

# **Capital Advisors Growth Fund**

**Investor Class: CIAOX**

(the “Fund”)

**a series of Advisors Series Trust (the “Trust”)**

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**Supplement dated January 9, 2026 to the  
Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) dated April 30, 2025**

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Effective December 31, 2025, Joe Redwine has retired his position as an Independent Trustee of the Trust. All references to Mr. Redwine are removed from relevant sections of the SAI.

**Please retain this Supplement with your Statement of Additional Information**

**Statement of Additional Information**  
**April 30, 2025**



**CAPITAL ADVISORS GROWTH FUND**

**Investor Class**

**CIAOX**

**a series of Advisors Series Trust (the “Trust”)**

**1-866-205-0523**

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus, and it should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus dated April 30, 2025, as may be revised (the “Prospectus”), for the Capital Advisors Growth Fund (the “Fund”). Capital Advisors, Inc. (the “Advisor”) is the investment advisor to the Fund. A copy of the Fund’s Prospectus may be obtained by contacting the Fund at the above telephone number.

The financial statements, accompanying notes and report of independent registered public accounting firm of the Fund that are included in the Fund’s Certified Shareholder Report on [Form N-CSR](#) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. The annual report can be obtained in the same way as the Prospectus. This SAI has been incorporated by reference into the Fund’s Prospectus.

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## THE TRUST

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

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

The Fund commenced operations on December 31, 1999.

## INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RISKS

The following paragraphs provide more detail regarding the Fund’s investment policies and the associated risks identified in the Fund’s Prospectus.

### **Diversification**

The Fund is diversified under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”). This means that, as to 75% of the Fund’s total assets, (1) no more than 5% may be invested in the securities of a single issuer, and (2) it may not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of a single issuer. However, diversification of a fund’s holdings is measured at the time the Fund purchases a security and if the Fund purchases a security and holds it for a period of time, the security may become a larger percentage of the Fund’s total assets due to movements in the financial markets. If the market affects several securities held by the Fund, the Fund may have a greater percentage of its assets invested in securities of fewer issuers. Accordingly, the Fund is subject to the risk that its performance may be hurt disproportionately by the poor performance of relatively few securities despite qualifying as a “diversified” fund.

### **Percentage Limitations**

Whenever an investment policy or limitation states a maximum percentage of the Fund’s assets that may be invested in any security or other asset, or sets forth a policy regarding quality standards, such standards or percentage limitation will be determined immediately after and as a result of the Fund’s acquisition or sale of such security or other asset. Accordingly, except with respect to borrowing, any subsequent change in values, net assets or other circumstances will not be considered in determining whether an investment complies with the Fund’s investment policies and limitations. In addition, if a bankruptcy or other extraordinary event occurs concerning a particular investment by the Fund, the Fund may receive stock, real estate or other investments that the Fund would not, or could not buy. If this happens, the Fund would take such action as is reasonable given the Fund’s objective.

### **Market and Regulatory Risk**

Events in the financial markets and economy may cause volatility and uncertainty and affect performance. Such adverse effect on performance could include a decline in the value and liquidity of securities held by the Fund, unusually high and unanticipated levels of redemptions, an increase in portfolio turnover, a decrease in net asset value (“NAV”), and an increase in Fund expenses. It may also be unusually difficult

to identify both investment risks and opportunities, in which case investment objectives may not be met. Market events may affect a single issuer, industry, sector, or the market as a whole. Traditionally liquid investments may experience periods of diminished liquidity. During a general downturn in the financial markets, multiple asset classes may decline in value and the Fund may lose value, regardless of the individual results of the securities and other instruments in which the Fund invests. It is impossible to predict whether or for how long such market events will continue, particularly if they are unprecedented, unforeseen or widespread events or conditions, pandemics, epidemics and other similar circumstances in one or more countries or regions. Therefore, it is important to understand that the value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply and for extended periods, and you could lose money.

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

The Fund invests in the following types of investments, each of which is subject to certain risks, as discussed below:

### **Equity Securities**

The Fund may invest in common stocks, preferred stocks, foreign securities traded in the U.S. and American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), each of which is subject to certain risks, as discussed below.

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

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

*Preferred Stock.* A preferred stock is a blend of the characteristics of a bond and common stock. Preferred stock generally does not carry voting rights. It can offer the higher yield of a bond and has priority over common stock in equity ownership, but does not have the seniority of a bond and, unlike common stock, its participation in the issuer's growth may be limited. Preferred stock has preference over common stock in the receipt of dividends and in any residual assets after payment to creditors should the issuer be dissolved. Although the dividend is set at a fixed annual rate, in some circumstances it can be changed or omitted by the issuer.

*Foreign Securities.* The Fund may invest in securities of foreign issuers, provided that they are publicly traded in the United States, including in ADRs.

*American Depositary Receipts.* ADRs are depositary receipts for foreign securities denominated in U.S. dollars and traded on U.S. securities markets. ADRs evidence ownership of, and represent the right to

receive, securities of foreign issuers deposited in a domestic bank or trust company or a foreign correspondent bank. Prices of ADRs are quoted in U.S. dollars, and ADRs are traded in the U.S. on exchanges or over-the-counter. While ADRs do not eliminate all the risks associated with foreign investments, by investing in ADRs rather than directly in the stock of foreign issuers, the Fund will avoid currency and certain foreign market trading risks during the settlement period for either purchases or sales. In general, there is a large, liquid market in the U.S. for ADRs quoted on a national securities exchange. The information available for ADRs is subject to the accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards of the U.S. market or exchange on which they are traded, which standards are generally more uniform and more exacting than those to which many foreign issuers may be subject.

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

### **Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs")**

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

### **Risks of Investing in Foreign Securities**

Investments in foreign securities involve certain inherent risks, including the following:

*Political and Economic Factors.* Individual foreign economies of certain countries may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency, and diversification and balance of payments position. The internal politics of some foreign countries may not be as stable as those of the United States. Governments in some foreign countries also continue to participate to a significant degree, through ownership interest or regulation, in their respective economies. Action by these governments could

include restrictions on foreign investment, nationalization, expropriation of goods or imposition of taxes, and could have a significant effect on market prices of securities and payment of interest. The economies of many foreign countries are heavily dependent upon international trade and are affected by the trade policies and economic conditions of their trading partners. If these trading partners enacted protectionist trade legislation, it could have a significant adverse effect upon the securities markets of such countries.

*Currency Fluctuations.* The Fund will invest only in securities denominated in U.S. dollars. For this reason, the value of the Fund's assets may not be subject to risks associated with variations in the value of foreign currencies relative to the U.S. dollar to the same extent as might otherwise be the case. Changes in the value of foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar may, however, affect the value of the assets and/or income of foreign companies whose U.S. dollar denominated securities are held by the Fund. Such companies may also be affected significantly by currency restrictions and exchange control regulations enacted from time to time.

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

*Taxes.* The interest and dividends payable on some of the Fund's foreign portfolio securities may be subject to foreign withholding taxes, thus reducing the net amount of income available for distribution to Fund shareholders. Based on the principal investment strategies of the Fund, it is not expected that the Fund will be eligible to pass through to its shareholders any credits or deductions against their U.S. federal income tax with respect to any foreign withholding taxes paid by the Fund.

**Investment Company Securities.** The Fund may invest in shares of other investment companies or mutual funds, including exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). For example, the Fund may invest in money market mutual funds in connection with its management of daily cash positions and for temporary defensive purposes. The Fund currently intends to limit its investments in securities issued by other investment companies (except for money market funds) so that not more than 3% of the outstanding voting shares of any one investment company will be owned by the Fund, or its affiliated persons, as a whole. The Fund may invest unlimited amounts in money market funds for management of its daily cash position, subject to certain conditions. In addition to the advisory and operational fees the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operation, the Fund would also bear its pro rata portions of each other investment company's advisory and operational expenses.

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

The Fund may rely on Section 12(d)(1)(F) and Rule 12d1-3 of the 1940 Act, which provide an exemption from Section 12(d)(1) that allows the Fund to invest all of its assets in other registered funds, including ETFs, if, among other conditions: (a) the Fund, together with its affiliates, acquires no more than 3% percent of the outstanding voting stock of any acquired fund, and (b) the sales load charged on the Fund's shares is no greater than the limits set forth in Rule 2341 of the Conduct Rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") applicable to a fund of funds (e.g., 8.5%). In accordance with Rule 12d1-1 under the 1940 Act, the provisions of Section 12(d)(1) shall not apply to shares of money market funds purchased by the Fund, whether or not for temporary defensive purposes, provided that the Fund does not pay a sales charge, distribution fee or service fee as defined in Rule 2341 of the Conduct Rules of FINRA on acquired money market fund shares (or the Adviser must waive its advisory fees in amount necessary to offset any sales charge, distribution fee or service fee).

Rule 12d1-4 permits additional types of fund of fund arrangements without an exemptive order. The rule imposes certain conditions, including limits on control and voting of acquired funds' shares, evaluations and findings by investment advisers, fund investment agreements, and limits on most three-tier fund structures.

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

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

### **Derivative Securities**

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

### **Illiquid and Restricted Securities**

Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act, the Fund may not acquire any "illiquid investment" if, immediately after the acquisition, the Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments that are assets. An "illiquid investment" is any investment that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. The Fund has implemented a liquidity risk management program and related procedures to identify illiquid investments pursuant to Rule 22e-4. In the event that more than 15% of its net assets are invested in illiquid investments, the Fund will make such reports as required under the liquidity risk management program and will seek to reduce its holdings of illiquid investments within a reasonable period of time.

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

Investments in illiquid investments involve more risks than investments in similar securities that are readily marketable. Illiquid investments may trade at a discount from comparable, more liquid investments. Investment of the Fund's assets in illiquid investments may restrict the ability of the Fund to dispose of its investments in a timely fashion and for a fair price as well as its ability to take advantage of



market opportunities. The risks associated with illiquidity will be particularly acute where the Fund's operations require cash, such as when the Fund has net redemptions, and could result in the Fund borrowing to meet short-term cash requirements or incurring losses on the sale of illiquid investments.

Restricted securities sold in private placement transactions between issuers and their purchasers are neither listed on an exchange nor traded in other established markets and may be illiquid. In many cases, the privately placed securities may not be freely transferable under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction or due to contractual restrictions on resale. To the extent privately placed securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices realized from the sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund or less than the fair value of the securities. A restricted security may be determined to be liquid under the Fund's liquidity risk management program established pursuant to Rule 22e-4 depending on market, trading, or investment-specific considerations related to the restricted security. In addition, issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to the disclosure and other investor protection requirements that may be applicable if their securities were publicly traded. If any privately placed securities held by the Fund are required to be registered under the securities laws of one or more jurisdictions before being resold, the Fund may be required to bear the expenses of registration. Private placement investments may involve investments in smaller, less seasoned issuers, which may involve greater risks than investments in more established companies. These issuers may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or they may be dependent on a limited management group. In making investments in private placement securities, the Fund may obtain access to material non-public information about an issuer of private placement securities, which may restrict the Fund's ability to conduct transactions in those securities.

### **Short-Term Investments**

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

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

In addition to buying certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances, the Fund also may make interest-bearing time or other interest-bearing deposits in commercial or savings banks. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained at a banking institution for a specified period of time at a specified interest rate.

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

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

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

### **Investment Restrictions**

The Fund has adopted the following investment restrictions as fundamental policies that may not be changed without approval by a "majority of the outstanding shares" of the Fund which, as used in this SAI, means the vote of the lesser of (a) 67% or more of the shares of the Fund represented at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present or represented by proxy, or (b) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

The Fund's investment objective is fundamental. In addition, the Fund may not:

1. Issue senior securities, borrow money or pledge its assets.
2. Purchase securities on margin, except such short-term credits as may be necessary for the clearance of transactions.
3. Act as underwriter (except to the extent the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter in connection with the sale of securities in its investment portfolio).
4. Invest 25% or more of its total assets, calculated at the time of purchase and taken at market value, in any one industry or group of industries (other than U.S. government securities).
5. Purchase or sell real estate or interests in real estate or real estate limited partnerships (although the Fund may purchase and sell securities which are secured by real estate and securities of companies which invest or deal in real estate).
6. Purchase or sell commodities or commodity futures contracts.
7. Make loans of money (except for purchases of debt securities consistent with the investment policies of the Fund and except for repurchase agreements).

The Fund observes the following policies, which are not deemed fundamental and which may be changed without shareholder vote. The Fund may not:

1. Invest in the securities of other investment companies or purchase any other investment company's voting securities or make any other investment in other investment companies except to the extent permitted by federal securities law.
2. Hold more than 15% of its net assets in investments that are restricted as to disposition or otherwise are illiquid or have no readily available market.

## PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

Although the Fund generally will not invest for short-term trading purposes, portfolio securities may be sold without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Advisor, investment considerations warrant such action. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing (1) the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by (2) the monthly average of the value of portfolio securities owned during the fiscal year. A 100% turnover rate would occur if all the securities in the Fund's portfolio, with the exception of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less, were sold and either repurchased or replaced within one year. A high rate of portfolio turnover (100% or more) generally leads to higher transaction costs and may result in a greater number of taxable transactions. (See "Portfolio Transactions and Brokerage").

Following are the portfolio turnover rates for the Fund's two most recent fiscal years:

<b>Portfolio Turnover</b>	
<b>During Fiscal Years Ended December 31</b>	
<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
18.81%	11.82%

## PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS POLICY

The Advisor and the Fund maintain portfolio holdings disclosure policies that govern the timing and circumstances of disclosure to shareholders and third parties of information regarding the portfolio investments held by the Fund. These portfolio holdings disclosure policies have been approved by the Board. Disclosure of the Fund's complete holdings is required to be made quarterly within 60 days of the end of each fiscal quarter in the annual and semi-annual report to shareholders and in the quarterly holdings report on Part F of Form N-PORT. These reports are available, free of charge, on the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Pursuant to the Trust's portfolio holdings disclosure policies, information about the Fund's portfolio holdings is not distributed to any person unless:

- The disclosure is required pursuant to a regulatory request, court order or is legally required in the context of other legal proceedings;
- The disclosure is made to a mutual fund rating and/or ranking organization, or person performing similar functions, who is subject to a duty of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on any non-public information;
- The disclosure is made to internal parties involved in the investment process, administration, operation or custody of the Fund, including, but not limited to U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services ("Fund Services") and the Trust's Board of Trustees, attorneys, auditors or accountants;
- The disclosure is made: (a) in connection with a quarterly, semi-annual or annual Certified Shareholder Report on Form N-CSR that is available to the public; or (b) relates to information that is otherwise available to the public; or
- The disclosure is made with the prior written approval of either the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") or his or her designee.

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

- A mutual fund rating and/or ranking organization, or person performing similar functions, who is subject to a duty of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on any non-public information;
- Rating and/or ranking organizations, specifically: Lipper; Morningstar; S&P Global Ratings; Bloomberg; Vickers-Stock Research Corporation; Thomson Financial; and Capital-Bridge, all of which currently receive such information no later than 15 calendar days following the end of a calendar quarter; or
- Internal parties involved in the investment process, administration, operation or custody of the Fund, specifically: Fund Services; the Trust's Board of Trustees; and the Trust's attorneys and accountants (currently, Sullivan & Worcester LLP ("Sullivan & Worcester") and Tait, Weller & Baker LLP, respectively), all of which typically receive such information after it is generated.

Any disclosures to additional parties not described above is made with the prior written approval of either the Trust's CCO or his or her designee, pursuant to the Trust's Policy and Procedures Regarding Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings.

The CCO or designated officer of the Trust will approve the furnishing of non-public portfolio holdings to a third party only if they consider the furnishing of such information to be in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders and if no material conflict of interest exists regarding such disclosure between shareholders interest and those of the Advisor, Distributor or any affiliated person of the Fund. No consideration may be received by the Fund, the Advisor, any affiliate of the Advisor or their employees in connection with the disclosure of portfolio holdings information. The Board receives and reviews annually a list of the persons who receive non-public portfolio holdings information and the purpose for which it is furnished.

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

In the event of a conflict between the interests of the Fund and the interests of the Advisor or an affiliated person of the Advisor, the CCO of the Advisor, in consultation with the Trust's CCO, shall make a determination in the best interests of the Fund, and shall report such determination to the Advisor's Board of Directors and to the Board at the end of the quarter in which such determination was made. Any employee of the Advisor who suspects a breach of this obligation must report the matter immediately to the Advisor's CCO or to his or her supervisor.

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

additional third parties, in accordance with the Disclosure Policies, when the Fund has a legitimate business purpose and the third party recipient is subject to a confidentiality agreement.

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

## MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served*</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During Past Five Years<sup>(3)</sup></b>
Michele Rackey (1959) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite term; since January 2023.	Chief Executive Officer, Government Employees Benefit Association (GEBA) (benefits and wealth management organization) (2004 to 2020); Board Member, Association Business Services Inc. (ABSI) (for-profit subsidiary of the American Society of Association Executives) (2019 to 2020).	1	Trustee, Advisors Series Trust (for series not affiliated with the Fund).
Anne W. Kritzmire (1962) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite term; since August 2024.	Principal Owner of AW Kritzmire Consulting (2021-Present); Business Faculty Lead of Lake Forest Graduate School of Management (2021-Present); Head of Multi-Asset and various other positions of Nuveen Investments (1999-2020).	1	Trustee, Advisors Series Trust (for series not affiliated with the Fund); Lead Independent Director of Thornburg Income Builder Opportunities Trust (a closed end fund) (2020-Present); Trustee, Finance Commissioner, and Acting Treasurer of Village of Long Grove (municipal government) (2017-Present).

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<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served*</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During Past Five Years<sup>(3)</sup></b>
Craig B. Wainscott (1961) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite term; since August 2024.	CEO instaCOVER LLC (Specialized insurance/technology company) 2014-2021, and CFO 2021-2023.	1	Trustee, Advisors Series Trust (for series not affiliated with the Fund); Independent Trustee of iMGP Funds (14 Funds) (2024-Present); Independent Trustee and Board Chair of Brandes Investment Trust (6 Funds) (2011-2024); Board Member of Paradigm Project (social venture company) (2010-2020).

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## Officers

<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</b>
Jeffrey T. Rauman (1969) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	President, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer	Indefinite term; since December 2018.	Senior Vice President, Compliance and Administration, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (February 1996 to present).
Kevin J. Hayden (1971) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Vice President, Treasurer and Principal Financial Officer	Indefinite term; since January 2023.	Vice President, Compliance and Administration, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (June 2005 to present).
Richard R. Conner (1982) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite term; since December 2018.	Assistant Vice President, Compliance and Administration, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (July 2010 to present).
Albert Sosa (1970) 615 E. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite term; since March 2025.	Assistant Vice President, Compliance and Administration, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (June 2004 to present).
Joseph R. Kolinsky (1970) 2020 E. Financial Way, Suite 100 Glendora, CA 91741	Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer and AML Officer	Indefinite term; since July 2023.	Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (May 2023 to present); Chief Compliance Officer, Chandler Asset Management, Inc. (2020 to 2022); Director, Corporate Compliance, Pacific Life Insurance Company (2018 to 2019).
Elaine E. Richards (1968) 2020 E. Financial Way, Suite 100 Glendora, CA 91741	Vice President and Secretary	Indefinite term; since February 2025.	Senior Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (July 2007 to present).

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

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

(2) As of March 31, 2025, the Trust was comprised of 33 active portfolios managed by unaffiliated investment advisors. The term “Fund Complex” applies only to the Fund. The Fund does not hold itself out as related to any other series within the Trust for investment purposes, nor does it share the same investment advisor with any other series.

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

## **Additional Information Concerning Our Board of Trustees**

### *The Role of the Board*

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

### *Board Leadership Structure*

The Board has structured itself in a manner that it believes allows it to effectively perform its oversight function. It has established three standing committees, an Audit Committee, a Governance and Nominating Committee and a Qualified Legal Compliance Committee (the “QLCC”), which are discussed in greater detail under “Board Committees,” below. Currently, all of the members of the Board are Independent Trustees, which are Trustees that are not affiliated with the Adviser or its affiliates or any other investment adviser in the Trust or with its principal underwriter. The Independent Trustees have engaged their own independent counsel to advise them on matters relating to their responsibilities in connection with the Trust.

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

The Board reviews its structure annually. The Trust has determined that it is appropriate to separate the Principal Executive Officer and Board Chair positions because the day-to day responsibilities of the Principal Executive Officer are not consistent with the oversight role of the Trustees and because of the potential conflict of interest that may arise from the Administrator’s duties with the Trust. Given the specific characteristics and circumstances of the Trust as described above, the Trust has determined that the Board’s leadership structure is appropriate.

### *Board Oversight of Risk Management*

As part of its oversight function, the Board receives and reviews various risk management reports and assessments and discusses these matters with appropriate management and other personnel. Because risk management is a broad concept comprised of many elements (such as, for example, investment risk, issuer and counterparty risk, compliance risk, operational risks, business continuity risks, etc.) the oversight of different types of risks is handled in different ways. For example, the Board meets regularly with the CCO to discuss compliance and operational risks and the Audit Committee meets with the Treasurer and the Trust's independent public accounting firm to discuss, among other things, the internal control structure of the Trust's financial reporting function. The full Board receives reports from the Adviser and portfolio managers as to investment risks as well as other risks that may be also discussed in Audit Committee.

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

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

In addition to the information provided in the table above, below is certain additional information concerning each particular Trustee and certain of their Trustee Attributes. The information provided below, and in the table above, is not all-inclusive. Many Trustee Attributes involve intangible elements, such as intelligence, integrity, work ethic, the ability to work together, the ability to communicate effectively, the ability to exercise judgment, the ability to ask incisive questions, and commitment to shareholder interests. In conducting its annual self-assessment, the Board has determined that the Trustees have the appropriate attributes and experience to continue to serve effectively as Trustees of the Trust.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Trust Committees**

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

The Audit Committee is comprised of all of the Independent Trustees. Mr. Redwine is the Chair of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee will meet at least once per year with respect to the various series of the Trust. The function of the Audit Committee, with respect to each series of the Trust, is to review the scope and results of the audit and any matters bearing on the audit or the Fund's financial statements and to ensure the integrity of the Fund's pricing and financial reporting. The Audit Committee met one time with respect to the Fund during the Fund's fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

The Audit Committee also serves as the QLCC for the Trust for the purpose of compliance with Rules 205.2(k) and 205.3(c) of the Code of Federal Regulations, regarding alternative reporting procedures for attorneys retained or employed by an issuer who appear and practice before the SEC on

behalf of the issuer (the “issuer attorneys”). An issuer attorney who becomes aware of evidence of a material violation by the Trust, or by any officer, director, employee, or agent of the Trust, may report evidence of such material violation to the QLCC as an alternative to the reporting requirements of Rule 205.3(b) (which requires reporting to the chief legal officer and potentially “up the ladder” to other entities). The QLCC did not meet with respect to the Trust during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

The Governance and Nominating Committee is comprised of all, and only of, the Independent Trustees. The Governance and Nominating Committee is responsible for seeking and reviewing candidates for consideration as nominees for Trustees as is considered necessary from time to time and meets only as necessary. The Governance and Nominating Committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders for vacancies on the Board. Recommendations for consideration by the Governance and Nominating Committee should be sent to the President of the Trust in writing together with the appropriate biographical information concerning each such proposed Nominee, and such recommendation must comply with the notice provisions set forth in the Trust’s By-Laws. In general, to comply with such procedures, such nominations, together with all required biographical information, must be delivered to and received by the President of the Trust at the principal executive office of the Trust between 120 and 150 days prior to the shareholder meeting at which any such nominee would be voted on.

The Governance and Nominating Committee meets regularly with respect to the various series of the Trust. The Governance and Nominating Committee is also responsible for, among other things, reviewing and making recommendations regarding Independent Trustee compensation and the Trustees’ annual “self-assessment.” Ms. Rackey is the Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee. The Nominating and Governance Committee met three times with respect to the Trust during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

#### **Trustee Ownership of Fund Shares and Other Interests**

The following table shows the amount of shares in the Fund and the amount of shares in other portfolios of the Trust owned by the Trustees as of the calendar year ended December 31, 2024.

	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Fund Shares in the Trust</b>
	<b>(None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, Over \$100,000)</b>	
<b>Independent Trustees</b>		
David G. Mertens	None	Over \$100,000
Joe D. Redwine	None	Over \$100,000
Michele Rackey	None	\$50,001 - \$100,000
Anne W. Kritzmire	None	None
Craig B. Wainscott	None	None

As of December 31, 2024, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate family, own securities beneficially or of record in the Advisor, the distributor, as defined below, or an affiliate of the Advisor or distributor. Accordingly, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate family, have direct or indirect interest, the value of which exceeds \$120,000, in the Advisor, the distributor or any of their affiliates. In addition, during the two most recently completed calendar years, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate families have conducted any transactions (or series of transactions) in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and to which the Advisor, the distributor or any affiliate thereof was a party.

## Compensation

Effective January 1, 2024, the Independent Trustees each receive an annual retainer of \$108,500 per year allocated among each of the various portfolios comprising the Trust, an additional \$6,000 per regularly scheduled Board meeting, and an additional \$500 per special meeting, paid by the Trust or applicable advisors/portfolios, as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with attendance at Board meetings. Prior to January 1, 2024, the annual retainer was \$102,500. The Trust Chair, Chair of the Audit Committee, and Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee each receive a separate annual fee of \$10,000, \$5,000, and \$3,000, respectively, provided that the separate fee for the Chair of the Audit Committee will be waived if the same individual serves as both Trust Chair and Audit Committee Chair. The Trust has no pension or retirement plan. No other entity affiliated with the Trust pays any compensation to the Trustees. Set forth below is the compensation received by the Independent Trustees from the Fund for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

<b>Independent Trustee</b>	<b>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund</b>	<b>Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses</b>	<b>Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement</b>	<b>Total Compensation from Fund Complex Paid to Trustees<sup>(1)</sup></b>
David Mertens	\$4,437	None	None	\$4,437
Joe D. Redwine	\$4,287	None	None	\$4,287
Michele Rackey	\$4,228	None	None	\$4,228
Anne W. Kritzmire <sup>(2)</sup>	\$2,459	None	None	\$2,459
Craig B. Wainscott <sup>(2)</sup>	\$2,459	None	None	\$2,459

<sup>(1)</sup> There are currently numerous series comprising the Trust. The term “Fund Complex” refers only to the Fund, and not to any other series of the Trust. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, aggregate Independent Trustees’ fees for the Trust were \$595,787.

<sup>(2)</sup> Prior to their election as Trustees on August 27, 2024, Ms. Kritzmire and Mr. Wainscott served as paid consultants to the Trust between June 1, 2024 and August 26, 2024.

## CODE OF ETHICS

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

## PROXY VOTING POLICY

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

The Advisor has adopted Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures which underscore the Advisor’s concern that all proxy voting decisions be made solely in the best interests of the Fund and that the Advisor will act in a prudent and diligent manner intended to enhance the economic value of the assets of the Fund.

A general statement of voting policy and specific voting positions has been established by the Advisor. This Proxy Policy is intended to serve as a guideline and to further the economic value of each security held by the Fund. There will be regular review of this policy. Each proxy will be considered individually, taking into account the relevant circumstances at the time of each vote. The Advisor will generally vote for:

- the election of directors;
- the selection of independent auditors;
- increases or reclassifications of common stock;
- management recommendations adding or amending indemnification provisions in charters or by-laws;
- changes in a company's board of directors or outside director compensation;
- proposals that will maintain or increase shareholder influence over the issuer's board of directors and management; and
- proposals that maintain or increase the rights of shareholders.

Where a proxy proposal raises a material conflict between the Advisor's interests and the Fund's interests, the Advisor will resolve the conflict by voting in accordance with the policy guidelines or using the recommendation of an independent third party. If the third party's recommendations are not received in a timely fashion, the Advisor will abstain from voting the securities held by the Fund.

The Trust is required to annually file Form N-PX, which lists the Fund's complete proxy voting record for the 12-month period ending June 30. The Fund's proxy voting record is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free 1-866-205-0523 and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

## **CONTROL PERSONS, PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS, AND MANAGEMENT OWNERSHIP**

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund. A control person is one who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of a company or acknowledges the existence of control. Shareholders with a controlling interest could affect the outcome of voting or the direction of management of the Fund. For control persons only, if a control person is a company, the table also indicates the control person's parent, if any, and the jurisdiction under the laws of which the control person is organized. As of March 31, 2025, the following shareholders were considered to be a principal shareholder of the Fund:

### **Investor Class**

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>% of Ownership</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>
Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	69.71%	Record
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Blvd, 4th Fl Jersey City, NJ 07310-2010	25.64%	Record

As of March 31, 2025, the Fund did not have any control persons.

*Management Ownership Information.* As of March 31, 2025, the Trustees and officers of the Trust, as a group, beneficially owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

### **THE ADVISOR**

Capital Advisors, Inc., located at 2222 South Utica Place, Suite 300, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114, acts as investment advisor to the Fund pursuant to an Investment Advisory Agreement (the “Advisory Agreement”). Mr. Keith C. Goddard is a control person of the Advisor due to his greater than 25% ownership of the Advisor and he is a portfolio manager of the Fund. Subject to such policies as the Board may determine, the Advisor is responsible for investment decisions for the Fund. Pursuant to the terms of the Advisory Agreement, the Advisor provides the Fund with such investment advice and supervision as it deems necessary for the proper supervision of the Fund’s investments. The Advisor continuously provides investment programs and determines from time to time what securities shall be purchased, sold or exchanged and what portion of the Fund’s assets shall be held uninvested. The Advisor furnishes, at its own expense, all services, facilities and personnel necessary in connection with managing the investments and effecting portfolio transactions for the Fund.

The Advisory Agreement will continue in effect from year to year only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by a vote of a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities and by a majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the Advisory Agreement or interested persons of any such party, at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such Advisory Agreement. Pursuant to the terms of the Advisory Agreement, the Advisor is permitted to render services to others. The Advisory Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on behalf of the Fund on 60 days’ written notice to the Advisor when authorized either by a majority vote of the Fund’s shareholders or by a vote of a majority of the Board of the Trust, or by the Advisor on 60 days’ written notice to the Trust, and will automatically terminate in the event of its “assignment” (as defined in the 1940 Act). The Advisory Agreement provides that the Advisor under such agreement shall not be liable for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss arising out of any investment or for any act or omission in the execution of portfolio transactions for the Fund, except for willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of its duties, or by reason of reckless disregard of its obligations and duties thereunder.

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



and servicing shareholder accounts, including all charges for transfer, shareholder record keeping, dividend disbursing, redemption, and other agents for the benefit of the Fund, if any; and all other charges and costs of its operation plus any extraordinary and non-recurring expenses, except as otherwise prescribed in the Advisory Agreement.

Though the Fund is responsible for its own operating expenses, the Advisor has contractually agreed to waive a portion or all of its management fees and pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to limit the Fund's Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes, interest and extraordinary expenses) to the limit set forth in the fees and expense tables in the Prospectus. If fees and expenses for any fiscal year exceed the Fund's expense limitations, the Advisor shall waive a portion or all of its management fee to the extent of its share of such excess expenses. The amount of any such reduction to be borne by the Advisor shall be deducted from the monthly management fee otherwise payable with respect to the Fund during such fiscal year; and if such amounts should exceed the monthly management fee, the Advisor shall promptly pay to the Fund its share of such excess Fund expenses. The Advisor does not have the ability to recoup previously paid fees and expenses or future paid fees and expenses.

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

	<b>Fiscal Year Ended December 31</b>		
	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
Management Fees Accrued	\$891,559	\$691,616	\$667,694
Management Fees Waived by Advisor	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$14,915)</u>	<u>(\$28,782)</u>
Net Management Fees Paid to Advisor	\$891,559	\$676,701	\$638,912

#### **Distributor**

The Trust has entered into a Distribution Agreement (the "Distribution Agreement") with Quasar Distributors, LLC, Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine 04101 (the "Distributor"), pursuant to which the Distributor acts as the Fund's distributor, provides certain administration services and promotes and arranges for the sale of the Fund's shares. The offering of the Fund's shares is continuous. The Distribution Agreement will continue in effect only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities and, in either case, by a majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the Distribution Agreement or "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of any such party. The Distribution Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on behalf of the Fund on 60 days' written notice when authorized either by a majority vote of the Fund's shareholders or by vote of a majority of the Board, including a majority of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust, or by the Distributor on 60 days' written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment" (as defined in the 1940 Act).

### **SERVICE PROVIDERS**

#### **Fund Administrator**

Pursuant to the Fund Administration Servicing Agreement (the "Administration Agreement"), U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services ("Fund Services"), 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, acts as administrator for the Fund. Fund Services provides certain administrative services to the Fund, including, among other responsibilities, coordinating the negotiation of contracts and fees with, and the monitoring of performance and billing of, the Fund's independent contractors and agents; preparation for signature by an officer of the Trust of all documents required to be filed for compliance by the Trust and the Fund with applicable federal securities

laws and regulations excluding those of the securities laws of various states; arranging for the computation of performance data, including net asset value and yield; responding to shareholder inquiries; and arranging for the maintenance of books and records of the Fund, and providing, at its own expense, office facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to carry out its duties. In this capacity, Fund Services does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Fund, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of Fund shares. Additionally, Fund Services provides CCO services to the Trust under a separate agreement. The cost of the CCO's services is charged to the Fund and approved by the Board annually. Fund Services also acts as the Fund's accountant.

The Administration Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on behalf of the Fund or by the Administrator on 60 days' written notice (as defined in the 1940 Act). The Administration Agreement also provides that neither Fund Services nor its personnel shall be liable for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any act or omission in the administration of the Fund, except for willful misfeasance, bad faith or negligence in the performance of its or their duties or by reason of reckless disregard of its or their obligations and duties under the Administration Agreement.

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

<b>Administration and Accounting Fees Paid During Fiscal Years Ended December 31</b>		
<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
\$176,202	\$150,015	\$148,632

#### **Custodian and Transfer Agent**

U.S. Bank National Association, an affiliate of Fund Services, is the custodian of the assets of the Fund (the "Custodian") pursuant to a custody agreement between the Custodian and the Trust, and holds the Fund's portfolio securities in safekeeping and keeps all necessary records and documents relating to its duties. The Custodian is compensated with an asset-based fee plus transaction fees and is reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses. The Custodian's address is 1555 North RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212.

Fund Services also acts as the Fund's transfer and dividend disbursing agent (the "Transfer Agent") under a separate agreement with the Trust. The Custodian and the Transfer Agent do not participate in decisions relating to the purchase and sale of securities by the Fund. The Custodian and its affiliates may participate in revenue sharing arrangements with service providers of mutual funds in which the Fund may invest.

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

Tait, Weller & Baker LLP, Two Liberty Place, 50 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2900, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102, is the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund providing audit services, tax services and assistance with respect to the preparation of filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for the Fund.

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

### **PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

Mr. Keith C. Goddard, CFA, CEO and Chief Investment Officer and Mr. Steven V. Soranno, CFA, CAIA and Director of Equity Research are the co-portfolio managers primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. The following tables show the number of other accounts (not including the

Fund) managed by Mr. Goddard and Mr. Soranno and the total assets in the accounts managed within various categories as of December 31, 2024.

***Keith C. Goddard***

Type of Accounts	Number of Accounts (Excluding the Fund)	Total Assets	Number of Accounts for Which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance	Total Assets in Accounts with Advisory Fee Based on Performance
Registered Investment Companies	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investments	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Accounts	2	\$321 million	0	\$0

***Steven V. Soranno***

Type of Accounts	Number of Accounts (Excluding the Fund)	Total Assets	Number of Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance	Total Assets in Accounts with Advisory Fee Based on Performance
Registered Investment Companies	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investments	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Accounts	0	\$0	0	\$0

*Material Conflicts of Interest.* Where conflicts of interest arise between the Fund and other accounts managed by the portfolio managers, the portfolio managers will proceed in a manner that ensures the Fund will not be treated materially less favorably. There may be instances where similar portfolio transactions may be executed for the same security for numerous accounts managed by the portfolio managers. In such instances, securities will be allocated in accordance with the Advisor's trade allocation policy.

Potential conflicts may arise if the investment strategies of the Fund differ from the strategy required to comply with the unique objectives and constraints of another client portfolio managed by the portfolio managers. Whenever a given investment opportunity is appropriate for all of the firm's client relationships (*i.e.*, the Fund, the private pooled fund, and the firm's separately managed accounts), each constituency receives a pro-rata share of an executed block trade. None of the firm's client relationships, including the Fund, receives preferential treatment.

*Compensation.* Mr. Goddard's compensation is comprised of a base salary, variable bonus and matching of 401(k) contributions. There are no direct ties to investment performance or assets under management in the calculation of the salary, variable bonus, or match. From time to time, the Advisor pays dividends on its common stock, of which Mr. Goddard is a principal shareholder. Mr. Soranno's compensation is comprised of a base salary, variable bonus and partial 401(k) match. Bonuses are determined by the Advisor and represent a percentage of salary plus any incentive for new business to the Advisor. Bonuses are not based on the assets of the Fund.

*Securities Owned in the Fund by Portfolio Managers.* As of December 31, 2024, Mr. Goddard and Mr. Soranno, respectively, beneficially owned the following securities in the Fund.

<b>Name of Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities Owned in the Fund</b>
	(None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, \$100,001 - \$500,000, \$500,001 to \$1,000,000, Over \$1,000,000)
Mr. Keith C. Goddard	Over \$1,000,000
Mr. Steven V. Soranno	\$100,001 - \$500,000

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE**

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

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

In placing portfolio transactions, the Advisor will seek best execution. The full range and quality of services available will be considered in making these determinations, such as the size of the order, the difficulty of execution, the operational facilities of the firm involved, the firm's risk in positioning a block of securities, and other factors. The Advisor considers such information, which is in addition to and not in lieu of the services required to be performed by it under its Advisory Agreement with the Fund, to be useful in varying degrees, but of indeterminable value. Portfolio transactions may be placed with broker-dealers who sell shares of the Fund subject to rules adopted by FINRA and the SEC.

Investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those of other client accounts or mutual fund managed or advised by the Advisor. Nevertheless, it is possible that at times identical securities will be acceptable for both the Fund and one or more of such client accounts. In such event, the position of the Fund and such client account(s) in the same issuer may vary and the length of time that each may choose to hold its investment in the same issuer may likewise vary. However, to the extent any of these client accounts seeks to acquire the same security as the Fund at the same time, the Fund may not be able to acquire as large a portion of such security as it desires, or it may have to pay a higher price or obtain a lower yield for such security. Similarly, the Fund may not be able to obtain as high a price for, or as large an execution of, an order to sell any particular security at the same time. If one or more of such client accounts simultaneously purchases or sells the same security that the Fund is purchasing or selling, each day's transactions in such security will be allocated between the Fund and all such client accounts in a manner deemed equitable by the Advisor, taking into account the respective sizes of the accounts and the amount being purchased or sold. It is recognized that in some cases this system could have a detrimental effect on the price or value of the security insofar as the Fund is concerned. In other cases, however, it is believed that the ability of the Fund to participate in volume transactions may produce better executions for the Fund.

The Fund does not place securities transactions through brokers for selling shares of the Fund. However, as stated above, broker-dealers who execute brokerage transactions may effect purchases of shares of the Fund for their customers.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, the Fund did not invest in the securities of any of its regular broker-dealers.

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

<b>Aggregate Brokerage Commissions Paid During Fiscal Years Ended December 31</b>		
<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
\$332	\$178	\$307

The Advisor did not direct the Fund's brokerage transactions to a broker because of research services during the Fund's fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

### **REVENUE SHARING ARRANGEMENT**

The Advisor, out of its own resources and not out of Fund assets (*i.e.*, without additional cost to the Fund or its shareholders), may provide additional cash payments or non-cash compensation to some, but not all, brokers and other financial intermediaries who sell shares of the Fund. Such payments and compensation are in addition to other fees paid by the Fund to such brokers and other financial intermediaries. These arrangements are sometimes referred to as "revenue sharing" arrangements. Revenue sharing arrangements are not financed by the Fund, and thus, do not result in increased Fund expenses. They are not reflected in the fees and expenses listed in the fees and expenses section of the Prospectus.

### **PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION OF FUND SHARES**

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

#### **How to Buy Shares**

Fund shares are purchased at the NAV per share next determined after the Transfer Agent receives your order in proper form. In most cases, in order to receive that day's NAV, the Transfer Agent must receive your order in proper form before the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), currently 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Orders paid by check and received after 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time, will generally be available for the purchase of shares the following business day.

If you are considering redeeming or transferring shares to another person shortly after purchase, you should pay for those shares with a wire to avoid any delay in redemption or transfer. Otherwise the Fund may delay payment until the purchase price of those shares has been collected, which may take up to 15 calendar days.

The Trust reserves the right in its sole discretion (1) to suspend the continued offering of the Fund's shares, and (2) to reject purchase orders in whole or in part when in the judgment of the Advisor or the Distributor such rejection is in the best interest of the Fund.

Selected securities brokers, dealers or financial intermediaries may offer shares of the Fund. Investors should contact these agents directly for appropriate instructions, as well as information pertaining to accounts and any service or transaction fees that may be charged by those agents. Purchase orders through securities brokers, dealers and other financial intermediaries are effected at the next-determined NAV after receipt of the order by such agent before the Fund's daily cutoff time, currently the close of regular NYSE trading. Orders received after that time will be purchased at the next-determined NAV per share.

## **How to Sell Shares**

You can sell your Fund shares any day the NYSE is open for regular trading, either directly to the Fund or through your investment representative. The Fund will forward redemption proceeds or redeem shares for which it has collected payment of the purchase price.

Payments to shareholders for Fund shares redeemed directly from the Fund will be made as promptly as possible but no later than seven days after receipt by the Fund's Transfer Agent of the written request in proper form, with the appropriate documentation as stated in the Prospectus, except that the Fund may suspend the right of redemption or postpone the date of payment during any period when (a) trading on the NYSE is restricted as determined by the SEC or the NYSE is closed for other than weekends and holidays; (b) an emergency exists as determined by the SEC making disposal of portfolio securities or valuation of net assets of the Fund not reasonably practicable; or (c) for such other period as the SEC may permit for the protection of the Fund's shareholders. At various times, the Fund may be requested to redeem shares for which it has not yet received confirmation of good payment; in this circumstance, the Fund may delay the payment of the redemption proceeds until payment for the purchase of such shares has been collected and confirmed to the Fund.

### **Selling Shares Directly to the Fund**

Send a signed letter of instruction to the Transfer Agent. The price you will receive is the next NAV calculated after the Fund receives your request in proper form. In order to receive that day's NAV, the Transfer Agent must receive your request before the close of regular trading on the NYSE.

### **Selling Shares Through Your Investment Representative**

Your investment representative must receive your request before the close of regular trading on the NYSE to receive that day's NAV. Your investment representative will be responsible for furnishing all necessary documentation to the Transfer Agent, and may charge you for its services.

If you want your redemption proceeds sent to an address other than your address as it appears on the Transfer Agent's records, a signature guarantee is required (see "Signature Guarantees" below). The Fund may require additional documentation for the sale of shares by a corporation, partnership, agent or fiduciary, or a surviving joint owner. Contact the Transfer Agent for details.

### **Delivery of Proceeds**

The Fund generally sends you payment for your shares the business day after your request is received in proper form, assuming the Fund has collected payment of the purchase price of your shares. Under unusual circumstances, the Fund may suspend redemptions, or postpone payment for more than seven days, as permitted by federal securities law.

### **Telephone Redemptions**

Upon receipt of any instructions or inquiries by telephone from a shareholder or, if held in a joint account, from either party, or from any person claiming to be the shareholder, the Fund or its agent are authorized, without notifying the shareholder or joint account parties, to carry out the instructions or to respond to the inquiries, consistent with the service options chosen by the shareholder or joint shareholders in his or their latest account application or other written request for services, including redeeming shares of the Fund and depositing and withdrawing monies from the bank account specified in the Bank Account Registration section of the shareholder's latest account application or as otherwise properly specified to the Fund in writing.

The Transfer Agent will employ these and other reasonable procedures to confirm that instructions communicated by telephone are genuine; if such procedures are observed, neither the Fund nor its agents

will be liable for any loss, liability, cost or expense arising out of any redemption request, including any fraudulent or unauthorized request. For information, consult the Transfer Agent.

During periods of unusual market changes and shareholder activity, you may experience delays in contacting the Transfer Agent by telephone. In this event, you may wish to submit a written redemption request, as described in the Prospectus, or contact your investment representative. The telephone redemption privilege may be modified or terminated without notice.

### **Signature Guarantees**

To protect the Fund and its shareholders, a signature guarantee is required for all written redemption requests over \$100,000. Signature(s) on the redemption request must be guaranteed by an “eligible guarantor institution.” These include banks, broker-dealers, credit unions and savings institutions. A broker-dealer guaranteeing signatures must be a member of a clearing corporation or maintain net capital of at least \$100,000. Credit unions must be authorized to issue signature guarantees. Signature guarantees will be accepted from any eligible guarantor institution which participates in a signature guarantee program. A notary public cannot provide a signature guarantee. Certain other transactions or account requests also require a signature guarantee.

### **Redemptions In-kind**

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

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

### **DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The NAV of the Fund’s shares will fluctuate and is determined as of the close of trading on the NYSE (generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) each day that the NYSE is open for business. The NYSE annually announces the days on which it will not be open for trading. The most recent announcement indicates that it will not be open for the following holidays: New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Washington’s Birthday/Presidents’ Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. However, the NYSE may close on days not included in that announcement.



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

Generally, the Fund's investments are valued at market value or, in the absence of a market value, at fair value as determined in good faith by the Advisor as valuation designee pursuant to procedures approved by or under the direction of the Board. Pursuant to those procedures, the valuation designee considers, among other things: (1) the last sales price on the securities exchange, if any, on which a security is primarily traded; (2) the mean between the bid and asked prices; (3) price quotations from an approved pricing service; and (4) other factors as necessary to determine a fair value under certain circumstances.

Securities that are traded on more than one exchange are valued on the exchange determined by the Advisor to be the primary market. Securities primarily traded in the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation ("Nasdaq") Global Market System for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued using the Nasdaq Official Closing Price ("NOCP"). If there has been no sale on such exchange or on Nasdaq on such day, the security is valued at the mean between the bid and asked prices. Over-the-counter ("OTC") securities which are not traded in the Nasdaq Global Market System shall be valued at the most recent sales price.

Debt securities are valued on the basis of valuations provided by independent third-party pricing services, approved by the valuation designee, or at fair value as determined in good faith by procedures adopted by the valuation designee. Any such pricing service, in determining value, will use information with respect to transactions in the securities being valued, quotations from dealers, market transactions in comparable securities, analyses and evaluations of various relationships between securities and yield to maturity information.

All other assets of the Fund are valued in such manner as the valuation designee in good faith deems appropriate to reflect their fair value.

## **TAX MATTERS**

Each series of the Trust is treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. The Fund has elected and intends to continue to qualify to be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code, and to comply with all applicable requirements regarding the source of its income, diversification of its assets and the amount and timing of its distributions. The Fund's policy is to distribute to its shareholders all of its investment company taxable income and any net realized long-term capital gains for each fiscal year in a manner that complies with the distribution requirements of the Code, so that the Fund will not be subject to federal income or excise taxes in any year. If the Fund does not qualify as a regulated investment company, it will be taxed as a corporation.

In order to qualify as a regulated investment company, the Fund must, among other things, derive at least 90% of its gross income each year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to loans of stock and securities, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currency gains related to investments in stock or securities, or other income (generally including gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to the business of investing in stock, securities or currency, and net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership. The Fund also must satisfy both of the following asset diversification tests: At the end of each quarter of each taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets must consist of cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities, with such other securities being limited in respect of any one issuer to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other regulated investment



companies), the securities of any two or more issuers (other than the securities of other regulated investment companies) that the Fund controls (by owning 20% or more of their outstanding voting stock) and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships. The Fund also must distribute each taxable year sufficient dividends to its shareholders to claim a dividends paid deduction equal to at least the sum of 90% of the Fund's net investment income (which generally includes dividends, interest and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) and 90% of the Fund's net tax-exempt interest, if any.

If the Fund does not qualify as a regulated investment company, it will be taxed as a regular corporation and will not be entitled to deduct dividends paid to shareholders. In addition to the taxable year distribution requirement described in the previous paragraph, in order to avoid the imposition of a nondeductible 4% income tax, the Fund must distribute (or be deemed to have distributed) by December 31 of each calendar year (i) at least 98% of its ordinary income for such year, (ii) at least 98.2% of the excess of its realized capital gains over its realized capital losses for the 12-month period ending on October 31 during such year, and (iii) any amounts from prior years that were not distributed and on which no federal income tax was paid. The Fund intends to declare and pay dividends and other distributions, as stated in the Prospectus.

Net investment income generally consists of interest and dividend income, less expenses. Net realized capital gains for a fiscal period are computed by taking into account any capital loss carryforward of the Fund. As of December 31, 2024, the Fund did not have any capital loss carryforwards.

Distributions of net investment income and net short-term capital gains are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income or qualified dividend income. Distributions of certain qualified dividend income paid out of the Fund's net investment income may be taxable to noncorporate shareholders at long-term capital gain rates, which are significantly lower than the highest rate that applies to ordinary income. In the case of corporate shareholders, a portion of the distributions may qualify for the intercorporate dividends-received deduction to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend. This reported amount cannot, however, exceed the aggregate amount of qualifying dividends received by the Fund for its taxable year. In view of the Fund's investment policies, it is expected that dividends from domestic corporations will be part of the Fund's gross income and that, accordingly, part of the Fund's distributions may be eligible for the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders. However, the portion of the Fund's gross income attributable to qualifying dividends is largely dependent on the Fund's investment activities for a particular year and therefore cannot be predicted with certainty. The deduction may be reduced or eliminated if the Fund shares held by a corporate investor are treated as debt-financed or are held for less than 46 days.

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

Any long-term capital gain distributions are taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gains regardless of the length of time shares have been held by such shareholder. There is no requirement that the Fund take into consideration any tax implications when implementing its investment strategy. Capital gains distributions are not eligible for the dividends-received deduction referred to above. Distributions of any net investment income and net realized capital gains will be taxable as described above, whether received in shares or in cash. Shareholders who choose to receive distributions in the form of additional shares will have a cost basis for federal income tax purposes in each share so received equal to the NAV of a share on the reinvestment date. Distributions generally are taxable when received. However, distributions declared in October, November or December to shareholders of record on a date in such a month and paid the following January are taxable as if received on December 31. Distributions are includable in alternative minimum taxable income in computing liability for the alternative minimum tax of a

shareholder who is an individual. Shareholders should note that the Fund may make taxable distributions of income and capital gains even when share values have declined.

A redemption of Fund shares may result in recognition of a taxable gain or loss. Any loss realized upon a redemption of shares within six months from the date of their purchase will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions of long-term capital gains during such 6-month period. Any loss realized upon a redemption may be disallowed under certain wash sale rules to the extent shares of the same Fund are purchased (through reinvestment of distributions or otherwise) within 30 days before or after the redemption.

Under the Code, the Fund will be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) all distributions of taxable income and capital gains as well as gross proceeds from the redemption of Fund shares, except in the case of exempt shareholders, which includes most corporations. Pursuant to the backup withholding provisions of the Code, distributions of any taxable income and capital gains and proceeds from the redemption of Fund shares may be subject to withholding of federal income tax at a rate under section 3406 of the Code, in the case of non-exempt shareholders who fail to furnish the Fund with their Social Security or taxpayer identification numbers and with required certifications regarding their status under the federal income tax law. If the backup withholding provisions are applicable, any such distributions and proceeds, whether taken in cash or reinvested in additional shares, will be reduced by the amounts required to be withheld. Corporate and other exempt shareholders should provide the Fund with their taxpayer identification numbers or certify their exempt status in order to avoid possible erroneous application of backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax and any amount withheld may be credited against a shareholder’s ultimate federal income tax liability if proper documentation is provided. The Fund reserves the right to refuse to open an account for any person failing to provide a certified taxpayer identification number.

The foregoing discussion of U.S. federal income tax law relates solely to the application of that law to U.S. citizens or residents and U.S. domestic corporations, estates the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source and trusts that (1) are subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) have a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

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

Distributions and redemptions may be subject to state and local income taxes, and the treatment thereof may differ from the federal income tax treatment. Foreign taxes may also apply to non-U.S. investors. Shareholders are advised to consult with their own tax advisors concerning the application of foreign, federal, state and local taxes to an investment in the Fund.

Capital losses sustained and not used in a taxable year may be carried forward indefinitely to offset capital gains of the Fund in future years.

No rulings with respect to tax matters of the Fund will be sought from the IRS. Sullivan & Worcester has expressed no opinion in respect of the foregoing or the tax information in the Prospectus.

## **DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

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

The amount of income dividend payments by the Fund is dependent upon the amount of net investment income received by the Fund from its portfolio holdings, is not guaranteed and is subject to the discretion of the Board. The Fund does not pay "interest" or guarantee any fixed rate of return on an investment in its shares.

The Fund also may derive capital gains or losses in connection with sales or other dispositions of its portfolio securities. Any net gain the Fund may realize from transactions involving investments held less than the period required for long-term capital gain or loss recognition or otherwise producing short-term capital gains and losses (taking into account any carryover of capital losses from prior taxable years), although a distribution from capital gains, will be distributed to shareholders with and as a part of dividends giving rise to ordinary income. If during any year the Fund realizes a net gain on transactions involving investments held more than the period required for long-term gain or loss recognition or otherwise producing long-term capital gains and losses, the Fund will have a net long-term capital gain. After deduction of the amount of any net short-term capital loss, the balance (to the extent not offset by any capital losses carried over from prior taxable years) will be distributed and treated as long-term capital gains in the hands of the shareholders regardless of the length of time the Fund's shares may have been held by the shareholders. For more information concerning applicable capital gains tax rates, see your tax advisor.

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

Dividends and other distributions will be made in the form of additional shares of the Fund unless the shareholder has otherwise indicated. Investors have the right to change their elections with respect to the reinvestment of dividends and distributions by calling or writing to the Transfer Agent, but any such change will be effective only as to dividends and other distributions for which the record date is seven or more business days after the Transfer Agent has received the written request.

## **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROGRAM**

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

Procedures to implement the AML Program include, but are not limited to, determining that the Fund's distributor and transfer agent have established proper anti-money laundering procedures, reporting suspicious and/or fraudulent activity, checking shareholder names against designated government lists,

including Office of Foreign Asset Control (“OFAC”), and a complete and thorough review of all new opening account applications. The Fund will not transact business with any person or legal entity whose identity and beneficial owners, if applicable, cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

With respect to the Fund, the Trust may offer more than one class of shares. The Trust has reserved the right to create and issue additional series or classes. Each share of a series or class represents an equal proportionate interest in that series or class with each other share of that series or class. Currently, the Fund offers only an Investor Class.

The shares of each series or class participate equally in the earnings, dividends and assets of the particular series or class. Expenses of the Trust which are not attributable to a specific series or class are allocated among all the series in a manner believed by management of the Trust to be fair and equitable. Shares have no preemptive or conversion rights. Shares, when issued, are fully paid and non-assessable, except as set forth below. Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each share held. Shares of each series or class generally vote together, except when required under federal securities laws to vote separately on matters that only affect a particular class, such as the approval of distribution plans for a particular class.

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

The Declaration of Trust also provides that the Trust shall maintain appropriate insurance (for example, fidelity bonding and errors and omissions insurance) for the protection of the Trust, its shareholders, Trustees, officers, employees and agents covering possible tort and other liabilities.

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

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

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Additional information about the Fund’s investments is available in the Fund’s annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders and in Form N-CSR. The Certified Shareholder Report on [Form N-CSR](#) for the Fund for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, is a separate document supplied upon request, and the financial statements, accompanying notes and report of independent registered public accounting firm appearing therein are incorporated by reference into this SAI.

## **Appendix A**

### **Corporate Bond Ratings**

**Moody's** long-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of one year or more. Such ratings reflect both the likelihood of default on contractually promised payments and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default. The following summarizes the ratings used by Moody's for long-term debt:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from "Aa" through "Caa." The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

#### **Standard & Poor's Ratings Services**

"AAA" – An obligation rated "AAA" has the highest rating assigned by Standard & Poor's. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

“AA” – An obligation rated “AA” differs from the highest-rated obligations only to a small degree. The obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong.

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

“BBB” – An obligation rated “BBB” exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

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

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

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

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

“CC” – An obligation rated “CC” is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The “CC” rating is used when a default has not yet occurred, but Standard & Poor’s expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.

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

“D” – An obligation rated “D” is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the “D” rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless Standard & Poor’s believes that such payments will be made within five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace

period or 30 calendar days. The “D” rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. An obligation’s rating is lowered to “D” if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer.

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

“NR” – This indicates that no rating has been requested, or that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that Standard & Poor’s does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

Local Currency and Foreign Currency Risks - Standard & Poor’s issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. An issuer’s foreign currency rating will differ from its local currency rating when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, vs. obligations denominated in a foreign currency.



## **Appendix B**

### **Commercial Paper Ratings**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Standard & Poor's Ratings Services**

"A-1" – A short-term obligation rated "A-1" is rated in the highest category and indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong.

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

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

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

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

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

Local Currency and Foreign Currency Risks – Standard & Poor’s issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. An issuer’s foreign currency rating will differ from its local currency rating when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, vs. obligations denominated in a foreign currency.