes or individual corporate developments. Also, during an economic downturn or substantial period of rising interest rates, highly leveraged issuers may experience financial stress which would adversely affect their ability to service their principal and interest obligations, to meet projected business goals, and to obtain additional financing. If the issuer of a bond defaults, an underlying mutual fund may incur additional expenses to seek recovery. In addition, periods of economic uncertainty and changes can be expected to result in increased volatility or market prices of high yield bonds and the Fund's asset values.

<u>Payment Expectations</u>. High yield bonds present certain risks based on payment expectations. For example, high yield bonds may contain redemption and call provisions. If an issuer exercises these provisions in a declining interest rate market, the Fund or an investment company in which the Fund invests would have to replace the security with a lower yielding security, resulting in a decreased return for investors. Conversely, a high yield bond's value will decrease in a rising interest rate market, as will the value of the Fund's or other investment company's assets. If the Fund or an investment company in which the Fund is experiences unexpected net redemptions, it may be forced to sell its high yield bonds without regard to their investment merits, thereby decreasing the asset base upon which the Fund's or other investment company in which expenses can be spread and possibly reducing the Fund's or other investment company's rate of return.

<u>Liquidity and Valuation</u>. To the extent that there is no established retail secondary market, there may be thin trading of high yield bonds, and this may impact a fund's ability to accurately value high yield bonds and may hinder a fund's ability to dispose of the bonds. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the values and liquidity of high yield bonds, especially in a thinly traded market.

<u>Credit Ratings</u>. Credit ratings evaluate the safety of principal and interest payments, not the market value risk of high yield bonds. Also, because credit rating agencies may fail to timely change the credit ratings to reflect subsequent events, the Fund or an investment company in which the Fund invests must monitor the issuers of high yield bonds in their portfolios to determine if the issuers will have sufficient cash flow and profits to meet required principal and interest payments, and to assure the bonds' liquidity so the Fund or an investment company in which the Fund invests can meet redemption requests.

High-yield securities are deemed speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal over a long period of time. Special tax considerations are associated with investing in high-yield securities structured as zero coupon or "pay-in-kind" securities. The Fund or an investment company in which the Fund invests will report the interest on these securities as income even though it receives no cash interest until the security's maturity or payment date. The payment of principal and interest on most fixed-income securities purchased by a fund will depend upon the ability of the issuers to meet their obligations. An issuer's obligations under its fixed-income securities are subject to the provisions of bankruptcy, insolvency and other laws affecting the rights and remedies of creditors, such as the Federal Bankruptcy Code, and laws, if any, which may be enacted by federal or state legislatures extending the time for payment of principal or interest, or both, or imposing other constraints upon enforcement of such obligations. The power or ability of an issuer to meet its obligations for the payment of interest on, and principal of, its fixed-income securities may be materially adversely affected by litigation or other conditions.

The ratings of S&P, Moody's, and other nationally recognized rating agencies represent their opinions as to the quality of fixed-income securities. It should be emphasized, however, that ratings are general and are not absolute standards of quality, and fixed-income securities with the same maturity, interest rate, and rating may have different yields while fixed-income securities of the same maturity and interest rate with different ratings may have the same yield.

**Money Market Instruments.** The Fund may invest in money market instruments including U.S. Government obligations or corporate debt obligations (including those subject to repurchase agreements) provided that they are eligible for purchase by the Fund. Money market instruments also may include banker's acceptances and certificates of deposit of domestic branches of U.S. banks, commercial paper, and variable amount demand master notes ("Master Notes"). Banker's acceptances are time drafts drawn on and "accepted" by a bank. When a bank "accepts" such a time draft, it assumes liability for its payment. When the Fund acquires a banker's acceptance, the bank that "accepted" the time draft is liable for payment of interest and principal when due. The banker's acceptance carries the full faith and credit of such bank. A certificate of deposit ("CD") is an unsecured, interest-bearing debt obligation of a bank. Commercial

paper is an unsecured, short-term debt obligation of a bank, corporation, or other borrower. Commercial paper maturity generally ranges from two to 270 days and is usually sold on a discounted basis rather than as an interest-bearing instrument. The Fund will invest in commercial paper only if it is rated in one of the top two rating categories by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, or Fitch Investors Service, Inc., or if not rated, of equivalent quality in the Sub-Adviser's opinion. Commercial paper may include Master Notes of the same quality. Master Notes are unsecured obligations that are redeemable upon demand of the holder and that permit the investment of fluctuating amounts at varying rates of interest. Master Notes will be acquired by the Fund only through the Master Note program of the Fund's custodian bank, acting as administrator thereof. The Sub-Adviser will monitor, on a continuous basis, the earnings power, cash flow, and other liquidity ratios of the issuer of a Master Note held by the Fund.

**U.S. Government Securities.** The Fund may invest in U.S. Government securities, defined to be (i) U.S. Treasury notes, U.S. Treasury bonds, U.S. Treasury bills, and other U.S. Government obligations; (ii) obligations of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) and other U.S. Government sponsored entities that are guaranteed by the U.S. Government; and (iii) obligations of the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Federal Farm Credit Bank (FFCB), Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), Student Loan Marketing Association (SLMA), The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and other U.S. Government authorities, agencies, and instrumentalities. While obligations of some U.S. Government sponsored entities are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government (e.g., GNMA), others are not. No assurance can be given that the U.S. Government will provide financial support to U.S. Government agencies or instrumentalities in the future since it is not obligated to do so by law. The guarantee of the U.S. Government does not extend to the yield or value of the Fund's shares.

**Debentures.** A debenture is long-term, unsecured, debt instrument backed only by the integrity of the borrower, not by collateral, and documented by an indenture. Governments often issue debentures, in part because they generally cannot guarantee debt with assets (government assets are public property). The primary risk with this type of investment is that the issuer will default or go into bankruptcy. As an unsecured creditor, in the event of default or bankruptcy, the holder of a debenture does not have a claim against any specific assets of the issuing firm, so the investor will only be paid from the issuer's assets after the secured creditors have been paid. The Fund may invest in all types of debentures, including corporate and government debentures.

**Derivative Instruments Risk.** When the Fund enters into options, futures, and other forms of financial derivatives, such as foreign exchange contracts, the investments involve risks different from direct investments in the underlying securities. While transactions in derivatives may reduce certain risks, these transactions themselves entail certain other risks. For example, unanticipated changes in expected future volatility, interest rates, securities prices, or currency exchange rates may result in a poorer overall performance of the Fund than if they had not entered into any derivatives transactions. Derivatives may magnify the Fund's gains or losses, causing it to make or lose substantially more than it invested. When the Fund invests in options, futures, and other forms of financial derivatives, the Fund will comply with the applicable requirements of the 1940 Act and the guidance of no-action letters issued by the SEC, including Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act.

When used for hedging purposes, increases in the value of the securities the Fund holds or intends to acquire may offset any losses incurred with a derivative. Purchasing derivatives for purposes other than hedging could expose the Fund to greater risks.

The Fund's ability to hedge securities through derivatives depends on the degree to which price movements in the underlying index or instrument correlate with price movements in the relevant securities. In the case of poor correlation, the price of the securities the Fund is hedging may not move in the same amount, or even in the same direction as the hedging instrument. The Fund will try to minimize this risk by investing only in those contracts whose behavior it expects to resemble with the portfolio securities it is trying to hedge. However, if the Fund's prediction of interest and currency rates, market value, expected future volatility, or other economic factors is incorrect, the Fund may lose money, or may not make as much money as it expected.

Derivative prices can diverge from the prices of their underlying instruments, even if the characteristics of the underlying instruments are very similar to the derivative. Listed below are some of the factors that may cause such a divergence:

- current and anticipated short-term interest rates, changes in expected future volatility of the underlying instrument, and the time remaining until expiration of the contract;
- a difference between the derivatives and securities markets, including different levels of demand, how the instruments are traded, the imposition of daily price fluctuation limits or trading of an instrument stops; and
- differences between the derivatives, such as different margin requirements, different liquidity of such markets, and the participation of speculators in such markets.

Derivatives based upon a narrow index of securities may present greater risk than derivatives based on a broad index. Since narrower indices are made up of a smaller number of securities, they may be more susceptible to rapid and extreme price fluctuations because of changes in the value of those securities.

While currency futures and options values are expected to correlate with exchange rates, they may not reflect other factors that affect the value of the investments of the Fund. A currency hedge, for example, should protect a yen-denominated security from a decline in the yen, but will not protect the Fund against a price decline resulting from deterioration in the issuer's creditworthiness. Because the value of the Fund's foreign-denominated investments, if any, changes in response to many factors other than exchange rates, it may not be possible to match the amount of currency options and futures to the value of the Fund's investments precisely over time.

Before a futures contract or option is exercised or expires, the Fund can terminate it only by entering into a closing purchase or sale transaction. Moreover, in some cases, the Fund may close out a futures contract only on the exchange the contract was initially traded. Although the Fund intends to purchase options and futures only where there appears to be an active market, there is no guarantee that such a liquid market will exist. If there is no secondary market for the contract, or the market is illiquid, the Fund may not be able to close out a position. In an illiquid market, the Fund may:

- have to sell securities to meet its daily margin requirements at a time when it is disadvantageous to do so;
- have to purchase or sell the instrument underlying the contract;
- not be able to hedge its investments; and
- not be able to realize profits or limit its losses.

Derivatives may become illiquid (i.e., difficult to sell at a desired time and price) under a variety of market conditions. For example:

- an exchange may suspend or limit trading in a particular derivative instrument, an entire category of derivatives, or all derivatives, which sometimes occurs because of increased market volatility;
- unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations of an exchange;
- the facilities of the exchange may not be adequate to handle current trading volume;
- equipment failures, government intervention, insolvency of a brokerage firm or clearing house, or other occurrences may disrupt normal trading activity; or
- investors may lose interest in a particular derivative or category of derivatives.

If the Fund incorrectly predicts securities market, expected future volatility or interest rate trends, the Fund may lose money by investing in derivatives. For example, if the Fund were to write a call option based on the expectation that the price of the underlying security would fall, but the price rose instead, the Fund could be required to sell the security upon exercise at a price below the current market price. Similarly, if the Fund were to write a put option based on the expectation that the price of the underlying security would rise, but the price fell instead, the Fund could be required to purchase the security upon exercise at a price higher than the current market price.

Because of the low margin deposits required upon the opening of a derivative position, such transactions may involve an extremely high degree of leverage. Consequently, a relatively small price movement in a derivative may result in an immediate and substantial loss (as well as gain) to the Fund and they may lose more than it originally invested in the derivative.

If the price of a futures contract changes adversely, the Fund may have to sell securities at a time when it is disadvantageous to do so to meet its minimum daily margin requirement. The Fund may lose margin deposits if a broker with whom they have an open futures contract or related option becomes insolvent or declares bankruptcy.

The prices of derivatives are volatile (i.e., they may change rapidly, substantially, and unpredictably) and are influenced by a variety of factors, including:

- actual and anticipated changes in interest rates;
- fiscal and monetary policies; and
- national and international political events.

Most exchanges limit the amount by which the price of a derivative can change during a single trading day. Daily trading limits establish the maximum amount that the price of a derivative may vary from the settlement price of that derivative at the end of trading on the previous day. Once the price of a derivative reaches this value, the Fund may not trade that derivative at a price beyond that limit. The

daily limit governs only price movements during a given day and does not limit potential gains or losses. Derivative prices have occasionally moved to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days, preventing prompt liquidation of the derivative.

<u>Government Regulation of Derivatives</u>. It is possible that government regulation of various types of derivative instruments, including futures and swap agreements, may limit or prevent the Fund from using such instruments as a part of its investment strategy, and could ultimately prevent the Fund from being able to achieve its investment objective. It is impossible to predict fully the effects of legislation and regulation in this area, but the effects could be substantial and adverse.

The futures markets are subject to comprehensive statutes, regulations, and margin requirements. The SEC, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") and the exchanges are authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of a market emergency, including, for example, the implementation or reduction of speculative position limits, the implementation of higher margin requirements, the establishment of daily price limits and the suspension of trading.

The regulation of swaps and futures transactions in the U.S., the European Union and other jurisdictions is a rapidly changing area of law and is subject to modification by government and judicial action. There is a possibility of future regulatory changes altering, perhaps to a material extent, the nature of an investment in the Fund or the ability of the Fund to continue to implement its investment strategies.

Under recently adopted rules and regulations, transactions in some types of swaps (including interest rate swaps and credit default swaps on North American and European indices) are required to be centrally cleared, and additional types of swaps may be required to be centrally cleared in the future. In a transaction involving those swaps ("cleared derivatives"), the Fund's counterparty is a clearing house, rather than a bank or broker. Since the Fund is not a member of clearing houses and only clearing members can participate directly in the clearing house, the Fund will hold cleared derivatives through accounts at clearing members. In cleared derivatives transactions, the Fund will make payments (including margin payments) to and receive payments from a clearing house through its accounts at clearing members. Clearing members guarantee performance of their clients' obligations to the clearing house.

In addition, U.S. regulators, the European Union and certain other jurisdictions have adopted minimum margin and capital requirements for uncleared OTC derivatives transactions. It is expected that these regulations will have a material impact on the Fund's use of uncleared derivatives. These rules will impose minimum margin requirements on derivatives transactions between the Fund and its swap counterparties and may increase the amount of margin the Fund is required to provide. They will impose regulatory requirements on the timing of transferring margin, which may accelerate the Fund's current margin process. They will also effectively require changes to typical derivatives margin documentation. Such requirements could increase the amount of margin the Fund needs to provide in connection with uncleared derivatives transactions and, therefore, make such transactions more expensive.

On October 28, 2020, the SEC adopted Rule 18f-4 ("Rule 18f-4" or the "Derivatives Rule"), which regulates the ability of the Fund to enter into derivative transactions and other leveraged transactions. Derivatives are defined by Rule 18f-4 to include short sales and forward contracts, such as to-be-announced transactions, as well as transactions traditionally characterized as derivatives, such as futures, options and swaps. Rule 18f-4 also regulates other types of leveraged transactions, such as reverse repurchase transactions and transactions "similar to" reverse repurchase transactions, which include certain securities lending transactions that provide leverage to the Portfolio.

Among other things, Rule 18f-4 treats those derivatives transactions that impose future payment or delivery obligations on the Fund as senior securities within the meaning of Section 18 of the 1940 Act. As a result, the Fund is prohibited from entering into these derivatives transactions except in reliance on the provisions of the Derivatives Rule. The Derivatives Rule establishes limits on the derivatives transactions that the Fund may enter into based on the value-at-risk ("VaR") of the Fund inclusive of derivatives. The Fund will generally satisfy the limits under the Derivatives Rule if the VaR of its portfolio (inclusive of derivatives transactions) does not exceed 200% of the VaR of its "designated reference portfolio." The "designated reference portfolio" is a representative unleveraged index or the Fund's own portfolio absent derivatives holdings, as determined by the Fund's derivatives risk manager. This limits test is referred to as the "Relative VaR Test." If the Fund determines that the Relative VaR Test is not appropriate in light of its strategy, subject to specified conditions, the Fund may instead comply with the Absolute VaR Test. The Fund will satisfy the Absolute VaR Test if the VaR of its portfolio does not exceed 20% of the value of the Fund's net assets. In addition, among other requirements, Rule 18f-4 requires the Fund to establish a derivatives risk management program, appoint a derivatives risk manager, and carry out enhanced reporting to the Board, the SEC and the public regarding the Portfolio's derivatives activities.

**Options.** The Fund will purchase and sell/write call and put options on securities. The purchase and writing of options involves certain risks. During the option period, a call writer that holds the underlying security has, in return for the premium on the option, given up the opportunity to profit from a price increase in the underlying securities above the exercise price, but, as long as its obligation as a writer continues, has retained the risk of loss should the price of the underlying security decline. The writer of an option has no control over the time when it may be required to fulfill its obligation as a writer of the option. Once an option writer has received an exercise notice, it cannot effect a closing purchase transaction in order to terminate its obligation under the option and must deliver the underlying securities at the exercise price. If a put or call option purchased by the Fund is not sold when it has remaining value, and if the market price of the underlying security, in the case of a put, remains equal to or greater than the exercise price or, in the case of a call, remains

less than or equal to the exercise price, the Fund will lose its entire investment in the option. Also, where a put or call option on a particular security is purchased to hedge against price movements in a related security, the price of the put or call option may move more or less than the price of the related security. There can be no assurance that a liquid market will exist when the Fund seeks to close out an option position. Furthermore, if trading restrictions or suspensions are imposed on the options market, the Fund may be unable to close out a position.

The Fund may write a call or put option only if the option is "covered" by holding a position in the underlying securities or by other means which would permit immediate satisfaction of the Fund's obligation as writer of the option. A written call option creates a potential obligation to sell the underlying security. In order to make sure that this obligation can be met, the Fund could (i) hold the security underlying the written option; (ii) hold an offsetting call option (one with a strike price that is the same or lower than the strike price of the written option); or (iii) segregate cash and liquid securities (which can be cash, U.S. Government securities, and other liquid debt or equity securities) that when added to collateral on deposit equals the market value of the underlying security. A written put option creates a potential obligation to buy the underlying security. In order to make sure that this obligation can be met, the Fund could (i) sell short the underlying security at the same or higher price than the strike price of the written put option; (ii) hold an offsetting put option (one with a strike price that is the same or higher than the strike price of the written option); or (iii) segregate cash and liquid securities that when added to collateral on deposit equals the strike price of the written put option; (ii) hold an offsetting put option (one with a strike price that is the same or higher than the strike price of the written option); or (iii) segregate cash and liquid securities that when added to collateral on deposit equals the strike price of the written option; (ii) hold an offsetting put option (one with a strike price that is the same or higher than the strike price of the written option); or (iii) segregate cash and liquid securities that when added to collateral on deposit equals the strike price of the option.

Options offer large amounts of leverage, which will result in a Fund's NAV being more sensitive to changes in the value of the related instrument. A Fund may purchase or write both exchange-traded and OTC options. Exchange-traded options in the United States are issued by a clearing organization affiliated with the exchange on which the option is listed that, in effect, guarantees completion of every exchange-traded option transaction. In contrast, OTC options are contracts between a Fund and its counterparty (usually a securities dealer or a bank) with no clearing organization guarantee. Thus, when a Fund purchases an OTC option, it relies on the counterparty from whom it purchased the option to make or take delivery of the underlying investment upon exercise of the option. Failure by the counterparty to do so would result in the loss of any premium paid by a Fund as well as the loss of any expected benefit of the transaction.

The Fund's ability to establish and close out positions in exchange-listed options depends on the existence of a liquid market. However, there can be no assurance that such a market will exist at any particular time. Closing transactions can be made for OTC options only by negotiating directly with the counterparty, or by a transaction in the secondary market if any such market exists. There can be no assurance that a Fund will in fact be able to close out an OTC option position at a favorable price prior to expiration. In the event of insolvency of the counterparty, a Fund might be unable to close out an OTC option position at any time prior to its expiration, if at all.

If the Fund is unable to effect a closing transaction for an option it had purchased, due to the absence of a counterparty or secondary market, the imposition of price limits or otherwise, it would have to exercise the option to realize any profit. The inability to enter into a closing purchase transaction for a covered call option written by a Fund could cause material losses because the Fund would be unable to sell the investment used as cover for the written option until the option expires or is exercised.

Options have varying expiration dates. The exercise price of the options may be below, equal to or above the current market value of the underlying security or instrument. Options purchased by a Fund that expire unexercised have no value, and the Fund will realize a loss in the amount of the premium paid and any transaction costs. If an option written by a Fund expires unexercised, the Fund realizes a gain equal to the premium received at the time the option was written. Transaction costs must be included in these calculations.

**Futures Contracts.** The Fund may enter into futures contracts. A futures contract is a bilateral agreement to buy or sell a security (or deliver a cash settlement price, in the case of a contract relating to an index or otherwise not calling for physical delivery at the end of trading in the contracts) for a set price in the future. Futures contracts are designated by boards of trade that have been designated "contracts markets" by the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). No purchase price is paid or received when the contract is entered into. Instead, the Fund, upon entering into a futures contract (and to maintain the Fund's open positions in futures contracts), would be required to deposit with its custodian in a segregated account in the name of the futures broker an amount of cash, U.S. Government securities, suitable money market instruments, or liquid, high-grade debt securities, known as "initial margin." The margin required for a particular futures contract is set by the exchange on which the contract is traded and may be significantly modified from time to time by the exchange during the term of the contract. Futures contracts are customarily purchased and sold on margin that may range upward from less than 5% of the value of the contract being traded. By using futures contracts as a risk management technique, given the greater liquidity in the futures market than in the cash market, it may be possible to accomplish certain results more quickly and with lower transaction costs.

If the price of an open futures contract changes (by increase in the case of a sale or by decrease in the case of a purchase) such that the loss on the futures contract reaches a point at which the margin on deposit does not satisfy margin requirements, the broker will require an increase in the margin. However, if the value of a position increases because of favorable price changes in the futures contract such that the margin deposit exceeds the required margin, the broker will pay the excess to the Fund. These subsequent payments, called "variation margin," to and from the futures broker, are made on a daily basis as the price of the underlying assets fluctuates, making the long and short positions in the futures contract more or less valuable, a process known as "marking to the market." The Fund is expected to earn interest income on initial and variation margin deposits.

The Fund will incur brokerage fees when it purchases and sells futures contracts. Positions taken in the futures markets are not normally held until delivery or cash settlement is required, but are instead liquidated through offsetting transactions that may result in a gain or a loss. While futures positions taken by the Fund will usually be liquidated in this manner, the Fund may instead make or take delivery of underlying securities whenever it appears economically advantageous for the Fund to do so. A clearing organization associated with the exchange on which futures are traded assumes responsibility for closing out transactions and guarantees that as between the clearing members of an exchange, the sale and purchase obligations will be performed with regard to all positions that remain open at the termination of the contract.

In addition to the margin restrictions discussed above, transactions in futures contracts may involve the segregation of funds pursuant to requirements imposed by the SEC. Under those requirements, where the Fund has a long position in a futures contract, it may be required to establish a segregated account (not with a futures commission merchant or broker) containing cash or certain liquid assets equal to the purchase price of the contract (less any margin on deposit). However, segregation of assets is not required if the Fund "covers" a long position. For a short position in futures or forward contracts held by the Fund, those requirements may mandate the establishment of a segregated account (not with a futures commission merchant or broker) with cash or certain liquid assets that, when added to the amounts deposited as margin, equal the market value of the instruments underlying the futures contracts (but are not less than the price at which the short positions were established).

**Short Sales.** A short sale is a transaction in which the Fund sells a security it does not own or have the right to acquire (or that it owns but does not wish to deliver) in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline. When the Fund makes a short sale, the broker-dealer through which the short sale is made must borrow the security sold short and deliver it to the party purchasing the security. The Fund is required to make a margin deposit in connection with such short sales; the Fund may have to pay a fee to borrow particular securities and will often be obligated to pay over any dividends and accrued interest on borrowed securities.

If the price of the security sold short increases between the time of the short sale and the time the Fund covers the short position, the Fund will incur a loss; conversely, if the price declines, the Fund will realize a capital gain. Any gain will be decreased, and any loss increased, by the transaction costs described above. The successful use of short selling may be adversely affected by imperfect correlation between movements in the price of the security sold short and the securities being hedged.

If the Fund does sell "short", the Fund will comply with current guidance from the staff of the SEC regarding asset coverage requirements in accordance with the Trust's policies and procedures.

**Swaps.** The Fund may invest in currency, equity, interest rate, index, and other swaps, which involve the exchange by an investor with another party of their respective commitments, in an attempt to obtain a particular return when it is considered desirable to do so, possibly at a lower cost than if the Fund had invested directly in the asset that yielded the desired return. In the case of interest rate swaps, an investor may exchange with another party their respective commitments to pay or receive interest, such as an exchange of fixed rate payments for floating rate payments. Use of swaps subjects the investor to risk of default by the counterparties. If there is a default by the counterparty to such a transaction, there may be contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction although contractual remedies may not be sufficient in the event that the counterparty to the transaction is insolvent. The swap market has grown substantially in recent years with a large number of banks and investment banking firms acting both as principals and agents utilizing standardized swap documentation. As a result, the swap market has become relatively liquid in comparison with the markets for other similar instruments which are traded in the interbank market. An investor may also enter into currency swaps or other swaps which are similar to interest rate swaps but may be surrogates for other instruments such as currency forwards or options.

**Forward Commitment and When-Issued Securities.** The Fund may purchase securities on a when-issued basis or for settlement at a future date if the Fund holds sufficient assets to meet the purchase price. In such purchase transactions, the Fund will not accrue interest on the purchased security until the actual settlement. Similarly, if a security is sold for a forward date, the Fund will accrue the interest until the settlement of the sale. When-issued security purchases and forward commitments have a higher degree of risk of price movement before settlement due to the extended time period between the execution and settlement of the purchase or sale. As a result, the exposure to the counterparty of the purchase or sale is increased. Although the Fund would generally purchase securities on a forward commitment or when-issued basis with the intention of taking delivery, the Fund may sell such a security prior to the settlement date if the Sub-Adviser feels such action is appropriate. In such a case, the Fund could incur a short-term gain or loss.

**Illiquid Investments.** The Fund may invest up to 15% of net assets in illiquid securities, which are investments that cannot be sold or disposed of in the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the prices at which they are valued. This restriction is not limited to the time of purchase. Under the supervision of the Board, the Sub-Adviser determines the liquidity of the Fund's investments, and through reports from the Sub-Adviser, the Trustees monitor investments in illiquid instruments. In determining the liquidity of the Fund's investments, the Sub-Adviser may consider various factors including (i) the frequency of trades and quotations; (ii) the number of dealers and prospective purchasers in the marketplace; (iii) dealer undertakings to make a market; (iv) the nature of the security (including any demand or tender features); and (v) the nature of the marketplace for trades (including the ability to assign or offset the Fund's rights and obligations relating to the investment). If through a change in values, net assets, or other circumstances, the Fund was in a position where more than 15% of its net assets were invested in illiquid securities, it would seek to take appropriate steps to protect liquidity.

Investment in illiquid securities poses risks of potential delays in resale and uncertainty in valuation. Limitations on resale may have an adverse effect on the marketability of portfolio securities and the Fund may be unable to dispose of illiquid securities promptly or at reasonable prices.

**Restricted Securities.** Within its limitation on investment in illiquid securities, the Fund may purchase restricted securities that generally can be sold in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to an exemption from registration under the federal securities laws, or in a registered public offering. Where registration is required, the Fund may be obligated to pay all or part of the registration expense and a considerable period may elapse between the time it 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, the Fund might obtain a less favorable price than prevailed when it decided to seek registration of the security. Restricted securities that can be offered and sold to qualified institutional buyers under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933 and are determined to be liquid under guidelines adopted by and subject to the supervision of the Trustees are not subject to the limitations on illiquid securities.

**Portfolio Turnover.** Portfolio turnover is a ratio that indicates how often the securities in the Fund's portfolio change during a year's time. Higher numbers indicate a greater number of changes, and lower numbers indicate a smaller number of changes. The Fund may sell portfolio securities without regard to the length of time they have been held in order to take advantage of new investment opportunities or changing market conditions. Since portfolio turnover may involve paying brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, there could be additional expenses for the Fund. High rates of portfolio turnover could lower performance of the Fund due to increased costs and may also result in the realization of capital gains. If the Fund realizes capital gains when they sell portfolio investments, they must generally distribute those gains to shareholders, increasing their taxable distributions.

**Lending of Portfolio Securities.** In order to generate additional income, the Fund may lend portfolio securities in an amount up to 33% of total Fund assets to broker-dealers, major banks, or other recognized domestic institutional borrowers of securities which the Sub-Adviser has determined are creditworthy under guidelines established by the Board. In determining whether the Fund will lend securities, the Sub-Adviser will consider all relevant facts and circumstances. The Fund may not lend securities to any company affiliated with the Sub-Adviser. Each loan of securities will be collateralized by cash, U.S. government securities, or standby letters of credit not issued by the Fund's bank lending agent. The Fund might experience a loss if the borrower defaults on the loan.

The borrower at all times during the loan must maintain with the Fund cash or cash equivalent collateral. While the loan is outstanding, the borrower will pay the Fund any interest paid on the loaned securities, and the Fund may invest the cash collateral to earn additional income. Alternatively, the Fund may receive an agreed-upon amount of interest income from the borrower who has delivered equivalent collateral. It is anticipated that the Fund may share with the borrower some of the income received on the collateral for the loan or the Fund will be paid a premium for the loan. Voting rights for loaned securities will typically pass to the borrower, but the Fund will retain the right to call any security in anticipation of a vote that the Sub-Adviser deems material to the security on loan. Loans are subject to termination at the option of the Fund or the borrower at any time. The Fund may pay reasonable administrative and custodial fees in connection with a loan and may pay a negotiated portion of the income earned on the cash to the borrower or placing broker. As with other extensions of credit, there are risks of delay in recovery or even loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower fail financially.

Securities lending involves counterparty risk, including the risk that the loaned securities may not be returned or returned in a timely manner and/or a loss of rights in the collateral if the borrower or the lending agent defaults or fails financially. This risk will be increased if a continuation of the current downturn in the economic conditions in the United States and around the world, particularly the recent failures of several major financial services firms, causes further declines in the securities markets and/or causes further financial instability in the borrowers or lending agents. This risk is increased when the Fund's loans are concentrated with a single or limited number of borrowers. There are no limits on the number of borrowers the Fund may use, and the Fund may lend securities to only one or a small group of borrowers. Mutual funds participating in securities lending bear the risk of loss in connection with investments of the cash collateral received from the borrowers, which do not trigger additional collateral requirements from the borrower.

**Borrowing.** The Fund may borrow money for investment purposes, which is a form of leveraging. Leveraging investments, by purchasing securities with borrowed money, is a speculative technique that increases investment risk while increasing investment opportunity. Such borrowing may make the Fund's NAV more volatile than funds that do not borrow for investment purposes because leverage magnifies changes in the Fund's NAV and on the Fund's investments. Although the principal of borrowings will be fixed, the Fund's assets may change in value during the time the borrowing is outstanding. Leverage also creates interest expenses for the Fund. To the extent the income derived from securities purchased with borrowed funds exceeds the interest the Fund will have to pay, the Fund's net income will be greater than it would be if leverage were not used. Conversely, if the income from the assets obtained with borrowed funds is not sufficient to cover the cost of leveraging, the net income of the Fund will be reduced. The use of derivatives in connection with leverage creates the potential for significant loss. Any leveraging will comply with the applicable requirements of the 1940 Act and the guidance of no-action letters issued by the SEC.

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

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

**Temporary Defensive Positions.** The Fund may, from time to time, take temporary defensive positions that are inconsistent with the Fund's principal investment strategies in an attempt to respond to adverse market, economic, political, or other conditions. During such an unusual set of circumstances, the Fund may hold up to 100% of its portfolios in cash or cash equivalent positions (e.g., money market securities, U.S. Government securities, and/or similar securities). When the Fund takes a temporary defensive position, the Fund may not be able to achieve its investment objective.

#### **Portfolio Turnover**

Because the Fund has not yet commenced operations, it does not have a portfolio turnover rate to provide.

For the Predecessor Mutual Fund's fiscal years ended February 28, 2002 and 2021, the Predecessor Mutual Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 449% and 417%, respectively.

#### **Cybersecurity Risk**

The Fund, like all companies, may be susceptible to operational and information security risks. Cyber security failures or breaches of the Fund or its service providers or the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result.

# MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

# **Trustees and Officers**

The business and affairs of the Trust are managed by its officers under the oversight of its Board. The Board sets broad policies for the Trust and may appoint Trust officers. The Board oversees the performance of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, and the Trust's other service providers. Each Trustee serves until his or her successor is duly elected or appointed and qualified.

The Board is comprised of four Trustees. One Trustee and certain of the officers of the Trust are directors, officers or employees of the Adviser. The other Trustees (the "Independent Trustees") are not "interested persons" (as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act) of the Trust. The fund complex includes all funds advised by the Adviser ("Fund Complex").

The Trustees, their age, term of office and length of time served, their principal business occupations during the past five years, the number of portfolios in the Fund Complex overseen and other directorships, if any, held by each Trustee, are shown below. The officers, their age, term of office and length of time served and their principal business occupations during the past five years are shown below. Unless noted otherwise, the address of each Trustee and each Officer is: c/o EA Series Trust, 19 East Eagle Road, Havertown, PA 19083.

Name, Address, and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years
Independent Truste	es				
Daniel Dorn Born: 1975	Trustee	Since 2014	Associate Professor of Finance, Drexel University, LeBow College of Business (2003 – present).	33	None
Michael S. Pagano, Ph.D., CFA® Born: 1962	Trustee	Since 2014	The Robert J. and Mary Ellen Darretta Endowed Chair in Finance, Villanova University (1999 – present); Co-Editor of The Financial Review (2023 – present); Founder, Michael S. Pagano, LLC (business consulting firm) (2008 – present).		Citadel Federal Credit Union (pro bono service for non-profit)
Chukwuemeka (Emeka) O. Oguh Born: 1983	Trustee	Since 2018	Co-founder and CEO, PeopleJoy (2016 - present).	33	None
Interested Trustee*					
Wesley R. Gray, Ph.D. Born: 1980	Trustee and President	Since 2014	Founder and Executive Managing Member, EA Advisers (2013 - present); Founder and Executive Managing Member, Empirical Finance, LLC d/b/a Alpha Architect (2010 - present).		None

\* Dr. Gray is an "interested person," as defined by the Investment Company Act, because of his employment with and ownership interest in the Adviser.

Name, Address, and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
John Vogel, Ph.D. Born: 1983	Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer	Since 2014	Managing Member, EA Advisers (2013 - present); Managing Member, Empirical Finance, LLC d/b/a Alpha Architect (2012 - present).
Jessica Leighty Born: 1981	Chief Compliance Officer	Since 2022	Chief Compliance Officer Alpha Architect (2021-present); Chief Compliance Officer, Snow Capital (2015-2021).
Patrick R. Cleary Born: 1982	Secretary	Since 2015	Managing Member, Alpha Architect, LLC (2014 – present); Chief Executive Officer of EA Advisers (2021 – present).
Sean Hegarty Born: 1993	Assistant Treasurer	Since 2022	Chief Operating Officer, EA Advisers (2022 - present); Assistant Vice President - Fund Administration, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (2018 - 2022); Staff Accountant, Cohen & Company (2015 - 2018).

# **Trustee Qualifications**

Information on the Trust's Trustees and Officers appears above including information on the business activities of Trustees during the past five years. In addition to personal qualities, such as integrity, the role of an effective Trustee inherently requires the ability to comprehend, discuss and critically analyze materials and issues presented in exercising judgments and reaching informed conclusions relevant to his duties and fiduciary obligations. The Board believes that the specific background of each Trustee evidences such ability and is appropriate to his serving on the Board. As indicated, Dr. Dorn holds an academic position in the area of finance. Dr. Pagano holds an academic position in the area of finance. Dr. Gray is the Founder and Executive Managing Member of the Adviser and Empirical Finance, LLC d/b/a Alpha Architect. Mr. Oguh is a financial technology entrepreneur, business executive and former mutual fund / ETF analyst.

#### **Board Structure**

Dr. Gray is considered to be an Interested Trustee and serves as Chairman of the Board. The Chairman's responsibilities include: setting an agenda for each meeting of the Board; presiding at all meetings of the Board and, if present, meetings of the Independent Trustees; and, serving as a liaison between the other Trustees, Trust officers, management personnel and counsel.

The Board believes that having an interested Chairman, who is familiar with the Adviser and its operations, while also having threefourths of the Board composed of Independent Trustees, strikes an appropriate balance that allows the Board to benefit from the insights and perspective of a representative of management while empowering the Independent Trustees with the ultimate decision-making authority. The Board has not appointed a lead Independent Trustee at this time. The Board does not believe that an independent Chairman or lead Independent Trustee would enhance the Board's effectiveness, as the relatively small size of the Board allows for diverse viewpoints to be shared and for effective communications between and among Independent Trustees and management so that meetings proceed efficiently. Independent Trustees have effective control over the Board's agenda because they form more than a majority of the Board and can request presentations and agenda topics at Board meetings.

The Board intends to hold four regularly scheduled meetings each year, at least two of which shall be in person (or during the current Covid pandemic, virtually, via video conference). The Board may also hold special meetings, as needed, either in person, by telephone, or virtually (if permitted), to address matters arising between regular meetings. The Independent Trustees meet separately at each regularly scheduled in-person (or virtually, if permitted) meeting of the Board; during a portion of each such separate meeting management is not present. The Independent Trustees may also hold special meetings, as needed, either in person, by telephone, or virtually (if permitted).

The Board conducts a self-assessment on an annual basis, as part of which it considers whether the structure of the Board and its Committees is appropriate under the circumstances. Based on such self-assessment, among other things, the Board will consider whether its current structure is appropriate. As part of this self-assessment, the Board will consider several factors, including the number of funds overseen by the Board, their investment objectives, and the responsibilities entrusted to the Adviser and other service providers with respect to the oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Trust and the Fund Complex.

The Board sets broad policies for the Trust and may appoint Trust officers. The Board oversees the performance of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, and the Trust's other service providers. As part of its oversight function, the Board monitors each of the Adviser's and Sub-Adviser's risk management, including, as applicable, its management of investment, compliance and operational risks, through the receipt of periodic reports and presentations. The Board has not established a standing risk committee. Rather, the Board relies on Trust officers, advisory personnel and service providers to manage applicable risks and report exceptions to the Board in order to enable it to exercise its oversight responsibility. To this end, the Board receives reports from such parties at least quarterly, including, but not limited to, investment and/or performance reports, distribution reports, Rule 12b-1 reports, valuation reports and internal controls reports. Similarly, the Board receives quarterly reports from the Trust's chief compliance officer ("CCO"), including, but not limited to, a report on the Trust's compliance program, and the Independent Trustees have an opportunity to meet separate ly each quarter with the CCO. The CCO typically provides the Board with updates regarding the Trust's compliance policies and procedures, including any enhancements to them. The Board expects all parties, including, but not limited to, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, service providers and the CCO, to inform the Board on an intra-quarter basis if a material issue arises that requires the Board's oversight.

The Board generally exercises its oversight as a whole but has delegated certain oversight functions to an Audit Committee. The function of the Audit Committee is discussed in detail below.

#### Committees

The Board currently has two standing committees: an Audit Committee and a Nominating Committee. Each Independent Trustee serves on each of these committees.

The purposes of the Audit Committee are to: (1) oversee generally the Fund Complex's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, their internal controls and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers; (2) oversee the quality, integrity and objectivity of the Fund Complex's financial statements and the independent audit thereof; (3) assist the full Board with its oversight of the Trust's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements that relate to the Fund Complex's accounting and financial reporting, internal controls and independent audits; (4) approve, prior to appointment, the engagement of the Trust's independent auditors and, in connection therewith, to review and evaluate the qualifications, independence and performance of the Trust's independent auditors; and (5) act as a liaison between the Trust's independent auditors and the full Board. For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2022, the Audit Committee met 7 times.

The purposes of the Nominating Committee are, among other things, to: (1) identify and recommend for nomination candidates to serve as Trustees and/or on Board committees who are not "interested persons" as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act ("Interested Persons") of the Trust and who meet any independence requirements of Exchange Rule 5.3(k)(1) or the applicable rule of any other exchange on which shares of the Trust are listed; (2) evaluate and make recommendations to the full Board regarding potential trustee candidates who are Interested Persons of the Trust; and (3) review periodically the workload and capabilities of the Trustees and, as the Committee deems appropriate, to make recommendations to the Board if such a review suggests that changes to the size or composition of the Board and/or its committees are warranted. The Committee will generally not consider potential candidates for nomination identified by shareholders. For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2022, the Nominating Committee did not meet as there were no Board vacancies.

#### **Compensation of Trustees**

The Trust's officers and any interested Trustees receive no compensation directly from the Trust.

The Independent Trustees determine the amount of compensation that they receive. In determining compensation for the Independent Trustees, the Independent Trustees take into account a variety of factors including, among other things, their collective significant work experience (*e.g.*, in business and finance, government or academia). The Independent Trustees also recognize that these individuals' advice and counsel are in demand by other organizations, that these individuals may reject other opportunities because of the time demands of their duties as Independent Trustees, and that they undertake significant legal responsibilities. The Independent Trustees also consider the compensation paid to independent board members of other registered investment company complexes of comparable size.

Independent Trustees are paid an annual retainer of \$2,000 per Fund for their services, including attendance at meetings of the Board. All Trustees are reimbursed for their travel expenses and other reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attending Board meetings. In addition, each Independent Trustee is entitled to reimbursement for reasonable travel and other out-of-pocket expenses up to \$3,000 per calendar year for educational resources, including attending educational programs to stay informed about industry and regulatory developments. The Trust does not accrue pension or retirement benefits as part of the Fund's expenses, and Trustees are not entitled to benefits upon retirement from the Board.

The table shows the compensation paid to Trustees for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2022 by the Fund Complex.\*

	Compensation		Total Compensation from the Fund Complex Paid to Trustee
Independent Trustees	-	• •	
Emeka O. Oguh	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
Daniel Dorn	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
Michael S. Pagano	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
Interested Trustee			
Wesley R. Gray**	\$0	\$0	\$0

\* The Adviser, and not the Fund, is responsible for compensating the Trustees.

\*\* Dr. Gray is an "interested person," as defined by the Investment Company Act, because of his employment with and ownership interest in the Adviser.

#### **Equity Ownership of Trustees**

The following table sets forth the name and dollar range of equity securities of the Fund owned by Trustees as of December 31, 2022.

	Dollar Range of Equity Securities Owned	
	Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF	Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares (All Funds in the Complex)
Independent Trustees		
Emeka O. Oguh	\$0	\$1-\$10,000
Daniel Dorn	\$0	\$10,001 - \$50,000
Michael S. Pagano	\$0	\$50,001 - \$100,000
Interested Trustee		
Wesley R. Gray	\$0	Over \$100,000

As of the date of this SAI, the Fund had not commenced operations. Therefore, none of the Independent Trustees or their immediate family members beneficially owned any securities in the Fund. Further, as of December 31, 2021, none of the Independent Trustees or their immediate family members beneficially owned any securities in any investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, or principal underwriter of the Trust, or in any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with an investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, or principal underwriter of the Trust.

#### **Codes of Ethics**

The Board, on behalf of the Trust, has adopted a Code of Ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the Investment Company Act. In addition, each of the Adviser and Sub-Adviser has adopted a Code of Ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1. These Codes of Ethics (each a "Code of Ethics" and together the "Codes of Ethics") apply to the personal investing activities of trustees, directors, officers and certain employees ("access persons"). Rule 17j-1 and the Codes of Ethics are designed to prevent unlawful practices in connection with the purchase or sale of securities by access persons. Under each Code of Ethics, access persons are permitted to engage in personal securities transactions, but are required to report their personal securities transactions for monitoring purposes. In addition, certain access persons are required to obtain approval before investing in private placements and are prohibited from investing in initial public offerings ("IPOs"). Copies of the Codes of Ethics are on file with the SEC, and are available to the public.

Under its Code of Ethics, the personnel of the Adviser are permitted to invest in the same securities as held by the Fund. However, the trading of such investments is subject to blackout periods. While the Code of Ethics is reasonably designed to prevent conflicts arising from personal securities transactions by access persons there can be no assurance that these policies and procedures will be effective, however.

The Sub-Adviser's Code of Ethics is designed to prevent affiliated persons of the Sub-Adviser from engaging in deceptive, manipulative, or fraudulent activities in connection with securities held or to be acquired by the Fund (which securities may also be held by persons subject to each such code of ethics). There can be no assurance that the Code of Ethics will be effective in preventing such activities. The Code of Ethics permit employees and officers of the Sub-Adviser to invest in securities held by the Fund, subject to certain restrictions and pre-approval requirements. In addition, the Sub-Adviser's code requires that portfolio managers and other investment personnel of the Sub-Adviser report their personal securities transactions and holdings, which are reviewed for compliance with the respective codes of ethics.

### **Proxy Voting**

The Board has delegated to the Adviser the responsibility to vote proxies related to the securities held in the Fund's portfolio. Under this authority, the Adviser is required by the Board to vote proxies related to portfolio securities in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. The Adviser will vote such proxies in accordance with its proxy policies and procedures, which are included in <u>Appendix</u> <u>A</u> to this SAI. The Board will periodically review the Fund's proxy voting record.

The Trust will annually disclose its complete proxy voting record for the year ended June 30 on Form N-PX. The Trust's most recent Form N-PX is available without charge, upon request, by calling (215) 882-9983. The Trust's Form N-PX also is available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

# CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

The Adviser owns all the initial Shares issued by the Fund prior to commencement of investment operations and the public launch of the Fund. The Fund had not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI.

#### Management ownership

The Fund had not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI.

# **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES**

#### **Investment Advisory Agreement**

Under an investment advisory agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, and the Adviser (the "Advisory Agreement"), the Fund pays the Adviser a fee at an annualized rate, which is calculated daily and paid monthly, based on its average daily net assets, set forth in the table below:

Advisory Fee

0.63%

#### Fund

Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF

The Adviser, in turn, compensates the Sub-Adviser from the management fee the Adviser receives. The Fund had not commenced operations prior to the date of this SAI and therefore, the Fund has not paid management fees to the Adviser as of the date of this SAI.

The Adviser has contractually agreed to waive receipt of its management fees and/or assume expenses of the Fund so that the total annual operating expenses of the Fund, including any AFFE related to any Fund investments in the Alpha Architect 1-3 Month Box ETF, (excluding payments under the Fund's Rule 12b-1 distribution and service plan (if any), brokerage expenses, taxes (including tax-related services), interest (including borrowing costs), litigation expense (including class action-related services) and other non-routine or extraordinary expenses) do not exceed 0.63% of the Fund's average daily net assets. Any acquired fund fees and expenses associated with investments in any acquired funds other than the Alpha Architect 1-3 Month Box ETF are not included in the fee waiver. This agreement may only be changed or terminated by a vote of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities.

The Adviser reviews and supervises the activities of the Sub-Adviser with respect to the Fund. Notwithstanding the delegation of discretionary authority to the Sub-Adviser, the Adviser retains primary responsibility with respect to all matters relating to the Fund. The Adviser is a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Pennsylvania. The address of the Adviser is 19 East Eagle Road, Havertown, PA 19083. The Adviser is wholly-owned by Alpha Architect LLC. The Adviser was founded in October 2013 and provides investment advisory services to registered investment companies.

The following table summarizes the affiliated persons of the Fund that are also affiliated persons of the Adviser.

NAME	AFFILIATION WITH FUNDS	AFFILIATION WITH ADVISER
Wesley R. Gray, PhD	Trustee and President	Portfolio Manager
John R. Vogel	Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer	Chief Investment Officer
Jessica Leighty	Chief Compliance Officer	Chief Compliance Officer
Patrick R. Cleary	Secretary	Chief Executive Officer
Sean Hegarty	Assistant Treasurer	Chief Operating Officer

Under the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser bears all of the costs of the Fund, except for the advisory fee, payments under the Fund's Rule 12b-1 Distribution and Service Plan (the "Plan"), brokerage expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses (including affiliated funds' fees and expenses), taxes (including tax-related services), interest (including borrowing costs), litigation expenses (including class action-related services) and other non-routine or extraordinary expenses (including litigation to which the Trust or the Fund may be a party and indemnification of the Trustees and officers with respect thereto).

The Advisory Agreement with respect to the Fund will remain in effect for an initial term of two years from its effective date and thereafter continue in effect for as long as its continuance is specifically approved at least annually, by (1) the vote of the Trustees or by a vote of a majority of the shareholders of the Fund, and (2) by the vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the Advisory Agreement or Interested Persons of any person thereto, cast in person (or virtually, if permitted) at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Advisory Agreement for the Fund provides that it may be terminated at any time, without the payment of any penalty, by the Board or, with respect to the Fund, by a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund, on 60 days' written notice to the Adviser, and by the Adviser upon 60 days' written notice, and that it shall be automatically terminated if it is assigned.

# **Investment Sub-Adviser**

The Trust, on behalf of the Fund, and the Adviser have retained Arin Risk Advisors, LLC (the "Sub-Adviser" or "Arin"), 1100 East Hector Street, Suite 215, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428-2980, to serve as sub-adviser for the Fund. Subject to the supervision and oversight of the Adviser and the Board, and pursuant to a Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser (the "Sub-Advisory Agreement"), the Sub-Adviser has discretion to purchase and sell securities in accordance with the Fund's objectives, policies, and restrictions. The Sub-Adviser continuously reviews, supervises, and administers the Fund's investment program subject to oversight by the Adviser.

For the services it provides to the Fund, the Sub-Adviser is entitled to receive a management fee, which is calculated daily and payable monthly, at an annual rate based on the Fund's average daily net assets multiplied by the sub-advisory fee of 30 basis points (0.30%). The payment of a management fee by the Adviser to the Sub-Adviser is subject to the terms of the Fund sponsorship agreement described below.

The Sub-Advisory Agreement was approved by the Trustees (including all the Independent Trustees) and holders of a majority of the outstanding Shares, in compliance with the 1940 Act. The Sub-Advisory Agreement will continue in force for an initial period of two years. Thereafter, the Sub-Advisory Agreement is renewable from year to year with respect to the Fund, so long as its continuance is approved at least annually (1) by the vote, cast in person at a meeting called for that purpose, of a majority of those Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust; and (2) by the majority vote of either the full Board or the vote of a majority of the outstanding Shares. The Sub-Advisory Agreement will terminate automatically in the event of its assignment, and is terminable at any time without penalty by vote of a majority of the Board or, with respect to the Fund, by a majority of the outstanding Shares of the Fund, or by the Adviser, upon 60 days' written notice to the Sub-Adviser, or by the Sub-Adviser on 90 days' written notice to the Adviser and the Trust. The Sub-Advisory Agreement provides that the Sub-Adviser shall not be protected against any liability to the Trust or its shareholders by reason of willful misfeasance, fraud, bad faith or gross negligence on its part in the performance of its duties or from reckless disregard of its obligations or duties thereunder.

The following table summarizes the affiliated persons of the Fund that are also affiliated persons of the Sub-Adviser.

NAME	AFFILIATION WITH FUND	AFFILIATION WITH SUB-ADVISER
Lawrence Lempert	Portfolio Manager	Trading Director and Chief Compliance Officer
Joseph DeSipio	Portfolio Manager	Co-Founder and Chief Market Strategist

The Fund is new and the Adviser has not paid management fees to the Sub-Adviser as of the date of this SAI.

For its services to the Predecessor Mutual Fund, the Predecessor Adviser was entitled to a fee at the annual rate (stated as a percentage of the Predecessor Mutual Fund's respective average daily net assets) of 0.40%. Management fees paid by the Predecessor Mutual Fund to the Predecessor Adviser were as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended	Advisory Fees Paid	Waived Advisory Fees
2/28/2022	\$727,243	\$0
2/28/2021	\$565,855	\$0
2/28/2020	\$397,856	\$0

#### Sponsor

The Adviser has entered into a fund sponsorship agreement with the Sub-Adviser, under which the Sub-Adviser assumes the Adviser's obligation to pay some of the Fund's expenses, including its own sub-advisory fee. Although the Sub-Adviser has agreed to be responsible for paying some of the Fund's expenses, the Adviser retains the ultimate obligation to the Fund to pay them. The Sub-Adviser will also provide marketing support for the Fund, including preparing marketing materials related to the Fund. For these services and payments, the Sub-Adviser is entitled to share in the potential profits generated by the management and operation of the Fund based on the success of the Fund.

#### Custodian

U.S. Bank National Association (the "Custodian"), located at 1555 North Rivercenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, WI 53212, serves as the Custodian of the Fund's assets. The Custodian has agreed to: (1) make receipts and disbursements of money on behalf of the Fund, (2) collect and receive all income and other payments and distributions on account of the Fund's portfolio investments and (3) make periodic reports to the Fund concerning the Fund's operations. The Custodian does not exercise any supervisory function over the purchase and sale of securities. As compensation for these services, the Custodian receives certain out-of-pocket costs, transaction fees and asset-based fees which are accrued daily and paid monthly by the Adviser from its fees.

#### Administrator, Fund Accountant and Transfer Agent

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services, (the "Administrator" or "Transfer Agent"), located at 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202, serves as Administrator and Fund Accountant to the Fund. The Administrator provides the Fund with all required general administrative services, including, without limitation, clerical and general back office services; bookkeeping, internal accounting and secretarial services; the calculation of NAV; and the preparation and filing of all reports, updates to registration statements, and all other materials required to be filed or furnished by the Fund under federal and state securities laws. As compensation for these services, the Administrator receives certain out-of-pocket costs, transaction fees and asset-based fees which are accrued daily and paid monthly by the Adviser from its fees.

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC also serves as the Transfer Agent of the Fund's assets. The Transfer Agent has agreed to: (1) issue and redeem shares of the Fund in Creation Units, (2) make dividend and other distributions to shareholders of the Fund, (3) maintain shareholder accounts and (4) make periodic reports to the Fund. As compensation for these services, the Transfer Agent receives certain out-of-pocket costs and transaction fees which are accrued daily and paid monthly by the Adviser from its fees.

The Fund has not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI and therefore does not have any information regarding fees paid to the Administrator to report as of the date of this SAI.

#### **Securities Lending Agent**

U.S. Bank National Association is the Fund's securities lending agent. As of the date of this SAI, the Fund had not commenced operations and therefore did not have any securities lending information to report.

The Predecessor Mutual Fund did not engage in securities lending for the fiscal year ending February 28, 2022.

#### **PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

The following table shows the number of other accounts managed by the portfolio managers and the reporting information is provided as of December 31, 2022:

The following information is applicable to Lawrence Lempert:

Type of Accounts	Total Number of Accounts	Total Assets of Accounts (millions)	Total Number of Accounts with Performance Based Fees	Total Assets of Accounts with Performance Based Fees (millions)
Registered Investment Companies	1	\$50	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	\$2.8	1	\$2.8
Other Accounts	140	\$120	0	\$0

The following information is applicable to Joseph DeSipio:

Type of Accounts	Total Number of Accounts	Total Assets of Accounts (millions)	Total Number of Accounts with Performance Based Fees	Total Assets of Accounts with Performance Based Fees (millions)
Registered Investment Companies	1	\$50	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Accounts	140	\$120	0	\$0

The Fund had not commenced operation as of the date of this SAI, so the Portfolio Managers did not have any equity ownership in the Fund as of the date of this SAI.

# **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

# Sub-Adviser – Portfolio Managers

Each portfolio manager's management of "other accounts" may give rise to potential conflicts of interest in connection with his management of the Fund's investments, on the one hand, and the investments of the other accounts, on the other. The other accounts consist of separately managed private clients ("Other Accounts"). The Other Accounts might have similar investment objectives as the Fund, be compared to the same index as the Fund, or otherwise hold, purchase, or sell securities that are eligible to be held, purchased, or sold by the Fund.

<u>Knowledge of the Timing and Size of Fund Trades</u>: A potential conflict of interest may arise as a result of the portfolio manager's dayto-day management of the Fund. The portfolio manager knows the size and timing of trades for the Fund and the Other Accounts, and may be able to predict the market impact of Fund trades. It is theoretically possible that the portfolio manager could use this information to the advantage of Other Accounts it manages and to the possible detriment of the Fund, or vice versa.

<u>Investment Opportunities</u>: The Sub-Adviser provides investment supervisory services for a number of investment products that have varying investment guidelines. The portfolio manager works across different investment products. Differences in the compensation structures of the Sub-Adviser's investment products may give rise to a conflict of interest by creating an incentive for the Sub-Adviser to allocate the investment opportunities it believes might be the most profitable to the client accounts where it might benefit the most from the investment gains.

# Compensation

# Sub-Adviser – Portfolio Managers

The portfolio managers' compensation varies with the general success of the Sub-Adviser as a firm. Each portfolio manager's compensation is variable in that it is based on net revenue after all firm expenses and profit sharing. The portfolio managers' compensation is not directly linked to the Fund's performance, although positive performance and growth in managed assets are factors that may contribute to the Sub-Adviser's distributable profits and assets under management.

# PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE

#### **Brokerage Selection**

The Sub-Adviser executes portfolio transactions for the Fund. The Sub-Adviser may not give consideration to sales of shares of the Fund as a factor in selecting broker-dealers to execute portfolio securities transactions. The Sub-Adviser may, however, place portfolio transactions with broker-dealers that promote or sell the Fund's shares so long as such transactions are done in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Trustees that are designed to ensure that the selection is based on the quality of the broker's execution and not on its sales efforts. In selecting brokers to be used in portfolio transactions, the Sub-Adviser seeks to obtain the best overall execution for each trade, which is a combination of price and execution. With respect to execution, the Sub-Adviser considers a number of discretionary factors, including, without limitation, the actual handling of the order, the ability of the broker to settle the trade promptly and accurately, the financial standing of the broker, the ability of the broker to position stock to facilitate execution, the Sub-Adviser's past experience with similar trades, and other factors that may be unique to a particular order. Recognizing the value of these discretionary factors, the Sub-Adviser may select brokers who charge a brokerage commission that is higher than the lowest commission that might otherwise be available for any given trade.

The Fund's fixed income portfolio transactions may be executed through broker-dealers on an agency basis or be principal transactions executed in OTC markets on a "net" basis, which may include a dealer mark up. Where possible, the Sub-Adviser will deal directly with the broker-dealers who make a market in the securities involved except in those circumstances where better prices and execution are available elsewhere. Such broker-dealers usually act as principal for their own account.

The Fund may participate, if and when practicable, in bidding for the purchase of Fund securities directly from an issuer in order to take advantage of the lower purchase price available to members of a bidding group. The Fund will engage in this practice, however, only when the Sub-Adviser, in its sole discretion, believes such practice to be otherwise in the Fund's interest.

Aggregated Trades. While investment decisions for the Fund are made independently of the Sub-Adviser's other client accounts, the Sub-Adviser's other client accounts may invest in the same securities as the Fund. To the extent permitted by law, the Sub-Adviser may aggregate the securities to be sold or purchased for the Fund with those to be sold or purchased for other investment companies or accounts in executing transactions. When a purchase or sale of the same security is made at substantially the same time on behalf of the Fund and another investment company or account, the transaction will be averaged as to price and available investments allocated as to amount in a manner which the Sub-Adviser believes to be equitable to the Fund and such other investment company or account. In some instances, this investment procedure may adversely affect the price paid or received by the Fund or the size of the position obtained or sold by the Fund.

The Fund had not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI and therefore does not have any information to report regarding brokerage commissions it has paid.

For the Predecessor Mutual Fund's fiscal years ended February 28, 2022, 2021 and 2020, the Fund paid brokerage commissions in the following amounts: \$111,106, \$177,229 and \$107,310, respectively.

#### **Brokerage with Fund Affiliates**

Although not expected, the Fund may execute brokerage or other agency transactions through registered broker-dealer affiliates of the Fund, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, or the Distributor for a commission in conformity with the Investment Company Act, the 1934 Act and rules promulgated by the SEC. Under the Investment Company Act and the 1934 Act, affiliated broker-dealers are permitted to receive and retain compensation for effecting portfolio transactions for the Fund on an exchange if a written contract is in effect between the affiliate and the Fund expressly permitting the affiliate to receive and retain such compensation. These rules further require that commissions paid to the affiliate by the Fund for exchange transactions not exceed "usual and customary" brokerage commissions. The rules define "usual and customary" commissions to include amounts that are "reasonable and fair compared to the commission, fee or other remuneration received or to be received by other brokers in connection with comparable transactions involving similar securities being purchased or sold on a securities exchange during a comparable period of time." The Board, including those who are not "interested persons" of the Fund, has adopted procedures for evaluating the reasonableness of commissions paid to affiliates and reviews these procedures periodically.

#### Securities of "Regular Broker-Dealers"

The Fund is required to identify any securities of its "regular brokers and dealers" (as such term is defined in the Investment Company Act) that the Fund may hold at the close of its most recent fiscal year. "Regular brokers and dealers" of the Trust are the ten brokers or dealers that, during the most recent fiscal year: (i) received the greatest dollar amounts of brokerage commissions from the Trust's portfolio transactions; (ii) engaged as principal in the largest dollar amounts of portfolio transactions of the Trust; or (iii) sold the largest dollar amounts of the Trust's shares.

The Fund has not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI and therefore did not hold any securities of "regular broker dealers".

### THE DISTRIBUTOR

Quasar Distributors, LLC (the "Distributor"), located at 111 E. Kilbourn Ave, Suite 2200, Milwaukee, WI 53202, serves as the Distributor for the Fund.

Shares will be continuously offered for sale by the Trust through the Distributor only in Creation Units, as described below under "Transactions in Creation Units." Shares in less than Creation Units are not distributed by the Distributor. The Distributor also acts as agent for the Trust. The Distributor will deliver a Prospectus to persons purchasing Shares in Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders placed with it and confirmations of acceptance furnished by it. The Distributor is a broker-dealer registered under the 1934 Act and a member of FINRA. The Distributor has no role in determining the investment policies of the Fund or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Fund.

The Board has adopted the Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act. In accordance with its Plan, the Fund is authorized to pay an amount of 0.25% of its average daily net assets each year for certain distribution-related activities. The Plan was adopted in order to permit the implementation of the Fund's method of distribution. No fees are currently paid by the Fund under the Plan. In the event such fees were to be charged, over time they would increase the cost of an investment in the Fund because they would be paid on an ongoing basis. If fees were charged under each Plan, the Trustees would receive and review at the end of each quarter a written report provided by the Distributor of the amounts expended under the Plan and the purpose for which such expenditures were made.

The Plan will remain in effect for a period of one year and is renewable from year to year with respect to the Fund, so long as its continuance is approved at least annually (1) by the vote of a majority of the Trustees, and (2) by a vote of the majority of those Independent Trustees who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the Plan (the "Rule 12b-1 Trustees"), cast in person (or virtually, if permitted) at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Plan may not be amended to increase materially the amount of fees paid by the Fund unless such amendment is approved by an Investment Company Act majority vote of the outstanding shares and by the Fund Trustees in the manner described above. The Plan is terminable with respect to the Fund at any time by a vote of a majority of the Rule 12b-1 Trustees or by an Investment Company Act majority vote of the outstanding shares.

# ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

# Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Cohen & Company, Ltd., 342 North Water Street, Suite 830, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, serves as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for auditing the annual financial statements of the Fund.

# Legal Counsel

Practus, LLP, 11300 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 310, Leawood, Kansas 662119087, serves as legal counsel to the Trust.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING SHARES

#### **Organization and Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest**

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust and registered open-end investment company. The Trust was organized on October 11, 2013, and has authorized capital of an unlimited number of Shares of beneficial interest of no par value that may be issued in more than one class or series. Currently, the Trust consists of 33 series, including the Fund discussed in this SAI. The Board may designate additional series and classify Shares of a particular series into one or more classes of that series.

Under Delaware law, the Trust is not required to hold an annual meeting of shareholders if the Investment Company Act does not require such a meeting, which it does not. Generally, there will not be annual meetings of Trust shareholders, but if requested in writing by shareholders of at least 25% of the outstanding Shares of the Trust, the Trust will call a meeting of shareholders. Shareholders holding two-thirds of Shares outstanding of the Trust may remove Trustees from office by votes cast at a meeting of Trust shareholders or by written consent.

All Shares are freely transferable. Shares will not have pre-emptive rights or cumulative voting rights, and none of the Shares will have any preference to conversion, exchange, dividends, retirements, liquidation, redemption or any other feature. Shares have equal voting rights. The Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust confers upon the Board the power, by resolution, to alter the number of Shares constituting a Creation Unit or to specify that Shares of the Fund may be individually redeemable. The Trust reserves the right to adjust the stock prices of Shares to maintain convenient trading ranges for investors. Any such adjustments would be accomplished through stock splits or reverse stock splits that would have no effect on the NAV of the Fund.

The Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust disclaims liability of the shareholders or the officers of the Trust for acts or obligations of the Trust that are binding only on the assets and property of the Trust. The Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides for indemnification out of the Fund's property for all loss and expense of the Fund's shareholders being held personally liable solely by reason of his or her being or having been a shareholder and not because of his or her acts or omissions or for some other reason. The risk of a Trust shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the Fund itself would not be able to meet the Trust's obligations and this risk should be considered remote.

If the Fund does not grow to a size to permit it to be economically viable, the Fund may cease operations. In such an event, shareholders may be required to liquidate or transfer their Shares at an inopportune time and shareholders may lose money on their investment.

# **Book Entry Only System**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Prospectus entitled "Book Entry."

DTC acts as Securities Depository for Shares. Shares of the Fund are represented by securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee and deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC.

DTC, a limited purpose trust company, was created to hold securities of its participants (the "DTC Participants") and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among the DTC Participants in such securities through electronic book entry changes in accounts of the DTC Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. DTC Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of whom (and/or their representatives) own DTC. More specifically, DTC is owned by a number of its DTC Participants and by the NYSE, NYSE Amex Equities and FINRA. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC Participant, either directly or indirectly (the "Indirect Participants").

Beneficial ownership of Shares is limited to DTC Participants, Indirect Participants and persons holding interests through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in Shares (owners of such beneficial interests are referred to herein as "Beneficial Owners") is shown on, and the transfer of ownership is effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to DTC Participants) and on the records of DTC Participants (with respect to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners that are not DTC Participants). Beneficial Owners will receive from or through the DTC Participant a written confirmation relating to their purchase and sale of Shares.

Conveyance of all notices, statements and other communications to Beneficial Owners is effected as follows. Pursuant to the Depositary Agreement between the Trust and DTC, DTC is required to make available to the Trust upon request and for a fee to be charged to the Trust a listing of the Shares of the Fund held by each DTC Participant. The Trust shall inquire of each such DTC Participant as to the number of Beneficial Owners holding Shares, directly or indirectly, through such DTC Participant. The Trust shall provide each such DTC Participant with copies of such notice, statement or other communication, in such form, number and at such place as such DTC Participant may reasonably request, in order that such notice, statement or communication may be transmitted by such DTC Participant, directly or indirectly, to such Beneficial Owners. In addition, the Trust shall pay to each such DTC Participant a fair and reasonable amount as reimbursement for the expenses attendant to such transmittal, all subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Fund distributions shall be made to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., as the registered holder of all Shares. DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any such distributions, shall immediately credit DTC Participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in Shares of the Fund as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. Payments by DTC Participants to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners of Shares held through such DTC Participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, and will be the responsibility of such DTC Participants.

The Trust has no responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or notices to Beneficial Owners, or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in such Shares, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests, or for any other aspect of the relationship between DTC and the DTC Participants or the relationship between such DTC Participants and the Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners owning through such DTC Participants.

DTC may decide to discontinue providing its service with respect to Shares at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Trust and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law. Under such circumstances, the Trust shall take action to find a replacement for DTC to perform its functions at a comparable cost.

#### **Transactions in Creation Units**

The Fund sells and redeems Shares in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load, at the NAV next determined after receipt of an order in proper form on any Business Day. As of the date of this SAI, the Exchange observes the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Washington's Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. The Fund will not issue fractional Creation Units.

A Creation Unit is an aggregation of 10,000 Shares. The Board may declare a split or a consolidation in the number of Shares outstanding of the Fund or Trust, and make a corresponding change in the number of Shares in a Creation Unit.

To purchase or redeem any Creation Units from the Fund, you must be, or transact through, an Authorized Participant. In order to be an Authorized Participant, you must be either a broker-dealer or other participant ("Participating Party") in the Continuous Net Settlement System ("Clearing Process") of the NSCC or a participant in DTC with access to the DTC system ("DTC Participant"), and you must execute an agreement ("Participant Agreement") with the Distributor that governs transactions in the Fund's Creation Units.

Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a Participating Party using the NSCC system are referred to as transactions "through the Clearing Process." Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a DTC Participant using the DTC system are referred to as transactions "outside the Clearing Process."

Investors who are not Authorized Participants but want to transact in Creation Units may contact the Distributor for the names of Authorized Participants. An Authorized Participant may require investors to enter into a separate agreement to transact through it for Creation Units and may require orders for purchases of shares placed with it to be in a particular form. Investors should be aware that their broker may not be an Authorized Participant and, therefore, may need to place any order to purchase or redeem Creation Units through another broker or person that is an Authorized Participant, which may result in additional charges. There are expected to be a limited number of Authorized Participants at any one time.

Orders must be transmitted by an Authorized Participant by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Distributor pursuant to procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement. Market disruptions and telephone or other communication failures may impede the transmission of orders.

#### **Purchasing Creation Units**

**Fund Deposit**. The consideration for purchase of Creation Units is generally all cash ("Cash Value"). However, in some cases the consideration for a Creation Unit of the Fund is the Fund Deposit. In these instances, the Fund Deposit will consist of the In-Kind Creation Basket and Cash Component, as determined by the Sub-Adviser to be in the best interest of the Fund.

The Cash Component may include a "Balancing Amount" reflecting the difference, if any, between the NAV of a Creation Unit and the market value of the securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket. If the NAV per Creation Unit exceeds the market value of the securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket, the purchaser pays the Balancing Amount to the Fund. By contrast, if the NAV per Creation Unit is less than the market value of the securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket, the Fund pays the Balancing Amount to the purchaser. The Balancing Amount ensures that the consideration paid by an investor for a Creation Unit is exactly equal to the value of the Creation Unit.

The Transfer Agent, in a portfolio composition file sent via the NSCC, generally makes available on each Business Day, immediately prior to the opening of business on the Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern time), a list of the names and the required number of shares of each security or contracts of each option in the In-Kind Creation Basket to be included in the current Fund Deposit for the Fund (based on information about the Fund's portfolio at the end of the previous Business Day) (subject to amendment or correction). If applicable, the Transfer Agent, through the NSCC, also makes available on each Business Day, the estimated Cash Component or Cash Value, effective through and including the previous Business Day, per Creation Unit.

The announced Fund Deposit is applicable, subject to any adjustments as described below, for purchases of Creation Units of the Fund until such time as the next-announced Fund Deposit is made available. From day to day, the composition of the In-Kind Creation Basket may change as, among other things, corporate actions and investment decisions by the Adviser are implemented for the Fund's portfolio. All questions as to the composition of the In-Kind Creation Basket and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities shall be determined by the Fund, and the Fund's determination shall be final and binding. The Fund reserves the right to accept a nonconforming (*i.e.*, custom) Fund Deposit.

Payment of any stamp duty or the like shall be the sole responsibility of the Authorized Participant purchasing a Creation Unit. The Authorized Participant must ensure that all Deposit Securities properly denote change in beneficial ownership.

*Cash in lieu.* The Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit or require the substitution of an amount of cash ("cash in lieu") to be added to the Cash Component to replace any security in the In-Kind Creation Basket. The Fund may permit or require cash in lieu when, for example, the securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process. Similarly, the Fund may permit or require cash in lieu when, for example, the Authorized Participant or its underlying investor is restricted under U.S. or local securities law or policies from transacting in one or more securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket. The Fund will comply with the federal securities laws in accepting securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket that are sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the 1933 Act. All orders involving cash in lieu are considered to be "custom orders."

**Order Cut-Off Time**. For an order involving a Creation Unit to be effectuated at the Fund's NAV on a particular day, it must be received by the Distributor by or before the deadline for such order ("Order Cut-Off Time"). The Business Day following the day on which such an order is submitted to purchase Creation Units of such Funds is referred to as the "Order Placement Date."

The Order Cut-Off Time for orders, including custom orders, to purchase Creation Units for the Fund is 3:00 p.m. Eastern time. On days when the Exchange or bond markets close earlier than normal (such as the day before a holiday), the Order Cut-Off Time is expected to track the Exchange closing and be similarly earlier than normal.

Custom orders typically clear outside the Clearing Process and, therefore, like other orders outside the Clearing Process, may need to be transmitted early on the relevant Business Day to be effectuated at that day's NAV. A custom order may be placed when, for example, an Authorized Participant cannot transact in a security in the In-Kind Creation or Redemption Basket and additional cash is included in a Fund Deposit or Fund Redemption in lieu of such security.

In all cases, cash and securities should be transferred to the Fund by the "Settlement Date." which, unless extended as noted below, is generally the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date. The Settlement Date may be extended to two Business Days following the Transmittal Date if deemed to be in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders by the Adviser. Persons placing custom orders or orders involving Cash Value should be aware of time deadlines imposed by intermediaries, such as DTC and/or the Federal Reserve Bank wire system, which may delay the delivery of cash and securities by the Settlement Date.

**Placement of Creation Orders**. All purchase orders must be placed by or through an Authorized Participant. To order a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable purchase order to the Distributor. In-kind (portions of) purchase orders will be processed through the Clearing Process when it is available. The Clearing Process is an enhanced clearing process that is available only for certain securities and only to DTC Participants that are also participants in the Clearing Process of the NSCC. In-kind (portions of) purchase orders not subject to the Clearing Process will go through a manual clearing process run by DTC. Fund Deposits that include government securities must be delivered through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system ("Federal Reserve System"). Fund Deposits that include cash may be delivered through the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System. Certain orders for the Fund may be made outside the Clearing Process. In-kind deposits of securities for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is for such orders must be delivered through the Federal Reserve is solved by the Trust or its agents.

**Orders Using Clearing Process**. In connection with creation orders made through the Clearing Process, the Distributor transmits, on behalf of the Authorized Participant, such trade instructions as are necessary to effect the creation order. Pursuant to such trade instructions, the Authorized Participant agrees to deliver the requisite Fund Deposit to the Trust, together with such additional information as may be required by the Distributor. An order to create Creation Units through the Clearing Process is deemed received by the Distributor Transmittal Date if (i) such order is received by the Distributor by the Closing Time on such Transmittal Date and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Cash Components will be delivered using either the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System, as described below.

**Orders Outside Clearing Process**. Fund Deposits made outside the Clearing Process must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that the creation of Creation Units will instead be effected through a transfer of securities and cash directly through DTC. With respect to such orders, the Fund Deposit transfer must be ordered by the DTC Participant on the Transmittal Date in a timely fashion so as to ensure the delivery of the requisite number of securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket (whether standard or custom) through DTC to the relevant Trust account by 11:00 a.m., Eastern time (the "DTC Cut-Off Time") on the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date. The amount of cash equal to the Cash Component, along with any cash in lieu and Transaction Fee, must be transferred directly to the Custodian through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system in a timely manner so as to be received by the Custodian no later than 12:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date. The delivery of government securities through DTC must occur by 3:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date. The delivery of government securities through the Federal Reserve System must occur by 3:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date.

An order to create Creation Units outside the Clearing Process is deemed received by the Distributor on the Transmittal Date if (i) such order is received by the Distributor by the Closing Time on such Transmittal Date and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. If the Custodian does not receive both the required In-Kind Creation Basket by the DTC Cut-Off Time and the Cash Component and applicable Transaction Fee by the appointed time, such order may be cancelled. Upon written notice to the Distributor, a cancelled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day using the Fund Deposit as newly constituted to reflect the then-current In-Kind Creation Basket and Cash Component. Generally, the delivery of Creation Units so created will generally occur no later than the second Business Day following the day on which the order is deemed received by the Distributor. The Settlement Date may be extended to two Business Days following the Transmittal Date if deemed to be in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders by the Adviser. Authorized Participants that submit a cancelled order will be liable to the Fund for any losses resulting therefrom.

While, as stated above, Creation Units are generally delivered the following Business Day, and generally no later than the second Business Day following the day on which the order is deemed received by the Distributor, except the Fund may settle Creation Unit transactions on a basis other than the one described above in order to accommodate foreign market holiday schedules, to account for

different treatment among foreign and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and ex-dividend dates (that is the last day the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security), and in certain other circumstances.

Acceptance of Orders for Creation Units. The Trust reserves the right to reject a creation order transmitted to it by the Distributor in respect of the Fund if: (i) the order is not in proper form; (ii) the investor(s), upon obtaining the Shares, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding Shares of the Fund; (iii) the securities delivered do not conform to the In-Kind Creation Basket for the relevant date; (iv) acceptance of the Fund Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; or (v) in the event that circumstances that are outside the control of the Trust, Custodian, Distributor and Adviser make it practically impossible to process creation orders. Examples of such circumstances include acts of God; public service or utility problems resulting in telephone, telecopy and computer failures; fires, floods or extreme weather conditions; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other information systems affecting the Trust, the Adviser, the Distributor, DTC, NSCC, the Custodian or sub-custodian or any other participant in the creation process; and similar extraordinary events. The Distributor shall notify an Authorized Participant of its rejection of the order. The Fund, the Custodian, any sub-custodian and the Distributor are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Fund Deposits, and they shall not incur any liability for the failure to give any such notification.

**Issuance of a Creation Unit**. Once the Fund has accepted a creation order, upon next determination of the Fund's NAV, the Fund will confirm the issuance of a Creation Unit, against receipt of payment, at such NAV. The Distributor will transmit a confirmation of acceptance to the Authorized Participant that placed the order.

Except as provided below, a Creation Unit will not be issued until the Fund obtains good title to the Kind-Creation Basket securities and the Cash Component, along with any cash in lieu and Transaction Fee. The delivery of Creation Units will generally occur no later than the second Business Day following the Transmittal Date for securities.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.

Creation Units may be created in advance of receipt by the Trust of all or a portion of the applicable In-Kind Creation Basket, provided the purchaser tenders an initial deposit consisting of any available securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket and cash equal to the sum of the Cash Component and at least 105% of the market value, as adjusted from time to time by the Adviser, of the In-Kind Creation Basket securities not delivered ("Additional Cash Deposit"). Such initial deposit will have a value greater than the NAV of the Creation Unit on the date the order is placed. The order shall be deemed to be received on the Transmittal Date provided that it is placed in proper form prior to 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on such date, and federal funds in the appropriate amount are deposited with the Custodian by the DTC Cut-Off Time the following Business Day. If the order is not placed in proper form by 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, or federal funds in the appropriate amount are not received by the DTC Cut-Off Time the next Business Day, then the order will be cancelled or deemed unreceived and the Authorized Participant effectuating such transaction will be liable to the Fund for any losses resulting therefrom.

To the extent securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket remain undelivered, pending delivery of such securities additional cash will be required to be deposited with the Trust as necessary to maintain an Additional Cash Deposit equal to at least 105% (as adjusted by the Adviser) of the daily marked-to-market value of the missing securities. To the extent that either such securities are still not received by 1:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the second Business Day following the day on which the purchase order is deemed received by the Distributor or a marked-to-market payment is not made within one Business Day following notification to the purchaser and/or Authorized Participant that such a payment is required, the Trust may use the cash on deposit to purchase the missing securities, and the Authorized Participant effectuating such transaction will be liable to the Fund for any costs incurred therein or losses resulting therefrom, including any Transaction Fee, any amount by which the actual purchase price of the missing securities exceeds the Additional Cash Deposit or the market value of such securities on the day the purchase order was deemed received by the Distributor, as well as brokerage and related transaction costs. The Trust will return any unused portion of the Additional Cash Deposit once all of the missing securities have been received by the Trust. The delivery of Creation Units so created will generally occur no later than the second Business Day following the day on which the purchase order is deemed received by the Distributor.

#### **Transaction Fees**

Authorized Participants may be required to pay a Transaction Fee as set forth in the table below to compensate the Trust or its custodian for costs incurred in connection with creation and redemption transactions ("Transaction Costs"):

	Standard Transaction	
Fund	Fee	Charge
Alpha Architect Tail Risk ETF	\$300*	Up to 2.00%

\* The Transaction Fee may be higher for transactions outside the Clearing Process. In addition, one half of the Transaction Fee may be waived in conjunction with rebalancing transactions.

The Standard Transaction Fee, which is payable to the Trust's custodian, typically applies to in-kind purchases of the Fund effected through the Clearing Process on any Business Day, regardless of the number of Creation Units purchased or redeemed that day (assuming, in the case of multiple orders on the same day, that the orders are received at or near the same time). A Transaction Fee of up to four times the standard fee may apply to creation and redemption transactions that occur outside the Clearing Process. As shown in the table above, certain Fund Deposits consisting of cash-in-lieu or Cash Value may be subject to a variable charge, which is payable to the Fund, of up to 2.00% of the value of the order in addition to the standard Transaction Fee. The Standard Transaction Fee may be waived on certain orders if the Trust's custodian has determined to waive the Transaction Costs associated with the order or another party, such as the Adviser, has agreed to pay such fee. The Fund may determine to waive the variable charge on certain orders when such waiver is determined to be in the best interests of Fund shareholders, e.g., for cash creation orders that facilitate the rebalance of the Fund's portfolio in a more tax efficient manner than could be achieved without such order.

The Fund may adjust the Transaction Fee from time to time. The Standard Transaction Fee is based, in part, on the number of holdings in the Fund's portfolio and may be adjusted on a quarterly basis if the number of holdings change. Investors will also be responsible for the costs associated with transferring the securities in the In-Kind Creation (and Redemption) Baskets to (and from) the account of the Trust. Further, investors who, directly or indirectly, use the services of a broker or other intermediary to compose a Creation Unit in addition to an Authorized Participant to effect a transaction in Creation Units may be charged an additional fee by such intermediary for such services.

**Cash Purchase Method**. The Fund will primarily effect Creation Unit purchases in cash. Such purchase will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind purchases. In the case of a cash purchase, the investor must pay the cash equivalent of the Fund Deposit. In addition, cash purchases may be subject to Transaction Fees as described above. Cash purchase may cause the Fund to incur certain costs that it would not have had the purchase been in-kind. These costs may include brokerage costs, execution, price movement and other costs and expenses related to the execution of trades by the Fund. To the extent that these costs are not offset by the Transaction Fees the Fund's NAV will be negatively impacted.

# **Redeeming Creation Units**

**Fund Redemptions**. Fund Shares may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by the Fund through the Transfer Agent and only on a Business Day. The redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit will consist of the In-Kind Redemption Basket and a Cash Redemption Amount, or an all cash payment ("Cash Value"), in all instances equal to the value of a Creation Unit.

There can be no assurance that there will be sufficient liquidity in Shares in the secondary market to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. In addition, investors may incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a Creation Unit.

The Cash Redemption Amount will typically include a Balancing Amount, reflecting the difference, if any, between the NAV of a Creation Unit and the market value of the securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket. If the NAV per Creation Unit exceeds the market value of the securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket, the Fund pays the Balancing Amount to the redeeming investor. By contrast, if the NAV per Creation Unit is less than the market value of the securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket, the redeeming investor pays the Balancing Amount to the Fund.

The composition of the In-Kind Creation Basket will normally be the same as the composition of the In-Kind Redemption Basket. Otherwise, the In-Kind Redemption Basket will be made available by the Adviser or Transfer Agent. The Fund reserves the right to accept a nonconforming (*i.e.*, custom) Fund Redemption.

In lieu of an In-Kind Redemption Basket and Cash Redemption Amount, Creation Units may be redeemed consisting solely of cash in an amount equal to the NAV of a Creation Unit, which amount is referred to as the Cash Value. Such redemptions for the Fund may be subject to a variable charge, as explained above. If applicable, information about the Cash Value will be made available by the Adviser or Transfer Agent.

From day to day, the composition of the In-Kind Redemption Basket may change as, among other things, corporate actions are implemented for the Fund's portfolio. All questions as to the composition of the In-Kind Redemption Basket and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities shall be determined by the Fund, and the Fund's determination shall be final and binding.

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed: (i) for any period during which the NYSE is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (ii) for any period during which trading on the NYSE is suspended or restricted; (iii) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of the Shares or determination of the Fund's NAV is not reasonably practicable; or (iv) in such other circumstances as permitted by the SEC, including as described below.

*Cash in lieu.* The Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit or require the substitution of an amount of cash ("cash in lieu") to be added to the Cash Redemption Amount to replace any security in the In-Kind Redemption Basket. The Fund may permit or require cash in lieu when, for example, the securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process. Similarly, the Fund may permit or require cash in lieu when, for example, the Authorized Participant or its underlying investor is restricted under U.S. or local securities law or policies from transacting in one or more securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket. The Fund will comply with the federal securities laws in satisfying redemptions with the applicable In-Kind Redemption Basket, including the securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket that are sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the 1933 Act. All redemption orders involving cash in lieu are considered to be "custom redemptions."

**Placement of Redemption Orders**. Redemptions must be placed to the Transfer Agent through the Distributor. In addition, redemption orders must be processed either through the DTC process or the Clearing Process. To redeem a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable redemption order to the Distributor. In connection with taking delivery of securities upon redemption of Creation Units, a redeeming shareholder or Authorized Participant acting on behalf of such Shareholder must maintain appropriate custody arrangements with a qualified broker/dealer, bank or other custody providers in each jurisdiction in which any of the securities comprising the In-Kind Redemption Basket are customarily traded, to which account such securities will be delivered.

An Authorized Participant submitting a redemption order is deemed to represent to the Fund that it or, if applicable, the investor on whose behalf it is acting, (i) owns outright or has full legal authority and legal beneficial right to tender for redemption the Creation Unit to be redeemed and can receive the entire proceeds of the redemption, and (ii) all of the Shares in the Creation Unit to be redeemed have not been borrowed, loaned or pledged to another party nor are they the subject of a repurchase agreement, securities lending agreement or such other arrangement which would preclude the delivery of such Shares to the Fund. The Fund reserves the absolute right, in its sole discretion, to verify these representations, but will typically require verification in connection with higher levels of redemption activity and/or short interest in the Fund. If the Authorized Participant, upon receipt of a verification report, does not provide sufficient verification of the requested representations, the redemption order will not be considered to be in proper form and may be rejected by the Fund.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.

**Placement of Redemption Orders Using Clearing Process**. Orders to redeem Creation Units through the Clearing Process are deemed received by the Trust on the Transmittal Date if (i) such order is received by the Transfer Agent not later than the Order Cut-Off Time on such Transmittal Date, and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Orders deemed received will be effectuated based on the NAV of the Fund as next determined. An order to redeem Creation Units using the Clearing Process made in proper form but received by the Trust after the Order Cut-Off Time will be deemed received on the next Business Day and will be effected at the NAV next determined on such next Business Day. In connection with such orders, the Distributor transmits on behalf of the Authorized Participant such trade instructions as are necessary to effect the redemption. Pursuant to such trade instructions, the Authorized Participant agrees to deliver the requisite Creation Unit(s) to the Fund, together with such additional information as may be required by the Distributor. Cash Redemption Amounts will be delivered using either the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System. The applicable In-Kind Redemption Basket and the Cash Redemption Amount will be transferred to the investor by the second NSCC business day following the date on which such request for redemption is deemed received.

**Placement of Redemption Orders Outside Clearing Process**. Orders to redeem Creation Units outside the Clearing Process must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that redemption of Creation Units will instead be effected through transfer of Shares directly through DTC. Such orders are deemed received by the Trust on the Transmittal Date if: (i) such order is received by the Transfer Agent not later than the Order Cut-Off Time on the Transmittal Date; (ii) such order is accompanied or followed by the delivery of both (a) the Creation Unit(s), which delivery must be made through DTC to the Custodian no later than the DTC Cut-Off Time on the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date; and (b) the Cash Redemption Amount by 12:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date; and (iii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. After the Trust has deemed such an order received, the Trust will initiate p rocedures to transfer, and expect to deliver, the requisite In-Kind Redemption Basket and/or any Cash Redemption Amount owed to the redeeming party by the second Business Day following the Transmittal Date on which such redemption order is deemed received by the Trust.

The calculation of the value of the In-Kind Redemption Basket and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered/received upon redemption will be made by the Custodian computed on the Business Day on which a redemption order is deemed received by the Trust. Therefore, if a redemption order in proper form is submitted to the Transfer Agent by a DTC Participant or an Authorized Participant with the ability to transact through the Federal Reserve System, as applicable, not later than Closing Time on the Transmittal Date, and the requisite number of Shares of the Fund are delivered to the Custodian prior to the DTC Cut-Off-Time, then the value of the In-Kind Redemption Basket and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered/received will be determined by the Custodian on such Transmittal Date. If, however, either: (i) the requisite number of Shares of the Fund are not delivered by the DTC

Cut-Off-Time, as described above, or (ii) the redemption order is not submitted in proper form, then the redemption order will not be deemed received as of the Transmittal Date. In such case, the value of the In-Kind Redemption Basket and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered/received will be computed on the Business Day following the Transmittal Date provided that the Fund Shares of the Fund are delivered through DTC to the Custodian by 11:00 a.m., Eastern time, the following Business Day pursuant to a properly submitted redemption order.

If it is not possible to effect deliveries of the securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket, the Trust may in its discretion exercise its option to redeem Shares in cash, and the redeeming beneficial owner will be required to receive its redemption proceeds in cash. In addition, an investor may request a redemption in cash that the Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit. In either case, the investor will receive a cash payment equal to the NAV of its Shares based on the NAV of Shares of the Fund next determined after the redemption request is received in proper form (minus a Transaction Fee, including a variable charge, if applicable, as described above).

The Fund may also, in its sole discretion, upon request of a shareholder, provide such redeemer a portfolio of securities that differs from the exact composition of the In-Kind Redemption Basket, or cash in lieu of some securities added to the Cash Component, but in no event will the total value of the securities delivered and the cash transmitted differ from the NAV. Redemptions of Fund Shares for the In-Kind Redemption Basket will be subject to compliance with applicable federal and state securities laws and the Fund (whether or not it otherwise permits cash redemptions) reserves the right to redeem Creation Units for cash to the extent that the Trust could not lawfully deliver specific securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket under such laws. An Authorized Participant or an investor for which it is acting subject to a legal restriction with respect to a particular security included in the In-Kind Redemption Basket applicable to the redeemption of a Creation Unit may be paid an equivalent amount of cash. The Authorized Participant may request the redeeming beneficial owner of the Shares to complete an order form or to enter into agreements with respect to such matters as compensating cash payment, beneficial ownership of shares or delivery instructions.

**Delivery of Redemption Basket**. Once the Fund has accepted a redemption order, upon next determination of the Fund's NAV, the Fund will confirm the issuance of an In-Kind Redemption Basket, against receipt of the Creation Unit(s) at such NAV, any cash in lieu and Transaction Fee, if applicable. A Creation Unit tendered for redemption and the payment of the Cash Redemption Amount, any cash in lieu and Transaction Fee, if applicable, will be effected through DTC. The Authorized Participant, or the investor on whose behalf it is acting, will be recorded on the book-entry system of DTC.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.

**Cash Redemption Method**. When cash redemptions of Creation Units are available or specified for the Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind redemptions. In the case of a cash redemption, the investor will receive the cash equivalent of the In-Kind Redemption Basket minus any Transaction Fees, if applicable. Cash redemptions may cause the Fund to incur certain costs that it would not have had had the redemption been in-kind. These costs may include brokerage costs, execution, price movement and other costs and expenses related to the execution of trades by the Fund, including taxable gains or losses it might not have incurred if the redemption had been in-kind. To the extent that these costs are not offset by the Transaction Fees the Fund's NAV will be negatively impacted.

# DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

The NAV of Shares is calculated each business day as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time.

The Fund calculates its NAV per Share by:

- Taking the current market value of its total assets,
- Subtracting any liabilities, and
- Dividing that amount by the total number of Shares owned by shareholders.

If you buy or sell Shares on the secondary market, you will pay or receive the market price, which may be higher or lower than NAV. Your transaction will be priced at NAV only if you purchase or redeem your Shares in Creation Units.

Equity securities that are traded on a national securities exchange, except those listed on the NASDAQ Global Market® ("NASDAQ") are valued at the last reported sale price on the exchange on which the security is principally traded. Securities traded on NASDAQ will be valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price ("NOCP"). If, on a particular day, an exchange-traded or NASDAQ security does not

trade, then the most recent quoted bid for exchange traded or the mean between the most recent quoted bid and ask price for NASDAQ securities will be used. Equity securities that are not traded on a listed exchange are generally valued at the last sale price in the over-the-counter market. If a non-exchange traded security does not trade on a particular day, then the mean between the last quoted closing bid and asked price will be used. Prices denominated in foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollar equivalents using current exchange rates deemed appropriate for the Fund, which approximates fair value.

Exchange-traded options (other than FLEX Options) are valued at the mean of the last quoted bid and ask prices at 4:00 p.m. eastern time as provided by a third-party pricing service from the primary exchange or the board of trade on which such options are traded. Exchange-traded options will be valued on the basis of prices provided by pricing services when such prices are reasonably believed to reflect the market value of such options and may include the use of composite or National Best Bid and Offer ("NBBO") pricing information provided by the pricing services.

FLEX Options and "European Style" options (options that cannot be exercised prior to the expiration date) that are listed on an exchange (e.g., Cboe) will typically be valued at a model-based price provided by the exchange at the official close of that exchange's trading day. However, when a FLEX Option has a same-day market trading price at the official close of that exchange's trading day (i) this same-day market trading price will be used for the FLEX Option value instead of the exchange's model-based price and (ii) the implied interest rate for such same-day market traded FLEX options shall be utilized in all model-based prices which share the same expiration date when available.

An option may be fair valued when: (i) the option does not trade on the valuation date and a reliable last quoted bid and ask price at the valuation time are not readily available or (ii) the Fund's Sub-Adviser or Fund management does not believe the prices provided by the pricing services reflect the market value of such option.

If a market price is not readily available or is deemed not to reflect market value, the Fund will determine the price of the security held by the Fund based on a determination of the security's fair value pursuant to policies and procedures approved by the Board.

Fair valuation may have the effect of reducing stale pricing arbitrage opportunities presented by the pricing of Fund Shares. However, when the Fund uses fair valuation to price securities, it may value those securities higher or lower than another fund would have priced the security. Also, the use of fair valuation may cause the Shares' NAV performance to diverge from the Shares' market price and from the performance of various benchmarks used to compare the Fund's performance because benchmarks generally do not use fair valuation techniques. Because of the judgment involved in fair valuation decisions, there can be no assurance that the value ascribed to a particular security is accurate.

Redeemable securities issued by open-end investment companies are valued at the investment company's applicable net asset value, with the exception of exchange-traded open-end investment companies which are priced as equity securities. Each investment company values securities and other instruments in a manner as described in that investment company's prospectus.

# TAXES

The following is a summary of certain additional tax considerations generally affecting the Fund and its shareholders that are not described in the Prospectus. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of the tax treatment of the Fund or its shareholders, and the discussion here and in the Prospectus is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning.

This "Taxes" section is based on the Code and applicable regulations in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative, regulatory or administrative changes, including provisions of current law that sunset and thereafter no longer apply, or court decisions may significantly change the tax rules applicable to the Fund and its shareholders. Any of these changes or court decisions may have a retroactive effect.

In addition, no attempt is made to address tax concerns applicable to an investor with a special tax status such as a financial institution, real estate investment trust, insurance company, regulated investment company ("RIC"), individual retirement account, other tax-exempt entity, dealer in securities, or non-U.S. investor. Furthermore, this discussion does not reflect possible application of the alternative minimum tax ("AMT"). Unless otherwise noted, this discussion assumes shares of the Fund are held by U.S. shareholders and that such shares are held as capital assets.

A U.S. shareholder is a beneficial owner of Shares of the Fund that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or individual resident of the United States (including certain former citizens and former long-term residents);
- a corporation or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

- an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust with respect to which a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. shareholders have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions or the trust has made a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

A "Non-U.S. investor" is a beneficial owner of Shares of the Fund that is an individual, corporation, trust or estate and is not a U.S. shareholder. If a partnership (including any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds shares of the Fund, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally depends upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A prospective shareholder who is a partner of a partnership holding the Fund shares should consult its tax advisors with respect to the purchase, ownership and disposition of its Fund shares.

# This is for general information only and not tax advice. All investors should consult their own tax advisors as to the federal, state, local and foreign tax provisions applicable to them.

# Taxation of the Fund

The Fund is treated as a separate corporation for federal income tax purposes. Losses in the Fund do not offset gains in another fund in the Fund Complex and the requirements (other than certain organizational requirements) for qualifying for regulated investment company status as described below are determined at the Fund level rather than the Trust level.

The Fund has elected and intends to qualify, or, if newly organized, intends to elect and qualify, each year as a regulated investment company (sometimes referred to as a "regulated investment company," "RIC" or "fund") under Subchapter M of the Code. If the Fund so qualifies, the Fund will not be subject to federal income tax on the portion of its investment company taxable income (that is, generally, taxable interest, dividends, net short-term capital gains, and other taxable ordinary income, net of expenses, without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and net capital gain (that is, the excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses) that it distributes to shareholders.

To qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, the Fund must satisfy the following requirements:

- Distribution Requirement the Fund must distribute an amount equal to the sum of at least 90% of its investment company taxable income and 90% of its net tax-exempt income, if any, for the tax year (including, for purposes of satisfying this distribution requirement, certain distributions made by the Fund after the close of its taxable year that are treated as made during such taxable year).
- Income Requirement the Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived from its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies and net income derived from qualified publicly traded partnerships ("QPTPs"). See "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions -- Investments in Partnerships and QPTPs" below.
- Asset Diversification Test the Fund must satisfy the following asset diversification test at the close of each quarter of the Fund's tax year: (1) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's assets must consist of cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and securities of other issuers (as to which the Fund has not invested more than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets in securities of an issuer and as to which the Fund does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer); and (2) no more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities of other regulated investment companies) or of two or more issuers which the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or, in the securities of one or more QPTPs.

If the Fund fails this Income Requirement as long as such failure was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect it is subject to a penalty for non-compliance, which is generally is the amount by which the non-qualifying income exceeds one-ninth of the qualifying gross income.

Similarly, if the Fund fails the Asset Diversification Test and the failure is not de minimis, the Fund can cure failure if: (a) it files with the Treasury Department a description of each asset that causes it to fail the Asset Diversification Test; (b) the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect; and (c) the failure is cured within six months (or such other period specified by the Treasury). In such cases, a tax is imposed on the Fund equal to the greater of: (a) \$50,000 or (b) an amount determined by multiplying the highest rate of tax (currently 21%) by the amount of net income generated during the period of diversification test failure by the assets that caused the Fund to fail the Asset Diversification Test.

In some circumstances, the character and timing of income realized by the Fund for purposes of the Income Requirement or the identification of the issuer for purposes of the Asset Diversification Test is uncertain under current law with respect to a particular investment, and an adverse determination or future guidance by the IRS with respect to such type of investment may adversely affect the Fund's ability to satisfy these requirements. See, "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions" below with respect to the application of these requirements to certain types of investments. In other circumstances, the Fund may be required to sell portfolio holdings in order to meet the Income Requirement, Distribution Requirement, or Asset Diversification Test, which may have a negative impact on the Fund's income and performance. In lieu of potential disqualification, the Fund is permitted to pay a tax for certain failures to satisfy the Asset Diversification Test or Income Requirement, which, in general, are limited to those due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect.

The Fund may use "equalization accounting" (in lieu of making some cash distributions) in determining the portion of its income and gains that has been distributed. If the Fund uses equalization accounting, it will allocate a portion of its undistributed investment company taxable income and net capital gain to redemptions of Fund Shares and will correspondingly reduce the amount of such income and gains that it distributes in cash. Certain aspects of equalization accounting are uncertain under current law. If the IRS determines that the Fund's allocation is improper and that the Fund has under-distributed its income and gain for any taxable year, the Fund may be liable for federal income and/or excise tax. If, as a result of such adjustment, the Fund fails to satisfy the Distribution Requirement, the Fund will not qualify that year as a regulated investment company the effect of which is described in the following paragraph.

If for any taxable year the Fund does not qualify as a regulated investment company, all of its taxable income (including its net capital gain) would be subject to tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for dividends paid to shareholders, and the dividends would be taxable to the shareholders as ordinary income (or possibly as qualified dividend income) to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Failure to qualify as a regulated investment company would thus have a negative impact on the Fund's income and performance. Subject to savings provisions for certain failures to satisfy the Income Requirement or Asset Diversification Test, which, in general, are limited to those due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, it is possible that the Fund will not qualify as a regulated investment company in any given tax year. Even if such savings provisions apply, the Fund may be subject to a monetary sanction of \$50,000 or more. Moreover, the Board reserves the right not to maintain the qualification of the Fund as a regulated investment company if it determines such a course of action to be beneficial to shareholders.

To qualify as a RIC in a subsequent taxable year, the Fund would be required to satisfy the Income Requirement, the Asset Diversification Test, and the Distribution Requirement for that year and dispose of any earnings and profits from any year in which the Fund failed to qualify for tax treatment as a RIC. Subject to a limited exception applicable to RICs that qualified as such under the Code for at least one year prior to disqualification and that requalify as a RIC no later than the second year following the nonqualifying year, the Fund would be subject to tax on any unrealized built-in gains in the assets held by it during the period in which the Fund failed to qualify for tax treatment as a RIC that are recognized within the subsequent 10 years, unless the Fund made a special election to pay corporate-level tax on such built-in gain at the time of its requalification as a RIC.

*Portfolio Turnover*. For investors that hold their Fund Shares in a taxable account, a high portfolio turnover rate may result in higher taxes. This is because a fund with a high turnover rate is likely to accelerate the recognition of capital gains and more of such gains are likely to be taxable as short-term rather than long-term capital gains in contrast to a comparable fund with a low turnover rate. Any such higher taxes would reduce the Fund's after-tax performance. See, "Taxation of Fund Distributions - Distributions of Capital Gain" below. For non-U.S. investors, any such acceleration of the recognition of capital gains that results in more short-term and less long-term capital gains being recognized by the Fund may cause such investors to be subject to increased U.S. withholding taxes. See, "Non-U.S. Investors – Capital Gain Dividends" and "Short- Term Capital Gain Dividends and Interest Related Dividends" below.

Capital Loss Carryovers. The capital losses of the Fund, if any, do not flow through to shareholders. Rather, the Fund may use its capital losses, subject to applicable limitations, to offset its capital gains without being required to pay taxes on or distribute to shareholders such gains that are offset by the losses. Rules similar to those that apply to capital loss carryovers of individuals apply to RICs. Thus, if the Fund has a "net capital loss" (that is, capital losses in excess of capital gains), the excess (if any) of the Fund's net short-term capital losses over its net long-term capital gains is treated as a short-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Fund's next taxable year, and the excess (if any) of the Fund's net long-term capital losses over its net short-term capital gains is treated as a long-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Fund's next taxable year. Any such net capital losses of the Fund that are not used to offset capital gains may be carried forward indefinitely to reduce any future capital gains realized by the Fund in succeeding taxable years. The amount of capital losses that can be carried forward and used in any single year is subject to an annual limitation if there is a more than 50% "change in ownership" of the Fund. An ownership change generally results when shareholders owning 5% or more of the Fund increase their aggregate holdings by more than 50% over a three-year look-back period. An ownership change could result in capital loss carryovers being used at a slower rate, thereby reducing the Fund's ability to offset capital gains with those losses. An increase in the amount of taxable gains distributed to the Fund's shareholders could result from an ownership change. The Fund undertakes no obligation to avoid or prevent an ownership change, which can occur in the normal course of shareholder purchases and redemptions or as a result of engaging in a tax-free reorganization with another fund. Moreover, because of circumstances beyond the Fund's control, there can be no assurance that the Fund will not experience, or has not a lready experienced, an ownership change. Additionally, if the Fund engages in a tax-free reorganization with another fund, the effect of these and other rules not discussed herein may be to disallow or postpone the use by the Fund of its capital loss carryovers (including

any current year losses and built-in losses when realized) to offset its own gains or those of the other fund, or vice versa, thereby reducing the tax benefits Fund shareholders would otherwise have enjoyed from use of such capital loss carryovers.

*Deferral of Late Year Losses.* The Fund may elect to treat part or all of any "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in determining the Fund's taxable income, net capital gain, net short-term capital gain, and earnings and profits. The effect of this election is to treat any such "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in characterizing Fund distributions for any calendar year (see, "Taxation of Fund Distributions - Distributions of Capital Gain" below). A "qualified late year loss" includes:

- (i) any net capital loss, net long-term capital loss, or net short-term capital loss incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year ("post- October losses"), and
- (ii) the excess, if any, of (1) the sum of (a) specified losses incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year, and (b) other ordinary losses incurred after December 31 of the current taxable year, over (2) the sum of (a) specified gains incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year, and (b) other ordinary gains incurred after December 31 of the current taxable year.

The terms "specified losses" and "specified gains" mean ordinary losses and gains from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of property (including the termination of a position with respect to such property), foreign currency losses and gains, and losses and gains resulting from holding stock in a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") for which a mark-to-market election is in effect. The terms "ordinary losses" and "ordinary gains" mean other ordinary losses and gains that are not described in the preceding sentence.

*Undistributed Capital Gains.* The Fund may retain or distribute to shareholders its net capital gain for each taxable year. The Fund currently intends to distribute net capital gains. If the Fund elects to retain its net capital gain, the Fund will be taxed thereon (except to the extent of any available capital loss carryovers) at the highest corporate tax rate (currently 21%). If the Fund elects to retain its net capital gain, it is expected that the Fund also will elect to have shareholders treated as if each received a distribution of its pro rata share of such gain, with the result that each shareholder will be required to report its pro rata share of such gain on its tax return as long-term capital gain, will receive a refundable tax credit for its pro rata share of tax paid by the Fund on the gain, and will increase the tax basis for its Shares by an amount equal to the deemed distribution less the tax credit.

*Federal Excise Tax.* To avoid a 4% non-deductible excise tax, the Fund must distribute by December 31 of each year an amount equal to at least: (1) 98% of its ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of capital gain net income (that is, the excess of the gains from sales or exchanges of capital assets over the losses from such sales or exchanges) for the one-year period ended on October 31 of such calendar year, and (3) any prior year undistributed ordinary income and capital gain net income. The Fund may elect to defer to the following year any net ordinary loss incurred for the portion of the calendar year which is after the beginning of the Fund's taxable year. Also, the Fund will defer any "specified gain" or "specified loss" which would be properly taken into account for the portion of the calendar year after October 31. Any net ordinary loss, specified gain, or specified loss deferred shall be treated as arising on January 1 of the following calendar year. Generally, the Fund intends to make sufficient distributions prior to the end of each calendar year to avoid any material liability for federal income and excise tax, but can give no assurances that all or a portion of such liability will be avoided. In addition, under certain circumstances, temporary timing or permanent differences in the realization of income and expense for book and tax purposes can result in the Fund having to pay an excise tax.

*Foreign Income Tax.* Investment income received by the Fund from sources within foreign countries may be subject to foreign income tax withheld at the source and the amount of tax withheld generally will be treated as an expense of the Fund. The United States has entered into tax treaties with many foreign countries which entitle the Fund to a reduced rate of, or exemption from, tax on such income. It is impossible to determine the effective rate of foreign tax in advance since the amount of the Fund's assets to be invested in various countries is not known. Under certain circumstances, the Fund may elect to pass-through foreign tax credits to shareholders, although it reserves the right not to do so.

*Purchase of Shares.* As a result of tax requirements, the Trust on behalf of the Fund has the right to reject an order to purchase Shares if the purchaser (or group of purchasers acting in concert with each other) would, upon obtaining the Shares so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding Shares of the Fund and if, pursuant to section 351 of the Code, the Fund would have a basis in the Deposit Securities different from the market value of such securities on the date of deposit. The Trust also has the right to require information necessary to determine beneficial Share ownership for purposes of the 80% determination.

## **Taxation of Fund Distributions**

The Fund anticipates distributing all or substantially all of its investment company taxable income and net capital gain for each taxable year. Distributions by the Fund will be treated in the manner described below regardless of whether such distributions are paid in cash or reinvested in additional Shares of the Fund (or of another fund). The Fund will send you information annually as to the federal income tax consequences of distributions made (or deemed made) during the year.

*Distributions of Net Investment Income.* The Fund receives ordinary income generally in the form of dividends and/or interest on its investments. The Fund may also recognize ordinary income from other sources, including, but not limited to, certain gains on foreign currency-related transactions. This income, less expenses incurred in the operation of the Fund, constitutes the Fund's net investment income from which dividends may be paid to you. If you are a taxable investor, distributions of net investment income generally are taxable as ordinary income to the extent of the Fund's earnings and profits. In the case of the Fund whose strategy includes investing in stocks of corporations, a portion of the income dividends paid to you may be qualified dividends eligible to be taxed at reduced rates. See the discussion below under the headings, "– Qualified Dividend Income for Individuals" and "– Dividends-Received Deduction for Corporations."

*Distributions of Capital Gain.* The Fund may derive capital gain and loss in connection with sales or other dispositions of its portfolio securities. Distributions derived from the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss will be taxable to you as ordinary income. Distributions paid from the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss will be taxable to you as long-term capital gain, regardless of how long you have held your Shares in the Fund. Any net short-term or long-term capital gain realized by the Fund (net of any capital loss carryovers) generally will be distributed once each year and may be distributed more frequently, if necessary, in order to reduce or eliminate federal excise or income taxes on the Fund.

*Returns of Capital.* Distributions by the Fund that are not paid from earnings and profits will be treated as a return of capital to the extent of (and in reduction of) the shareholder's tax basis in his Shares; any excess will be treated as gain from the sale of his Shares. Thus, the portion of a distribution that constitutes a return of capital will decrease the shareholder's tax basis in his Fund Shares (but not below zero), and will result in an increase in the amount of gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that will be recognized by the shareholder for tax purposes on the later sale of such Fund Shares. Return of capital distributions can occur for a number of reasons including, among others, the Fund over-estimates the income to be received from certain investments such as those classified as partnerships or equity real estate investment trusts ("REITs") (see, "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions – Investments in U.S. REITs" below).

*Qualified Dividend Income for Individuals.* Ordinary income dividends reported by the Fund to shareholders as derived from qualified dividend income will be taxed in the hands of individuals and other noncorporate shareholders at the rates applicable to long-term capital gain. "Qualified dividend income" means dividends paid to the Fund (a) by domestic corporations, (b) by foreign corporations that are either (i) incorporated in a possession of the United States, or (ii) are eligible for benefits under certain income tax treaties with the United States that include an exchange of information program, or (c) with respect to stock of a foreign corporation that is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. Both the Fund and the investor must meet certain holding period requirements to qualify Fund dividends for this treatment. Specifically, the Fund must hold the stock for at least 61 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the stock becomes ex-dividend. Similarly, investors must hold their Fund Shares for at least 61 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the Fund distribution goes ex-dividend. Income derived from investments in derivatives, fixed-income securities, U.S. REITs, PFICs, and income received "in lieu of" dividends in a securities lending transaction generally is not eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income. If the qualifying dividend income received by the Fund is equal to or greater than 95% of the Fund's gross income (exclusive of net capital gain) in any taxable year, all of the ordinary income dividends paid to ordinary income dividends paid by the Fund will be qualifying dividend income.

*Dividends-Received Deduction for Corporations*. For corporate shareholders, a portion of the dividends paid by the Fund may qualify for the 70% corporate dividends-received deduction. The portion of dividends paid by the Fund that so qualifies will be reported by the Fund to shareholders each year and cannot exceed the gross amount of dividends received by the Fund from domestic (U.S.) corporations. The availability of the dividends-received deduction is subject to certain holding period and debt financing restrictions that apply to both the Fund and the investor. Specifically, the amount that the Fund may report as eligible for the dividends-received deduction will be reduced or eliminated if the Shares on which the dividends earned by the Fund were debt-financed or held by the Fund for less than a minimum period of time, generally 46 days during a 91-day period beginning 45 days before the stock becomes exdividend. Similarly, if your Fund Shares are debt-financed or held by you for less than a 46-day period then the dividends-received deduction for Fund dividends on your Shares may also be reduced or eliminated. Even if reported as dividends eligible for the dividends-received deduction, all dividends (including any deducted portion) must be included in your alternative minimum taxable income calculation. Income derived by the Fund from investments in derivatives, fixed-income and foreign securities generally is not eligible for this treatment.

*Realized but Undistributed Income and Gains, and Net Unrealized Appreciation of Portfolio Securities.* At the time of your purchase of Shares, the Fund's net asset value may reflect undistributed income, undistributed capital gains, or net unrealized appreciation of portfolio securities held by the Fund. A subsequent distribution to you of such amounts, although constituting a return of your investment, would be taxable, and would be taxed as ordinary income (some portion of which may be taxed as qualified dividend income), capital gains, or some combination of both, unless you are investing through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. The Fund may be able to reduce the amount of such distributions from capital gains by utilizing its capital loss carryovers, if any.

*Pass-Through of Foreign Tax Credits.* If more than 50% of the Fund's total assets at the end of a fiscal year is invested in foreign securities, the Fund may elect to pass through to you your pro rata share of foreign taxes paid by the Fund. If this election is made, the Fund may report more taxable income to you than it actually distributes. You will then be entitled either to deduct your share of these taxes in computing your taxable income, or to claim a foreign tax credit for these taxes against your U.S. federal income tax (subject to limitations for certain shareholders). The Fund will provide you with the information necessary to claim this deduction or credit on your personal income tax return if it makes this election. No deduction for foreign tax may be claimed by a non-corporate shareholder who does not itemize deductions or who is subject to the alternative minimum tax. Shareholders may be unable to claim a credit for the full amount of their proportionate shares of the foreign income tax paid by the Fund due to certain limitations that may apply. The Fund reserves the right not to pass through to its shareholders the amount of foreign income taxes paid by the Fund. Additionally, any foreign tax withheld on payments made "in lieu of" dividends or interest will not qualify for the pass-through of foreign tax credits to shareholders. See, "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions – Securities Lending" below.

*U.S. Government Securities.* Income earned on certain U.S. government obligations is exempt from state and local personal income taxes if earned directly by you. States also grant tax-free status to dividends paid to you from interest earned on direct obligations of the U.S. government, subject in some states to minimum investment or reporting requirements that must be met by the Fund. Income on investments by the Fund in certain other obligations, such as repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government obligations, commercial paper and federal agency-backed obligations (e.g., GNMA or FNMA obligations), generally does not qualify for tax-free treatment. The rules on exclusion of this income are different for corporations.

*Dividends Declared in December and Paid in January.* Ordinarily, shareholders are required to take distributions by the Fund into account in the year in which the distributions are made. However, dividends declared in October, November or December of any year and payable to shareholders of record on a specified date in such a month will be deemed to have been received by the shareholders (and made by the Fund) on December 31 of such calendar year if such dividends are actually paid in January of the following year. Shareholders will be advised annually as to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of distributions made (or deemed made) during the year in accordance with the guidance that has been provided by the IRS.

*Medicare Tax.* A 3.8% Medicare tax is imposed on net investment income earned by certain individuals, estates and trusts. "Net investment income," for these purposes, means investment income, including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from the Fund and net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of Fund Shares, reduced by the deductions properly allocable to such income. In the case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (1) the shareholder's net investment income or (2) the amount by which the shareholder's modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$250,000 (if the shareholder is married and filing jointly or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 (if the shareholder is married and filing separately) or \$200,000 (in any other case). This Medicare tax, if applicable, is reported by you on, and paid with, your federal income tax return.

*Tax-Exempt Shareholders*. A tax-exempt shareholder could recognize unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") by virtue of its investment in the Fund if Shares in the Fund constitutes debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholder within the meaning of Code Section 514(b). Furthermore, a tax-exempt shareholder may recognize UBTI if the Fund recognizes "excess inclusion income" derived from direct or indirect investments in residual interests in REMICs or equity interests in TMPs if the amount of such income recognized by the Fund exceeds the Fund's investment company taxable income (after taking into account deductions for dividends paid by the Fund). See "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions -- Investments in REITs and REMICs" below.

In addition, special tax consequences apply to charitable remainder trusts ("CRTs") that invest in regulated investment companies that invest directly or indirectly in residual interests in REMICs or equity interests in TMPs. Under legislation enacted in December 2006, a CRT (as defined in section 664 of the Code) that realizes any UBTI for a taxable year, must pay an excise tax annually of an amount equal to such UBTI. Under IRS guidance issued in October 2006, a CRT will not recognize UBTI solely as a result of investing in the Fund that recognizes "excess inclusion income." Rather, if at any time during any taxable year a CRT (or one of certain other tax-exempt shareholders, such as the United States, a state or political subdivision, or an agency or instrumentality thereof, and certain energy cooperatives) is a record holder of a share in the Fund that recognizes "excess inclusion income," then the regulated investment company will be subject to a tax on that portion of its "excess inclusion income" for the taxable year that is allocable to such shareholders, at the highest federal corporate income tax rate. The extent to which this IRS guidance remains applicable in light of the December 2006 legislation is unclear. To the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, the Fund may elect to specially allocate any such tax to the applicable CRT, or other shareholder, and thus reduce such shareholder's distributions for the year by the amount of the tax that relates to such shareholder's interest in the Fund. The Fund has not yet determined whether such an election will be made. CRTs and other tax-exempt investors are urged to consult their tax advisers concerning the consequences of investing in the Fund.

## Sales and Redemption of Fund Shares

Sales and redemptions (including redemptions in kind) of Fund Shares are taxable transactions for federal and state income tax purposes. If you redeem your Fund Shares, the IRS requires you to report any gain or loss on your redemption. If you held your Shares as a capital asset, the gain or loss that you realize will be a capital gain or loss and will be long-term or short-term, generally depending on how long you have held your Shares. Any redemption fees you incur on Shares redeemed will decrease the amount of any capital gain (or increase any capital loss) you realize on the sale. Capital losses in any year are deductible only to the extent of capital gains plus, in the case of a non-corporate taxpayer, \$3,000 of ordinary income.

*Taxes on Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units.* An Authorized Participant who exchanges equity securities for Creation Units generally will recognize a gain or a loss. The gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the market value of the Creation Units at the time of purchase and the exchanger's aggregate basis in the securities surrendered and the Cash Component paid. A person who exchanges Creation Units for equity securities will generally recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the exchanger's basis in the Creation Units and the aggregate market value of the securities received and the Cash Redemption Amount. The IRS, however, may assert that a loss realized upon an exchange of securities for Creation Units cannot be deducted currently under the rules governing "wash sales," or on the basis that there has been no significant change in economic position. Persons exchanging securities should consult their own tax advisor with respect to whether wash sale rules apply and when a loss might be deductible.

Under current federal tax laws, any capital gain or loss realized upon redemption of Creation Units is generally treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the Shares have been held for more than one year and as a short-term capital gain or loss if the Shares have been held for one year or less.

If the Fund redeems Creation Units in cash, it may recognize more capital gains than it will if it redeems Creation Units in-kind.

*Tax Basis Information.* The Fund will be required to provide shareholders with cost basis information on the redemption of any of the shareholder's Shares in the Fund, subject to certain exceptions for exempt recipients. This cost basis reporting requirement is effective for Shares purchased in the Fund on or after January 1, 2012. If you hold your Fund Shares through a broker (or other nominee), please contact that broker (nominee) with respect to reporting of cost basis and available elections for your account.

The Fund has selected the highest cost method to calculate cost basis information. Highest cost is a tax lot identification method that selects the shares with the highest price for sale. It is specifically designed to limit gains. Under the highest cost method, the shareholder's tax lot with the highest cost basis is sold first so as to minimize gains or maximize losses, depending on market movement since the purchase date.

The highest cost method does not consider the length of time you held your shares. If your shares consist of several tax lots and they consist of both long- and short-term holdings, highest cost may deliver the lowest gains but not the lowest tax rate, due to the difference between short- and long-term capital gains tax rates.

When selling at a loss, highest cost also fails to distinguish between two positions that may be similar in cost where one is a long-term holding and the other is a short-term holding. You may want to consult a tax advisor as to whether or not the use of the short-term holding is better for your particular situation. Should the market price of the security rise over time, holding the long-term tax lot will mean you will be taxed at long-term capital gains rates, should you sell those securities for a profit. Highest cost is generally an attractive methodology for short-term holdings, except when the market has risen dramatically.

*Wash Sales*. All or a portion of any loss that you realize on a redemption of your Fund Shares will be disallowed to the extent that you buy other Shares in the Fund (through reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) within 30 days before or after your Share redemption. Any loss disallowed under these rules will be added to your tax basis in the new Shares.

*Redemptions at a Loss Within Six Months of Purchase*. Any loss incurred on a redemption or exchange of Shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of any long-term capital gain distributed to you by the Fund on those Shares.

*Reportable Transactions.* Under Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to the Fund's Shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder (or certain greater amounts over a combination of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

*Shares Purchased through Tax-Qualified Plans.* Special tax rules apply to investments through defined contribution plans and other taxqualified plans. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the suitability of shares of the Fund as an investment through such plans, and the precise effect of an investment on their particular tax situation. If you invest in the Fund through an IRA or other retirement plan, you should consult with your own tax adviser on the applicable rules for such IRA or retirement plan with respect to plan qualification requirements, limits on contributions and distributions, and required distributions from IRAs and retirement plans. As an example, there could be tax penalties on distributions from an IRA or retirement plan prior to age 59-1/2. Certain minimum distribution requirements may also apply to IRAs or retirement plans. Failure to follow these requirements and other applicable requirements may result in significant additional taxes and penalties. It is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with these and other requirements.

## **Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions**

Set forth below is a general description of the tax treatment of certain types of securities, investment techniques and transactions that may apply to the Fund and, in turn, affect the amount, character and timing of dividends and distributions payable by the Fund to its shareholders. This section should be read in conjunction with the discussion above under "Investment Objective, Investment Strategies and Risks" for a detailed description of the various types of securities and investment techniques that apply to the Fund.

*In General.* In general, gain or loss recognized by the fund on the sale or other disposition of portfolio investments will be a capital gain or loss. Such capital gain and loss may be long-term or short-term depending, in general, upon the length of time a particular investment position is maintained and, in some cases, upon the nature of the transaction. Property held for more than one year generally will be eligible for long-term capital gain or loss treatment. The application of certain rules described below may serve to alter the manner in which the holding period for a security is determined or may otherwise affect the characterization as long-term or short-term, and also the timing of the realization and/or character, of certain gains or losses.

*Certain Fixed Income Investments.* Gain recognized on the disposition of a debt obligation purchased by the fund at a market discount (generally, at a price less than its principal amount) will be treated as ordinary income to the extent of the portion of the market discount that accrued during the period of time the fund held the debt obligation unless the fund made a current inclusion election to accrue market discount into income as it accrues. If the fund purchases a debt obligation (such as a zero-coupon security or payment-in-kind security) that was originally issued at a discount, the fund generally is required to include in gross income each year the portion of the original issue discount that accrues during such year. Therefore, the fund's investment in such securities may cause the fund to recognize income and make distributions to shareholders before it receives any cash payments on the securities. To generate cash to satisfy those distribution requirements, the fund may have to sell portfolio securities that it otherwise might have continued to hold or to use cash flows from other sources such as the sale of fund shares.

Investments in Debt Obligations that are at Risk of or in Default Present Tax Issues for the Fund. Tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as whether and to what extent the fund should recognize market discount on a debt obligation, when the fund may cease to accrue interest, original issue discount or market discount, when and to what extent the fund may take deductions for bad debts or worthless securities and how the fund should allocate payments received on obligations in default between principal and income. These and other related issues will be addressed by the fund in order to ensure that it distributes sufficient income to preserve its status as a regulated investment company.

*Foreign Currency Transactions.* The fund's transactions in foreign currencies, foreign currency-denominated debt obligations and certain foreign currency options, futures contracts and forward contracts (and similar instruments) may give rise to ordinary income or loss to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency concerned. This treatment could increase or decrease the fund's ordinary income distributions to you, and may cause some or all of the fund's previously distributed income to be classified as a return of capital. In certain cases, the fund may make an election to treat such gain or loss as capital.

*PFIC Investments.* The fund may invest in securities of foreign companies that may be classified under the Code as PFICs. In general, a foreign company is classified as a PFIC if at least one-half of its assets constitute investment-type assets or 75% or more of its gross income is investment-type income. When investing in PFIC securities, the fund intends to mark-to-market these securities under certain provisions of the Code and recognize any unrealized gains as ordinary income at the end of the fund's fiscal and excise tax years. Deductions for losses are allowable only to the extent of any current or previously recognized gains. These gains (reduced by allowable losses) are treated as ordinary income that the fund is required to distribute, even though it has not sold or received dividends from these securities. You should also be aware that the designation of a foreign security as a PFIC security will cause its income dividends to fall outside of the definition of qualified foreign corporation dividends. These dividends generally will not qualify for the reduced rate of taxation on qualified dividends when distributed to you by the fund. Foreign companies are not required to identify themselves as PFICs. Due to various complexities in identifying PFICs, the fund can give no assurances that it will be able to identify an investment as a PFIC and thus does not make a mark-to-market election, the fund may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a portion of any "excess distribution" or gain from the disposition of such shares even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by the fund to its shareholders. Additional charges in the nature of interest may be imposed on the fund in respect of deferred taxes arising from such distributions or gains.

*Investments in Partnerships and QPTPs.* For purposes of the Income Requirement, income derived by the fund from a partnership that is not a QPTP will be treated as qualifying income only to the extent such income is attributable to items of income of the partnership that would be qualifying income if realized directly by the fund. While the rules are not entirely clear with respect to the fund investing in a partnership outside a master-feeder structure, for purposes of testing whether the fund satisfies the Asset Diversification Test, the fund generally is treated as owning a pro rata share of the underlying assets of a partnership. See, "Taxation of the Fund." In contrast, different rules apply to a partnership that is a QPTP. A QPTP is a partnership (a) the interests in which are traded on an established securities market, (b) that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, and (c) that derives less than 90% of its income from sources that satisfy the Income Requirement (e.g., because it invests in commodities). All of the net income derived by the fund from an interest in a QPTP will be treated as qualifying income but the fund may not invest more than 25% of its total assets in one or more QPTPs. However, there can be no assurance that a partnership classified as a QPTP in one year will qualify as a QPTP in the next year. Any such failure to annually qualify as a QPTP might, in turn, cause the fund to fail to qualify as a regulated investment company. Although, in general, the passive loss rules of the Code do not apply to RICs, such rules do apply to the fund with respect to items attributable to an interest in a QPTP. Fund investments in partnerships, including in QPTPs, may result in the fund being subject to state, local or foreign income, franchise or withholding tax liabilities.

*Securities Lending.* While securities are loaned out by the fund, the fund generally will receive from the borrower amounts equal to any dividends or interest paid on the borrowed securities. For federal income tax purposes, payments made "in lieu of" dividends are not considered dividend income. These distributions will neither qualify for the reduced rate of taxation for individuals on qualified dividends nor the 70% dividends received deduction for corporations. Also, any foreign tax withheld on payments made "in lieu of" dividends of interest will not qualify for the pass-through of foreign tax credits to shareholders.

*Investments in Convertible Securities*. Convertible debt is ordinarily treated as a "single property" consisting of a pure debt interest until conversion, after which the investment becomes an equity interest. If the security is issued at a premium (i.e., for cash in excess of the face amount payable on retirement), the creditor-holder may amortize the premium over the life of the bond. If the security is issued for cash at a price below its face amount, the creditor-holder must accrue original issue discount in income over the life of the debt. The creditor-holder's exercise of the conversion privilege is treated as a non-taxable event. Mandatorily convertible debt (e.g., an exchange traded note or ETN issued in the form of an unsecured obligation that pays a return based on the performance of a specified market index, exchange currency, or commodity) is often, but not always, treated as a contract to buy or sell the reference property rather than debt. Similarly, convertible preferred stock with a mandatory conversion feature is ordinarily, but not always, treated as equity rather than debt. Dividends received generally are qualified dividend income and eligible for the corporate dividends received deduction. In general, conversion of preferred stock for common stock of the same corporation is tax-free. Conversion of preferred stock for cash is a taxable redemption. Any redemption premium for preferred stock that is redeemable by the issuing company might be required to be amortized under original issue discount principles.

*Investments in ETFs.* To the extent the Fund invests in ETFs, the Fund generally intends to invest in ETFs that are taxable as RICs under the Code. Accordingly, the income the Fund receives from such ETFs should be qualifying income for purposes of the Fund satisfying the "Income Requirement" (as defined above under the heading "Taxes"). However, the Fund may also invest in one or more ETFs that are not taxable as RICs under the Code and that may generate non-qualifying income for purposes of satisfying the Income Requirement. The Fund anticipates monitoring its investments in such ETFs so as to keep the Fund's non-qualifying income within acceptable limits of the Income Requirement, however, it is possible that such non-qualifying income will be more than anticipated which could cause the Fund to inadvertently fail the Income Requirement thereby causing the Fund to fail to qualify as a RIC. In such a case, the Fund would be subject to the rules described above.

*Investments in Securities of Uncertain Tax Character.* The Fund may invest in securities the U.S. federal income tax treatment of which may not be clear or may be subject to recharacterization by the IRS. To the extent the tax treatment of such securities or the income from such securities differs from the tax treatment expected by the fund, it could affect the timing or character of income recognized by the fund, requiring the fund to purchase or sell securities, or otherwise change its portfolio, in order to comply with the tax rules applicable to regulated investment companies under the Code.

*Options, Futures and Forward Contracts, Straddles, and Swap Agreements.* Certain of the Fund's investments may be subject to complex provisions of the Code (including provisions relating to hedging transactions, straddles, integrated transactions, foreign currency contracts, forward foreign currency contracts, and notional principal contracts) that, among other things, may affect the Fund's ability to qualify as a RIC, may affect the character of gains and losses realized by the Fund (<u>e.g.</u>, may affect whether gains or losses are ordinary or capital), accelerate recognition of income to the Fund and defer losses. These rules could therefore affect the character, amount, and timing of distributions to shareholders. These provisions also may require the Fund to mark to market certain types of positions in its portfolio (<u>i.e.</u>, treat them as if they were closed out) which may cause the Fund to satisfy the Asset Diversification Test for avoiding income and excise taxes. The Fund intends to monitor its transactions, intends to make appropriate tax elections, and intends to make appropriate entries in its books and records to mitigate the effect of these rules and preserve the Fund's qualification for treatment as a RIC.

Certain derivative investments by the Fund, such as exchange-traded products and over-the-counter derivatives, may not produce qualifying income for purposes of the Income Requirement described above, which must be met in order for the Fund to maintain its status as a RIC under the Code. In addition, the determination of the value and the identity of the issuer of such derivative investments are often unclear for purposes of the Asset Diversification Test described above. The Fund intends to carefully monitor such investments to ensure that any non-qualifying income does not exceed permissible limits and to ensure that it is adequately diversified under the Asset Diversification Test. The Fund, however, may not be able to accurately predict the non-qualifying income from these investments and there are no assurances that the IRS will agree with the Fund's determination of the Asset Diversification Test with respect to such derivatives. Failure of the diversification requirement might also result from a determination by the IRS that financial instruments in which the Fund invests are not securities.

The Fund is required for federal income tax purposes to mark to market and recognize as income for each taxable year its net unrealized gains and losses on certain futures and options contracts subject to section 1256 of the Code ("Section 1256 Contracts") as of the end of the year as well as those actually realized during the year. Gain or loss from Section 1256 Contracts on broad-based indexes required to be marked to market will be 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. Application of this rule may alter the timing and character of distributions to shareholders. The Fund may be required to defer the recognition of losses on Section 1256 Contracts to the extent of any unrecognized gains on offsetting positions held by the Fund. These provisions may also require the Fund to mark-to-market certain types of positions in its portfolio (i.e., treat them as if they were closed out), which may cause the Fund to recognize income without receiving cash with which to make distributions in amounts necessary to satisfy the distribution requirement and for avoiding the excise tax discussed above. Accordingly, to avoid certain income and excise taxes, the Fund may be required to liquidate its investments at a time when the investment adviser might not otherwise have chosen to do so.

Offsetting positions held by the Fund involving certain derivative instruments, such as options, forwards, and futures, as well as its long and short positions in portfolio securities, may be considered to constitute "straddles" for federal income tax purposes. In general, straddles are subject to certain rules that may affect the amount, character and timing of the Fund's gains and losses with respect to the straddle positions by requiring, among other things, that: (1) any loss realized on disposition of one position of a straddle may not be recognized to the extent that the Fund has unrealized gains with respect to the other positions in straddle; (2) the Fund's holding period in straddle positions be suspended while the straddle exists (possibly resulting in a gain being treated as short-term rather than long-term capital gain); (3) the losses recognized with respect to certain straddle positions that are part of a mixed straddle and are non-Section 1256 Contracts be treated as 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital loss; (4) losses recognized with respect to certain straddle positions that would otherwise constitute short-term capital losses be treated as long-term capital losses; and (5) the deduction of interest and carrying charges attributable to certain straddle positions may be deferred. Various elections are available to the Fund, which may mitigate the effects of the straddle rules, particularly with respect to mixed straddles.

In general, the straddle rules described above do not apply to any straddles held by the Fund if all of the offsetting positions consist of Section 1256 Contracts. The straddle rules described above also do not apply if all the offsetting positions making up a straddle consist of one or more "qualified covered call options" and the stock to be purchased under the options and the straddle is not part of a larger straddle. A qualified covered call option is generally any option granted by the Fund to purchase stock it holds (or stock it acquires in connection with granting the option) if, among other things, (1) the option is traded on a national securities exchange that is registered with the SEC or other market the IRS determined has rules adequate to carry out the purposes of the applicable Code provision, (2) the option is granted more than 30 days before it expires, (3) the option is not a "deep-in-the-money option," (4) such option is not granted by an options dealer in connection with the dealer's activity of dealing in options, and (5) gain or loss with respect to the option is not ordinary income or loss. In addition, the straddle rules could cause distributions from the Fund that would otherwise constitute "qualified dividend income" or qualify for the dividends received deduction to fail to satisfy the applicable holding period requirements. To the extent the Fund writes options that are not Section 1256 Contracts, the amount of the premium received by the Fund for writing such options is likely to be entirely short-term capital gain to the Fund. In addition, if such an option is closed by the Fund, any gain or loss realized by the Fund upon the sale of the underlying security pursuant to such exercise will generally be short-term capital gain or loss to the Fund depending on the Fund's holding period for the underlying security.

If the Fund enters into a "constructive sale" of any appreciated financial position in its portfolio, the Fund will be treated as if it had sold and immediately repurchased the property and must recognize gain (but not loss) with respect to that position. A constructive sale of an appreciated financial position occurs when the Fund enters into certain offsetting transactions with respect to the same or substantially identical property, including, but not limited to: (i) a short sale; (ii) an offsetting notional principal contract; (iii) a futures or forward contract; or (iv) other transactions identified in future Treasury Regulations. The character of the gain from constructive sales will depend upon the Fund's holding period in the appreciated financial position. Losses realized from a sale of a position that was previously the subject of a constructive sale will be recognized when the position is subsequently disposed of. The character of such losses will depend upon the Fund's holding period in the position beginning with the date the constructive sale was deemed to have occurred and the application of various loss deferral provisions in the Code. Constructive sale treatment does not apply to certain closed transactions, including if such a transaction is closed on or before the 30th day after the close of the Fund's transaction was closed. Some of the options, futures contracts, forward contracts, and swap agreements used by the Fund may be considered "section 1256 contracts." Any gains or losses on section 1256 contracts are generally considered 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gains or losses ("60/40") although certain foreign currency gains and losses from such contracts may be treated as ordinary in character. Also, section 1256 contracts held by the fund at the end of each taxable year (and, for purposes of the 4% excise tax, on certain other dates as prescribed under the Code) are "marked to market" with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized and the resulting gain or loss is treated as ordinary or 60/40 gain or loss.

Generally, the hedging transactions and certain other transactions in options, futures and forward contracts undertaken by the Fund, may result in "straddles" for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In some cases, the straddle rules also could apply in connection with swap agreements. The straddle rules may affect the amount, timing and character of gains (or losses) realized by the Fund. In addition, losses realized by the Fund on positions that are part of a straddle may be deferred under the straddle rules, rather than being taken into account in calculating the Fund's taxable income for the taxable year in which such losses are realized. Because only a few regulations implementing the straddle rules have been promulgated, the tax consequences of transactions in options, futures, forward contracts, and swap agreements to the Fund are not entirely clear. The transactions may increase the amount of short-term capital gain realized by the Fund which generally would be taxed as ordinary income when distributed to shareholders.

The Fund may make one or more of the elections available under the Code which are applicable to straddles. If the Fund makes any of the elections, the amount, character and timing of the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions will be determined under rules that vary according to the election(s) made. The rules applicable under certain of the elections operate to accelerate the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions.

The key features of the straddle rules are as follows:

- <u>The Fund may have to wait to deduct any losses</u>. If the Fund has a capital gain in one position of a straddle and a capital loss in the other, the Fund may not recognize the loss for federal income tax purposes until the Fund disposes of both positions. This might occur, for example, if the Fund had a highly appreciated stock position and the Fund purchased protective put options (which give the Fund the right to sell the stock to someone else for a period of time at a predetermined price) to offset the risk. If the stock continued to increase in value and the put options expired worthless, the Fund must defer recognition of the loss on its put options until the Fund sells and recognizes the gain on the original, appreciated position.
- <u>The Fund's capital gain holding period may get clipped</u>. The moment the Fund enters into a typical straddle, the capital gains holding period on its offsetting positions is frozen. If the Fund held the original position for one year or less (thus not qualifying for the long-term capital gains rate), not only is the holding period frozen, but it also starts all over again when the Fund disposes of the offsetting position.
- Losses recognized with respect to certain straddle positions that would otherwise constitute short-term capital losses may be treated as long-term capital losses. This generally has the effect of reducing the tax benefit of such losses.
- <u>The Fund may not be able to deduct any interest expenses or carrying charges</u>. During the offsetting period, any interest or carrying charges associated with the straddle are not currently tax deductible, but must be capitalized (added to cost basis).

Because application of the straddle rules may affect the character of gains or losses, defer losses and/or accelerate the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions, the amount which must be distributed to shareholders, and which generally will be taxed to shareholders either as ordinary income or long-term capital gain, may be increased or decreased substantially as compared to the Fund that did not engage in such hedging transactions.

Rules governing the tax aspects of swap agreements are in a developing stage and are not entirely clear in certain respects. Accordingly, while the Fund intends to account for such transactions in a manner they deem to be appropriate, the IRS might not accept such treatment. If it did not, the status of the Fund as a regulated investment company might be affected. The Trust intends to monitor developments in this area.

Certain requirements that must be met under the Code in order for the Fund to qualify as a regulated investment company, including the qualifying income and diversification requirements applicable to the Fund's assets may limit the extent to which the Fund will be able to engage in transactions in options, futures contracts, forward contracts, and swap agreements.

In addition, the use of swaps or other derivatives could adversely affect the character (capital gain vs. ordinary income) of the income recognized by the Fund for federal income tax purposes, as well as the amount and timing of such recognition, as compared to a direct investment in underlying securities, and could result in the Fund's recognition of income prior to the receipt of any corresponding cash. As a result of the use of swaps and derivatives, a larger portion of the Fund's distributions may be treated as ordinary income than would have been the case if the Fund did not enter into such swaps or derivatives. The tax treatment of swap agreements and other derivatives may also be affected by future legislation or Treasury Regulations and/or guidance issued by the IRS that could affect the character, timing and/or amount of the Fund's taxable income or gains and distributions made by the Fund.

Short Sales. The Fund may engage in short sales of securities. In general, gain or loss on a short sale is recognized when the Fund closes the short sale by delivering the borrowed securities to the lender, not when the borrowed securities are sold. Short sales may increase the amount of short-term capital gain realized by the Fund, which generally would be taxed as ordinary income when distributed to shareholders. In addition, these rules may terminate the holding period of "substantially identical property" held by the Fund. Moreover, a loss recognized by the Fund on a short sale will be treated as a long-term capital loss if, on the date of the short sale, "substantially identical property" has been held by the Fund for more than one year. The Fund generally will not be permitted to deduct payments made to reimburse a lender of securities for dividends paid on borrowed securities if the short sale is closed on or before the 45th day after the Fund enters into the short sale. Short sales also may be subject to the "Constructive Sales" rules, discussed below.

*Constructive Sales.* Certain rules may affect the timing and character of gain if the Fund engages in transactions that reduce or eliminate its risk of loss with respect to appreciated financial positions. If the Fund enters into certain transactions in property while holding substantially identical property, the Fund would be treated as if it had sold and immediately repurchased the property and would be subject to tax on any gain (but not loss) from the constructive sale. The character of gain from a constructive sale would depend upon the Fund's holding period in the property. Loss from a constructive sale would be recognized when the property was subsequently disposed of, and its character would depend on the Fund's holding period and the application of various loss deferral provisions of the Code.

*Investments in REITs and REMICs.* The Fund may invest in REITs. Such investments in REIT equity securities may require the Fund to accrue and distribute income not yet received. In order to generate sufficient cash to make the requisite distributions, the Fund may be required to sell securities in its portfolio (including when it is not advantageous to do so) that it otherwise would have continued to hold. The Fund's investments in REIT equity securities may at other times result in the Fund's receipt of cash in excess of the REIT's earnings; if the Fund distributes such amounts, such distribution could constitute a return of capital to Fund shareholders for federal income tax purposes. Dividends received by the Fund from a REIT generally will not constitute qualified dividend income.

As discussed above, the Fund or some of the REITs in which the Fund may invest may be permitted to hold senior or residual interests in REMICs or debt or equity interests in taxable mortgage pools ("TMPs"). Under Treasury regulations not yet issued, but that may apply retroactively, a portion of the Fund's income from a REIT that is attributable to the REIT's residual interest in a REMIC or a TMP (referred to in the Code as an "excess inclusion") will be subject to federal income tax in all events. These regulations are expected to provide that excess inclusion income of a regulated investment company, such as the Fund, will be allocated to shareholders of the regulated investment company in proportion to the dividends received by shareholders, with the same consequences as if shareholders held the related REMIC residual or TMP interest directly.

In general, excess inclusion income allocated to shareholders (i) cannot be offset by net operating losses (subject to a limited exception for certain thrift institutions), (ii) will constitute unrelated business taxable income to entities (including a qualified pension plan, an individual retirement account, a 401(k) plan, a Keogh plan or other tax-exempt entity) subject to tax on unrelated business income, thereby potentially requiring such an entity that is allocated excess inclusion income, and that otherwise might not be required to file a tax return, to file a tax return and pay tax on such income, and (iii) in the case of a non-U.S. shareholder, will not qualify for any reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax.

If at any time during any taxable year a "disqualified organization" (as defined in the Code) is a record holder of a share in a regulated investment company earning excess inclusion income, then the regulated investment company will be subject to a tax equal to that portion of its excess inclusion income for the taxable year that is allocable to the disqualified organization, multiplied by the highest federal income tax rate imposed on corporations. It is not expected that a substantial portion of the Fund's assets will be residual interests in REMICs. Additionally, the Fund does not intend to invest in REITs in which a substantial portion of the assets will consist of residual interests in REMICs.

*Investments in Commodities.* The Fund may invest in physical commodities, exchange-traded commodities ("ETCs"), ETFs that are not taxable as RICs under the Code that in turn invest in commodities, or other direct or indirect exposure to commodities. The income the Fund receives from such commodity-related investments will generally not be qualifying income for purposes of the Fund satisfying the "Income Requirement" (as defined above under the heading "Taxes"). The Fund anticipates monitoring such commodity-related investments so as to keep the Fund's non-qualifying income within acceptable limits of the Income Requirement, however, it is possible that such non-qualifying income will be more than anticipated which could cause the Fund to inadvertently fail the Income Requirement thereby causing the Fund to fail to qualify as a RIC. In such a case, the Fund would be subject to the rules described above.

*Commodity-Linked Derivatives Tax Risk.* The tax treatment of commodity-linked derivative instruments is currently uncertain and may be adversely affected by changes in legislation, regulations, or other legally binding authority. As a RIC, the Fund must satisfy the Income Requirement. On May 1, 2017, the IRS published a series of revocations of private letter rulings that had been issued to RICs. In each of the revocations, at least one of the rulings requested in the original private letter ruling was that the income from a commodity-linked note was qualified income for the purposes of 90% gross income test. Although the original rulings were favorable, the IRS indicated in the revocations that the rulings were not in accord with the current views of the Service. If, as a result of any adverse future legislation, U.S. Treasury regulations, and/or guidance issued by the IRS, the income of the Fund from certain commodity-linked

derivatives were treated as non-qualifying income, the Fund may fail to qualify as RIC and/or be subject to federal income tax at the Fund level. The uncertainty surrounding the treatment of certain derivative instruments under the qualification tests for a RIC may limit the Fund's use of such derivative instruments.

## **Backup Withholding**

By law, the Fund may be required to withhold a portion of your taxable dividends and sales proceeds unless you:

- provide your correct social security or taxpayer identification number,
- certify that this number is correct,
- certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, and
- certify that you are a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien).

The Fund also must withhold if the IRS instructs it to do so. When withholding is required, the amount will be 24% of any distributions or proceeds paid. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the appropriate information is furnished to the IRS. Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding and information reporting. The special U.S. tax certification requirements applicable to non-U.S. investors to avoid backup withholding are described under the "Non-U.S. Investors" heading below.

## Non-U.S. Investors

Non-U.S. investors (shareholders who, as to the United States, are non-resident alien individuals, foreign trusts or estates, foreign corporations, or foreign partnerships) may be subject to U.S. withholding and estate tax and are subject to special U.S. tax certification requirements. Non-U.S. investors should consult their tax advisors about the applicability of U.S. tax withholding and the use of the appropriate forms to certify their status.

*In General.* The United States imposes a flat 30% withholding tax (or a withholding tax at a lower treaty rate) on U.S. source dividends, including on income dividends, paid to you by the Fund, subject to certain exemptions described below. However, notwithstanding such exemptions from U.S. withholding at the source, any dividends and distributions of income and capital gains, including the proceeds from the sale of your Fund shares, will be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 24% if you fail to properly certify that you are not a U.S. person.

*Capital Gain Dividends*. In general, capital gain dividends reported by the Fund to shareholders as paid from its net long-term capital gains, other than long-term capital gains realized on disposition of U.S. real property interests (see the discussion below), are not subject to U.S. withholding tax unless you are a non-resident alien individual present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the calendar year.

Short-Term Capital Gain Dividends and Interest-Related Dividends. The prior exemptions from U.S. withholding for interest-related dividends paid by the Fund from its qualified net interest income from U.S. sources and short-term capital gain dividends have expired. With respect to taxable years of the Fund that began before January 1, 2014, short-term capital gain dividends reported by the Fund to shareholders as paid from its net short-term capital gains, other than short-term capital gains realized on disposition of U.S. real property interests (see the discussion below), were not subject to U.S. withholding tax unless you were a non-resident alien individual present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the calendar year. Similarly, with respect to taxable years of the Fund that began before January 1, 2014, dividends reported by the Fund to shareholders as interest-related dividends and paid from its qualified net interest income from U.S. sources were not subject to U.S. withholding tax. "Qualified interest income" included, in general, U.S. source (1) bank deposit interest, (2) short-term original discount, (3) interest (including original issue discount, market discount, or acquisition discount) on an obligation that is in registered form, unless it is earned on an obligation issued by a corporation or partnership in which the Fund is a 10-percent shareholder or is contingent interest, and (4) any interest-related dividend from another regulated investment company. It is currently unclear whether Congress will extend these exemptions to taxable years of the fund beginning on or after January 1, 2014, or what the terms of any such extension would be, including whether such extension would have retroactive effect. If the exemptions are reinstated, the Fund reserves the right to not report small amounts of short-term capital gain dividends or interest-related dividends. Additionally, the Fund's reporting of short-term capital gain dividends or interest-related dividends may not be passed through to shareholders by intermediaries who have assumed tax reporting responsibilities for this income in managed or omnibus accounts due to systems limitations or operational constraints.

Net Investment Income from Dividends on Stock and Foreign Source Interest Income Continue to be Subject to Withholding Tax; Foreign Tax Credits. Ordinary dividends paid by the Fund to non-U.S. investors on the income earned on portfolio investments in (i) the stock of domestic and foreign corporations and (ii) the debt of foreign issuers continue to be subject to U.S. withholding tax. Foreign

shareholders may be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30% on the income resulting from an election to pass-through foreign tax credits to shareholders, but may not be able to claim a credit or deduction with respect to the withholding tax for the foreign tax treated as having been paid by them.

*Income Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business.* If the income from the Fund is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business carried on by a foreign shareholder, then ordinary income dividends, capital gain dividends and any gains realized upon the sale or redemption of Shares of the Fund will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. citizens or domestic corporations and require the filing of a non-resident U.S. income tax return.

*Investment in U.S. Real Property.* The Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 ("FIRPTA") makes non-U.S. persons subject to U.S. tax on disposition of a U.S. real property interest ("USRPI") as if he or she were a U.S. person. Such gain is sometimes referred to as FIRPTA gain. The Fund may invest in equity securities of corporations that invest in USRPI, which may trigger FIRPTA gain to the Fund's non-U.S. shareholders.

The Code provides a look-through rule for distributions of FIRPTA gain when a RIC is classified as a qualified investment entity. A RIC will be classified as a qualified investment entity only with respect to any distribution by the RIC which is attributable directly or indirectly to a distribution to the RIC from a U.S. REIT ("FIRPTA distribution") and if, in general, 50% or more of the RIC's assets consist of interests in U.S. REITs and other U.S. real property holding corporations ("USRPHC"). If a RIC is a qualified investment entity and the non-U.S. shareholder owns more than 5% of a class of Fund shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the FIRPTA distribution to the ron-U.S. shareholder is treated as gain from the disposition of a USRPI, causing the distribution to be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 35% (unless reduced by future regulations), and requiring the non-U.S. shareholder to file a non-resident U.S. income tax return. In addition, even if the non-U.S. shareholder does not own more than 5% of a class of Fund shares, but the Fund is a qualified investment entity, the FIRPTA distribution will be taxable as ordinary dividends (rather than as a capital gain or short-term capital gain dividend) subject to withholding at 30% or lower treaty rate.

It is currently unclear whether Congress will extend the look-through rules previously in effect before January 1, 2014, for distributions of FIRPTA gain to other types of distributions on or after January 1, 2014, from a RIC to a non-U.S. shareholder from the RIC's direct or indirect investment in USRPI or what the terms of any such extension would be, including whether such extension would have retroactive effect.

*U.S. Estate Tax.* Transfers by gift of Shares of the Fund by a foreign shareholder who is a non-resident alien individual will not be subject to U.S. federal gift tax. An individual who, at the time of death, is a non-U.S. shareholder will nevertheless be subject to U.S. federal estate tax with respect to Fund Shares at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. citizens and residents, unless a treaty exemption applies. If a treaty exemption is available, a decedent's estate may nonetheless need to file a U.S. estate tax return to claim the exemption in order to obtain a U.S. federal transfer certificate. The transfer certificate will identify the property (i.e., Fund Shares) as to which the U.S. federal estate tax lien has been released. In the absence of a treaty, there is a \$13,000 statutory estate tax credit (equivalent to U.S. located assets with a value of \$60,000). For estates with U.S. located assets of not more than \$60,000, the Fund may accept, in lieu of a transfer certificate, an affidavit from an appropriate individual evidencing that decedent's U.S. located assets are below this threshold amount.

*U.S. Tax Certification Rules.* Special U.S. tax certification requirements may apply to non-U.S. shareholders both to avoid U.S. backup withholding imposed at a rate of 24% and to obtain the benefits of any treaty between the United States and the shareholder's country of residence. In general, if you are a non-U.S. shareholder, you must provide a Form W-8 BEN (or other applicable Form W-8) to establish that you are not a U.S. person, to claim that you are the beneficial owner of the income and, if applicable, to claim a reduced rate of, or exemption from, withholding as a resident of a country with which the United States has an income tax treaty. A Form W-8 BEN provided without a U.S. taxpayer identification number will remain in effect for a period beginning on the date signed and ending on the last day of the third succeeding calendar year unless an earlier change of circumstances makes the information on the form incorrect. Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding.

The tax consequences to a non-U.S. shareholder entitled to claim the benefits of an applicable tax treaty may be different from those described herein. Non-U.S. shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of an investment in the Fund, including the applicability of foreign tax.

*Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA").* Under FATCA, the Fund will be required to withhold a 30% tax on (a) income dividends paid by the Fund after June 30, 2014, and (b) certain capital gain distributions and the proceeds arising from the sale of Fund shares paid by the Fund after December 31, 2016, to certain foreign entities, referred to as foreign financial institutions ("FFI") or non-financial foreign entities ("NFFE"), that fail to comply (or be deemed compliant) with extensive new reporting and withholding requirements designed to inform the U.S. Department of the Treasury of U.S.-owned foreign investment accounts. The FATCA withholding tax generally can be avoided: (a) by an FFI, if it reports certain direct and indirect ownership of foreign financial accounts held by U.S. persons with the FFI and (b) by an NFFE, if it: (i) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (ii) if it does have such owners, reporting information relating to them. The U.S. Treasury has negotiated intergovernmental agreements ("IGA") with

certain countries and is in various stages of negotiations with a number of other foreign countries with respect to one or more alternative approaches to implement FATCA; an entity in one of those countries may be required to comply with the terms of an IGA instead of U.S. Treasury regulations.

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

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

Such foreign shareholders also may fall into certain exempt, excepted or deemed compliant categories as established by U.S. Treasury regulations, IGAs, and other guidance regarding FATCA. An FFI or NFFE that invests in the Fund will need to provide the Fund with documentation properly certifying the entity's status under FATCA in order to avoid FATCA withholding. Non-U.S. investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the impact of these requirements on their investment in the Fund. The requirements imposed by FATCA are different from, and in addition to, the U.S. tax certification rules to avoid backup withholding described above. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the application of these requirements to their own situation.

## Effect of Future Legislation or Administrative Changes; Local Tax Considerations

The foregoing general discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences is based on the Code and the regulations issued thereunder as in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative or administrative changes, including provisions of current law that sunset and thereafter no longer apply, or court decisions may significantly change the conclusions expressed herein, and any such changes or decisions may have a retroactive effect with respect to the transactions contemplated herein. Rules of state and local taxation of ordinary income, qualified dividend income and capital gain dividends may differ from the rules for U.S. federal income taxation described above. Distributions may also be subject to additional state, local and foreign taxes depending on each shareholder's particular situation. Non-U.S. shareholders may be subject to U.S. tax rules that differ significantly from those summarized above. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisors as to the consequences of these and other state and local tax rules affecting investment in the Fund.

*Possible Tax Law Changes*. At the time that this SAI is being prepared, various administrative and legislative changes to the federal tax laws are under consideration, but it is not possible at this time to determine whether any of these changes will be made or what the changes might entail.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements and Annual Reports will be available after the Fund has completed a fiscal period/year of operations. When available, you may request a copy of the Fund's Annual Report at no charge by calling (215) 882-9983, or you may download the report at the Fund's website at www.alphaarchitect.com/funds.

## Appendix A

## **Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**

## **EA Advisers**

## **Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**

## **PROXY VOTING POLICY**

The Board has delegated authority to Empowered Funds, LLC dba EA Advisers (the "Firm") to vote all proxies relating to the securities held in the Fund's portfolios in the best interest of Funds and their shareholders. The Firm has therefore adopted the following procedures for voting proxies on behalf of the Funds.

## **VOTING PROCEDURES**

All employees will forward any proxy materials received on behalf of Fund to the Compliance Officer, who will determine which Fund holds the security to which the proxy relates.

Absent material conflicts, the Compliance Officer will determine how the Firm should vote the proxy in accordance with applicable voting guidelines, complete the proxy and direct that the proxy be submitted in a timely and appropriate manner.

#### DISCLOSURE

The Firm will provide conspicuously displayed information to the Fund summarizing this proxy voting policy and procedures, including a statement that Funds may request information regarding how the Firm voted the Fund's proxies, and that Funds may request a copy of these policies and procedures. The Fund will disclose this Proxy Policy, or the Firm's description of the Proxy Policy, to their shareholders by including it as an appendix to the Fund's Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") on Form N-1A.

## VOTING GUIDELINES

In the absence of specific voting guidelines from the Fund, the Firm will vote proxies in the best interests of each particular Fund. The Firm's policy is to vote all proxies from a specific issuer the same way for the Fund absent qualifying restrictions from the Fund. The Fund are permitted to place reasonable restrictions on the Firm's voting authority in the same manner that they may place such restrictions on the actual selection of portfolio securities.

The Firm will generally vote in favor of routine corporate housekeeping proposals such as the election of directors and selection of auditors absent conflicts of interest raised by an auditor's non-audit services.

In reviewing proposals, the Firm will further consider the opinion of management and the effect on management, and the effect on shareholder value and the issuer's business practices. In general, much weight will be given to management's recommendation on the proxy vote in the Firm's decision making. The Firm may consider the opinions of independent proxy service providers, such as Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. ("ISS") in certain situations.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The Firm will identify any conflicts that exist between the interests of the Firm and the Fund(s) by reviewing the relationship of the Firm with the issuer of each security to determine if the Firm or any of its employees has any financial, business or personal relationship with the issuer.

If a material conflict of interest exists, the Compliance Officer will determine whether it is appropriate to disclose the conflict to the affected Fund(s), to give such Fund(s) an opportunity to vote the proxies themselves, or to address the voting issue through other objective means such as voting in a manner consistent with a predetermined voting policy or receiving an independent third-party voting recommendation.

The Firm will maintain a record of the voting resolution of any conflict of interest.