

# **KINETICS MUTUAL FUNDS, INC.**

## **STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**April 30, 2025**

### **The Kinetics Spin-off and Corporate Restructuring Fund**

**Advisor Class A (LSHAX)**  
**Advisor Class C (LSHCX)**  
**Institutional Class (LSHUX)**  
**No Load Class (LSHEX)**

**a series of Kinetics Mutual Funds, Inc.**

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 amended from time to time, of the Kinetics Spin-off and Corporate Restructuring Fund (the “Fund”), a series of Kinetics Mutual Funds, Inc. (the “Company”). Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC (the “Adviser” or “Kinetics”) is the investment adviser to the Fund. A copy of the Fund’s Prospectus may be obtained by contacting the Fund at the address or telephone number specified below.

**Kinetics Mutual Funds, Inc.**  
**c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services**  
**P.O. Box 219252**  
**Kansas City, MO 64121-9252**  
**Phone: 1-800-930-3828**

The financial statements, accompanying notes and report of independent registered public accounting firm appearing in the Company’s [Form N-CSR](#) to shareholders are incorporated by reference into this SAI. The Fund’s annual report may be obtained free of charge upon request by writing or calling the Fund at the address or telephone number shown above.

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## **General Information about Kinetics Mutual Funds, Inc**

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The Company is a Maryland corporation, established on March 26, 1999. The Company is comprised of several series of mutual funds, all of which are open-end investment companies. This SAI pertains to the No Load, Institutional, Advisor Class A and Advisor Class C shares of the Fund, a series of the Company. Each series of the Company, other than the Fund, is in a master/feeder fund structure and are not described in this SAI. Each series, other than the Fund, is a feeder fund to a corresponding series of Kinetics Portfolios Trust (the “Trust”). The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust, established on March 14, 2000. The Trust is comprised of several series of mutual funds, all of which are open-end investment companies. The principal business office for the Company and the Trust is located at 470 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016.

### **General Information about the Investment Adviser**

Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC (“Kinetics” or “Adviser” or “Investment Adviser”) is a Delaware limited liability corporation that serves as the investment adviser to each series of the Company and the Trust, both of which are offered separately. The Adviser provides investment advisory services to the Company and the Trust, a family of seven mutual funds, with discretionary management authority over approximately \$9.8 billion in assets at December 31, 2024. The Investment Adviser is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Horizon Kinetics LLC.

### **Capitalization**

The authorized capitalization of the Company consists of 1 billion shares of common stock of \$0.001 par value per share. Each share has equal dividend, distribution and liquidation rights. There are no conversion or preemptive rights applicable to any shares of the Fund. All shares issued are fully paid and non-assessable. Each holder of common stock has one vote for each share held. Voting rights are non-cumulative.

### **Title and Description of Share Classes**

Under the Company’s Articles of Incorporation and a Multiple Class Plan adopted pursuant to Rule 18f-3 under the 1940 Act, the Fund is permitted to offer several classes of shares as follows: No Load Class, Institutional Class, Advisor Class A and Advisor Class C (individually, a “Class” and collectively, the “Classes”). Advisor Class A shares are subject to a front-end sales load and a Rule 12b-1 fee as described in the Prospectus. Advisor Class C shares are subject to a Rule 12b-1 fee and contingent deferred sales charge as described in the Prospectus.

All Classes are sold primarily to individuals who purchase shares through Kinetics Funds Distributor LLC (“KFD” or the “Distributor”), the Company’s distributor. The Company, on behalf of the Fund, has adopted separate distribution plans pursuant to Rule 12b-1 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) pursuant to the 1940 Act (the “Rule 12b-1 Plan”) for each of the Advisor Class A and Advisor Class C shares. The expenses incurred pursuant to the Rule 12b-1 Plans will be borne solely by Advisor Class A and Advisor Class C shares of the Fund and constitute the only expenses allocated on a Class by Class basis.

### **Rights of Each Share Class**

Each share of common stock of the Fund is entitled to one vote in electing Board of Directors and other matters that may be submitted to shareholders for a vote. All shares of all Classes of the Fund generally have equal voting rights. However, matters affecting only one particular Class of shares can be voted on only by shareholders in that Class. Only shareholders of Advisor Class A or Advisor Class C shares will be entitled

to vote on matters submitted to a shareholder vote with respect to the Rule 12b-1 Plan applicable to such Class. All shareholders are entitled to receive dividends when and as declared by the Board of Directors from time to time and as further discussed in the Prospectus.

### **Non-Diversification of Investments**

The Fund is a non-diversified fund, which means it is not subject to the diversification requirements under the 1940 Act which means that there is no restriction as to how much the Fund may invest in the securities of any one issuer. However, to qualify for tax treatment as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), the Fund intends to comply, as of the end of each taxable quarter, with certain diversification requirements imposed by the Code. Pursuant to those requirements, the Fund, among other things, (i) will not invest more than 25% of the value of its total assets in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies) and (ii) with respect to 50% of its total assets, will not invest more than 5% of its total assets in any one issuer or acquire more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer. As a non-diversified investment company, the Fund may be subject to greater risks than diversified companies because of the larger impact of fluctuation in the values of securities of fewer issues.

### **Description of the Fund**

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The Fund commenced operations on May 24, 2007 as the Liberty Street Horizon Fund, a series of the Forum Funds Trust (the “Liberty Street Fund”).

Effective as of the close of business on October 9, 2009, the Horizon Spin-Off and Corporate Restructuring Fund, a series of Investment Manager Series Trust (the “Predecessor Fund”), acquired the assets and liabilities of the Liberty Street Fund. As of the date of the acquisition, all of the holders of issued and outstanding Class A, Class C and Institutional Class shares of the Liberty Street Fund received Class A, Class C and Institutional Class shares, as applicable, of the Predecessor Fund. The Liberty Street Fund and the Predecessor Fund were each advised by Liberty Street Advisors, Inc. (the “Predecessor Adviser”) and sub-advised by Horizon Asset Management, Inc. (“Horizon”), an affiliate of the Adviser.

On December 8, 2017, the Fund acquired the assets and assumed the liabilities of the Predecessor Fund. As of the date of the acquisition, all of the holders of issued and outstanding Class A, Class C and Institutional Class shares of the Predecessor Fund received Class A, Class C and Institutional Class shares, as applicable, of the Fund.

The Fund currently offers No Load, Institutional, Advisor Class A and Advisor Class C shares. Other classes may be established from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Company’s Articles of Incorporation. Each class of shares of the Fund generally is identical in all respects except that each class of shares is subject to its own distribution expenses and minimum investments. Each class of shares also has exclusive voting rights with respect to its distribution fees.

The Fund is a non-diversified fund with an investment objective of seeking to achieve long-term growth of capital. The Fund’s investment objective is not fundamental and may be changed by the Board of Directors of the Fund without shareholder approval, upon at least 60 days’ prior written notice to shareholders. The Fund is designed for long term investors who understand and are willing to accept the risk of loss involved in investing in a mutual fund seeking long term capital growth. Under normal market conditions, the Fund will seek to achieve its investment objective by investing at least 80% of its net assets (plus borrowings for investment purposes) in equity securities of spin-off companies, companies subject to other forms of corporate restructuring, parents of any such companies, and publicly traded shareholder activist holding

companies which, by way of their shareholder ownership in other companies, have caused such other companies to undergo spin-offs and other forms of corporate restructurings.

## **Investment Restrictions**

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The Fund operates under the following fundamental policies that, except as otherwise noted, cannot be changed with respect to the Fund without the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund voting together as a single class, which is defined by the 1940 Act as the lesser of (i) 67% or more of the Fund's voting securities present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding voting securities are present or represented by proxy; or (ii) more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding voting securities. Except as otherwise noted, all percentage limitations set forth below apply immediately after a purchase or initial investment and any subsequent change in any applicable percentage resulting from market fluctuations does not require any action. These restrictions provide that the Fund may not:

1. Issue senior securities nor borrow money, except that the Fund may issue senior securities or borrow money to the extent permitted by applicable law.
2. Act as an underwriter of securities issued by others, except to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities, it may be deemed to be an underwriter under applicable securities laws.
3. Invest in any security if, as a result, 25% or more of the value of the Fund's total assets, taken at market value at the time of each investment, are in the securities of issuers in any particular industry except (a) excluding securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government and its agencies and instrumentalities or tax-exempt securities of state and municipal governments or their political subdivisions or (b) as otherwise permitted by applicable law.
4. Purchase or sell real estate except that the Fund may: (a) acquire or lease office space for its own use; (b) invest in securities of issuers that invest in real estate or interests therein or that are engaged in or operate in the real estate industry; (c) invest in securities that are secured by real estate or interests therein; (d) purchase and sell mortgage-related securities; (e) hold and sell real estate acquired by the Fund as a result of the ownership of securities; and (f) invest as otherwise permitted by applicable law.
5. Purchase or sell physical commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments; provided that this restriction shall not prohibit the Fund from purchasing or selling options, futures contracts and related options thereon, forward contracts, swaps, caps, floors, collars and any other financial instruments or from investing in securities or other instruments backed by physical commodities or as otherwise permitted by applicable law.
6. Make loans of money or property to any person, except: (a) to the extent that securities or interests in which the Fund may invest are considered to be loans; (b) through the loan of portfolio securities in an amount up to 33 1/3% of such Fund's total assets; (c) by engaging in repurchase agreements or (d) as may otherwise be permitted by applicable law.

## **Industry Classification**

In applying the Fund's fundamental policy concerning industry concentration described above, it is a matter of non-fundamental policy that investments in certain broader categories of companies will not be considered to be investments in the same industry, for example: technology companies will be divided according to their products and services so that hardware, software, information services and outsourcing, and telecommunications will each be considered separate industries; financial service companies will be classified according to the end users of their services so that automobile finance, bank finance and diversified finance

will each be considered separate industries; asset-backed securities will be classified according to the underlying assets securing such securities; and utility companies will be divided according to their services so that gas, gas transmission, electric and telephone will each be considered separate industries.

## **Investment Policies and Associated Risks**

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The following paragraphs provide a more detailed description of the Fund's investment policies and risks identified in the Prospectus. Unless otherwise noted, the policies described in this SAI are not fundamental and may be changed by the Board of Directors of the Company without shareholder approval.

### **Common Stock**

Common stock represents an equity (ownership) interest in a company, and usually possesses voting rights and earns dividends. Dividends on common stock are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of the issuer. Common stock generally represents the riskiest investment in a company. In addition, common stock generally has the greatest appreciation and depreciation potential because increases and decreases in earnings are usually reflected in a company's stock price.

The fundamental risk of investing in common stock is that the value of the stock might decrease. Stock values fluctuate in response to the activities of an individual company or in response to general market and/or economic conditions. While common stocks have historically provided greater long-term returns than preferred stocks, fixed-income and money market investments, common stocks have also experienced significantly more volatility than the returns from those other investments.

### **Preferred Stock**

Preferred stock is a class of stock having a preference over common stock as to the payment of dividends and a share of the proceeds resulting from the issuer's liquidation, although preferred stock is usually subordinate to the debt securities of the issuer. Some preferred stocks also entitle their holders to receive additional liquidation proceeds on the same basis as the holders of the issuer's common stock. Preferred stock typically does not possess voting rights and its market value may change based on changes in interest rates. If interest rates rise, the fixed dividend on preferred stocks may be less attractive, causing the price of preferred stocks to decline. Preferred stock may have mandatory sinking fund provisions, as well as call/redemption provisions prior to maturity, a negative feature when interest rates decline. In addition, a fund may receive stocks or warrants as result of an exchange or tender of fixed income securities. Preference stock, which is more common in emerging markets than in developed markets, is a special type of common stock that shares in the earnings of an issuer, has limited voting rights, may have a dividend preference, and may also have a liquidation preference. Depending on the features of the particular security, holders of preferred and preference stock may bear the risks regarding common stock or fixed income securities.

### **Small- and Mid-Cap Stocks**

The Fund may invest in stock of companies with market capitalizations that are small compared to other publicly traded companies. Investments in larger companies present certain advantages in that such companies generally have greater financial resources, more extensive research and development, manufacturing, marketing and service capabilities, and more stability and greater depth of management and personnel. Investments in smaller, less seasoned companies may present greater opportunities for growth but also may involve greater risks than customarily are associated with more established companies. The securities of smaller companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than larger, more established companies. These companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or

they may be dependent upon a limited management group. Their securities may be traded in the over-the-counter market or on a regional exchange, or may otherwise have limited liquidity. As a result of owning large positions in this type of security, the Fund is subject to the additional risk of possibly having to sell portfolio securities at disadvantageous times and prices if redemptions require the Fund to liquidate its securities positions. In addition, it may be prudent for the Fund, as its asset size grows, to limit the number of relatively small positions it holds in securities having limited liquidity in order to minimize its exposure to such risks, to minimize transaction costs, and to maximize the benefits of research. As a consequence, as the Fund's asset size increases, the Fund may reduce its exposure to illiquid small capitalization securities, which could adversely affect performance.

The Fund may also invest in stocks of companies with medium market capitalizations (i.e., mid-cap companies). Such investments share some of the risk characteristics of investments in stocks of companies with small market capitalizations described above, although mid cap companies tend to have longer operating histories, broader product lines and greater financial resources and their stocks tend to be more liquid and less volatile than those of smaller capitalization issuers.

### **Convertible Securities**

A convertible security is a preferred stock, warrant or other security that may be converted or exchanged for a prescribed amount of common stock or other security of the same or a different issuer or into cash within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. A convertible security generally entitles the holder to receive the dividend or interest until the convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. Before conversion, convertible securities generally have characteristics similar to both fixed income and equity securities. Although to a lesser extent than with fixed income securities generally, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, tends to increase as interest rates decline. In addition, because of the conversion feature, the market value of convertible securities tends to vary with fluctuations in the market value of the underlying common stocks and, therefore, also will react to variations in the general market for equity securities. A significant feature of convertible securities is that as the market price of the underlying common stock declines, convertible securities tend to trade increasingly on a yield basis, and so they may not experience market value declines to the same extent as the underlying common stock. When the market price of the underlying common stock increases, the prices of the convertible securities tend to rise as a reflection of the value of the underlying common stock. While no securities investments are without risk, investments in convertible securities generally entail less risk than investments in common stock of the same issuer.

### **Warrants and Rights**

The Fund may invest in warrants or rights (including those acquired in units or attached to other securities) that entitle (but do not obligate) the holder to buy equity securities at a specific price for a specific period of time but will do so only if such equity securities are deemed appropriate by the Adviser. Rights are similar to warrants but typically have a shorter duration and are issued by a company to existing stockholders to provide those holders the right to purchase additional shares of stock at a later date. Warrants and rights do not have voting rights, do not earn dividends, and do not entitle the holder to any rights with respect to the assets of the company that has issued them. They do not represent ownership of the underlying companies but only the right to purchase shares of those companies at a specified price on or before a specified exercise date. Warrants and rights tend to be more volatile than the underlying stock, and if at a warrant's expiration date the stock is trading at a price below the price set in the warrant, the warrant will expire worthless. Conversely, if at the expiration date the stock is trading at a price higher than the price set in the warrant or right, the Fund can acquire the stock at a price below its market value. The prices of warrants and rights do not necessarily parallel the prices of the underlying securities. An investment in warrants or rights may be considered speculative.

## **Foreign Investments**

### ***Foreign Securities***

Investments in the securities of foreign issuers and other non-U.S. investments may involve risks in addition to those normally associated with investments in the securities of U.S. issuers or other U.S. investments. All foreign investments are subject to risks of foreign political and economic instability, adverse movements in foreign exchange rates, tariffs and trading disruptions, and the imposition or tightening of exchange controls and limitations on the repatriation of foreign capital. Other risks stem from potential changes in governmental attitude or policy toward private investment, which in turn raises the risk of nationalization, increased taxation or confiscation of foreign investors' assets. The imposition of, or an increase in tariffs or trade restrictions between the U.S. and foreign countries, or even the threat of such developments, could lead to significant reduction in international trade, which could have a negative impact on the economies of the U.S. and foreign countries.

In addition, global economies are increasingly interconnected, which increases the possibilities that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact a different country or region. The severity or duration of these conditions may also be affected by other policy changes made by governments or quasi-governmental organizations.

Additional non-U.S. taxes and expenses may also adversely affect the Fund's performance, including foreign withholding taxes on foreign securities' dividends. Brokerage commissions and other transaction costs on foreign securities exchanges are generally higher than in the United States. Foreign companies may be subject to different accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards. To the extent foreign securities held by the Fund are not registered with the SEC or with any other U.S. regulator, the issuers thereof will not be subject to the reporting requirements of the SEC or any other U.S. regulator. Accordingly, less information may be available about foreign companies and other investments than is generally available on issuers of comparable securities and other investments in the United States. Foreign securities and other investments may also trade less frequently and with lower volume and may exhibit greater price volatility than U.S. securities and other investments.

Changes in foreign exchange rates will affect the value in U.S. dollars of all foreign currency- denominated securities and other investments held by the Fund. Exchange rates are influenced generally by the forces of supply and demand in the foreign currency markets and by numerous other political and economic events occurring outside the United States, many of which may be difficult, if not impossible, to predict. See "Europe-Recent Events" below.

Income from foreign securities and other investments will be received and realized in foreign currencies, and the Fund is required to compute and distribute income in U.S. dollars. Accordingly, a decline in the value of a particular foreign currency against the U.S. dollar occurring after the Fund's income has been earned and computed in U.S. dollars may require the Fund to liquidate portfolio securities or other investments to acquire sufficient U.S. dollars to make a distribution. Similarly, if the exchange rate declines between the time the Fund incurs expenses in U.S. dollars and the time such expenses are paid, the Fund may be required to liquidate additional portfolio securities or other investments to purchase the U.S. dollars required to meet such expenses.

The Fund may purchase foreign bank obligations. In addition to the risks described above that are generally applicable to foreign investments, the investments that the Fund makes in obligations of foreign banks, branches or subsidiaries may involve further risks, including differences between foreign banks and U.S. banks in applicable accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards, and the possible establishment of



exchange controls or other foreign government laws or restrictions applicable to the payment of certificates of deposit or time deposits that may affect adversely the payment of principal and interest on the securities and other investments held by the Fund.

Recently, various countries have seen significant internal conflicts and in some cases, civil wars may have had an adverse impact on the securities markets of the countries concerned. In addition, the occurrence of new disturbances due to acts of war or terrorism or other political developments cannot be excluded. Nationalization, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, currency blockage, political changes, government regulation, political, regulatory or social instability or uncertainty or diplomatic developments, including tariffs and trading disruptions, the imposition of sanctions or other similar measures, could adversely affect the Fund's investments.

Recent examples of the above include conflict, loss of life and disaster connected to ongoing armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine in Europe and Israel and other countries in the Middle East. The extent, duration and impact of these conflicts, related sanctions and retaliatory actions are difficult to ascertain, but could be significant and have severe adverse effects on the region, including significant adverse effects on the regional or global economies and the markets for certain securities and commodities. These impacts could negatively affect the Fund's investments in securities and instruments that are economically tied to the applicable region, and include (but are not limited to) declines in value and reductions in liquidity. In addition, to the extent new sanctions are imposed or previously relaxed sanctions are reimposed (including with respect to countries undergoing transformation), complying with such restrictions may prevent the Fund from pursuing certain investments, cause delays or other impediments with respect to consummating such investments or divestments, require divestment or freezing of investments on unfavorable terms, render divestment of underperforming investments impracticable, negatively impact the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective, prevent the Fund from receiving payments otherwise due, increase diligence and other similar costs to the Fund, render valuation of affected investments challenging, or require the Fund to consummate an investment on terms that are less advantageous than would be the case absent such restrictions. Any of these outcomes could adversely affect the Fund's performance with respect to such investments, and thus the Fund's performance as a whole.

### ***Emerging Markets***

The Fund may invest in companies organized or doing substantial business in emerging market countries or developing countries as defined by the World Bank, International Financial Corporation or the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) emerging market indices or other comparable indices. Developing countries may impose restrictions on the Fund's ability to repatriate investment income or capital. Even where there is no outright restriction on repatriation of investment income or capital, the mechanics of repatriation may affect certain aspects of the operations of the Fund.

Some of the currencies in emerging markets have experienced devaluations relative to the U.S. dollar, and major adjustments have been made periodically in certain of such currencies. Certain developing countries face serious exchange constraints.

Governments of some developing countries exercise substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector. In some countries, the government owns or controls many companies. Therefore, government actions in the future could have a significant effect on economic conditions in developing countries, which could affect the private sector companies in which the Fund invests.

## ***Foreign Currency Transactions***

The Fund may conduct foreign currency exchange transactions either on a spot, i.e., cash, basis at the prevailing rate in the foreign exchange market or by entering into a forward foreign currency contract. A forward foreign currency contract (“forward contract”) involves an obligation to purchase or sell a specific amount of a specific currency at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days (usually less than one year) from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties, at a price set at the time of the contract. Forward contracts are considered to be derivatives. The Fund enters into forward contracts in order to “lock in” the exchange rate between the currency it will deliver and the currency it will receive for the duration of the contract. In addition, the Fund may enter into forward contracts to hedge against risks arising from securities the Fund owns or anticipates purchasing or the U.S. dollar value of interest and dividends paid on those securities. If the Fund delivers the foreign currency at or before the settlement of a forward contract, it may be required to obtain the currency by selling some of the Fund’s assets that are denominated in that specific currency. The Fund may close out a forward contract obligating it to purchase a foreign currency by selling an offsetting contract, in which case it will realize a gain or a loss.

Foreign currency transactions involve certain costs and risks. The Fund incurs foreign exchange expenses in converting assets from one currency to another. Forward contracts involve a risk of loss if the Adviser is inaccurate in predicting currency movements. The projection of short- term currency market movements is extremely difficult, and the successful execution of a short- term hedging strategy is highly uncertain. The precise matching of forward contract amounts and the value of the securities involved is generally not possible. Accordingly, it may be necessary for the Fund to purchase additional foreign currency if the market value of the security is less than the amount of the foreign currency the Fund is obligated to deliver under the forward contract and the decision is made to sell the security and deliver the foreign currency. The use of forward contracts as a hedging technique does not eliminate the fluctuation in the prices of the underlying securities the Fund owns or intends to acquire, but it fixes a rate of exchange in advance. Although forward contracts can reduce the risk of loss if the values of the hedged currencies decline, these instruments also limit the potential gain that might result from an increase in the value of the hedged currencies.

There is no systematic reporting of last sale information for foreign currencies, and there is no regulatory requirement that quotations available through dealers or other market sources be firm or revised on a timely basis. Quotation information available is generally representative of very large transactions in the interbank market. The interbank market in foreign currencies is a global around-the-clock market. Since foreign currency transactions occurring in the interbank market involve substantially larger amounts than those that may be involved in the use of foreign currency options, the Fund may be disadvantaged by having to deal in an odd lot market (generally consisting of transactions of less than \$1 million) for the underlying foreign currencies at prices that are less favorable than for round lots. The Fund may take positions in options on foreign currencies in order to hedge against the risk of foreign exchange fluctuation on foreign securities the Fund holds in its portfolio or which it intends to purchase.

## ***Depository Receipts***

American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) are negotiable receipts issued by a U.S. bank or trust company that evidence ownership of securities in a foreign company which have been deposited with such bank or trust company’s office or agent in a foreign country. European Depositary Receipts (“EDRs”) are negotiable certificates held in the bank of one country representing a specific number of shares of a stock traded on an exchange of another country. Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”) are negotiable certificates held in the bank of one country representing a specific number of shares of a stock traded on an exchange of another country. Canadian Depositary Receipts (“CDRs”) are negotiable receipts issued by a Canadian bank or trust company that evidence ownership of securities in a foreign company which have been deposited with such bank or trust company’s office or agent in a foreign country.

Investing in ADRs, EDRs, GDRs, and CDRs presents risks that may not be equal to the risk inherent in holding the equivalent shares of the same companies that are traded in the local markets even though the Fund will purchase, sell and be paid dividends on ADRs in U.S. dollars. These risks include fluctuations in currency exchange rates, which are affected by international balances of payments and other economic and financial conditions; government intervention; speculation; and other factors. With respect to certain foreign countries, there is the possibility of expropriation or nationalization of assets, confiscatory taxation, political and social upheaval, and economic instability. The Fund may incur foreign withholding or other taxes on certain ADRs, EDRs, GDRs, or CDRs that it owns, thus reducing the net amount of income to be received by the Fund and that may ultimately be available for distribution to the Fund's shareholders. ADRs, EDRs, GDRs, and CDRs may be sponsored by the foreign issuer or may be unsponsored. Unsponsored ADRs, EDRs, GDRs, and CDRs are organized independently and without the cooperation of the foreign issuer of the underlying securities. Unsponsored ADRs, EDRs, GDRs, and CDRs are offered by companies which are not prepared to meet either the reporting or accounting standards of the United States. While readily exchangeable with stock in local markets, unsponsored ADRs, EDRs, GDRs, and CDRs may be less liquid than sponsored ADRs, EDRs, GDRs, and CDRs. Additionally, there generally is less publicly available information with respect to unsponsored ADRs, EDRs, GDRs, and CDRs.

### ***Europe—Recent Events***

A number of countries in Europe have experienced severe economic and financial difficulties. Many non-governmental issuers, and even certain governments, have defaulted on, or been forced to restructure, their debts; many other issuers have faced difficulties obtaining credit or refinancing existing obligations; financial institutions have in many cases required government or central bank support, have needed to raise capital, and/or have been impaired in their ability to extend credit; and financial markets in Europe and elsewhere have experienced extreme volatility and declines in asset values and liquidity. These difficulties may continue, worsen or spread within and without Europe. Responses to the financial problems by European governments, central banks and others, including austerity measures and reforms, may not work, may result in social unrest and may limit future growth and economic recovery or have other unintended consequences. Further defaults or restructurings by governments and others of their debt could have additional adverse effects on economies, financial markets and asset valuations around the world.

The European Union ("EU") currently faces major issues involving its membership, structure, procedures and policies, including the successful political, economic and social integration of new member states, the EU's resettlement and distribution of refugees, and resolution of the EU's problematic fiscal and democratic accountability.

European countries can be significantly affected by the tight fiscal and monetary controls that the European Economic and Monetary Union ("EMU") imposes for membership. Europe's economies are diverse, its governments are decentralized, and its cultures vary widely. Several EMU countries have faced budget issues, some of which may have negative long-term effects for the economies of those countries and other EMU countries. There is continued concern about national-level support for the euro and the accompanying coordination of fiscal and wage policy among EMU member countries. Member countries are required to maintain tight control over inflation, public debt, and budget deficit to qualify for membership in the EMU. These requirements can severely limit the ability of EMU member countries to implement monetary policy to address regional economic conditions.

Whether or not the Fund invests in securities of issuers located in Europe or with significant exposure to European issuers or countries, these events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of the Fund's investments due to the interconnected nature of the global economy and capital markets. The Fund may also be susceptible to these events to the extent that the Fund invests in municipal obligations with credit support by non-U.S. financial institutions.

## Crypto Asset Investments

Crypto assets (also referred to as “virtual currencies” and “digital currencies”) are digital assets designed to act as a medium of exchange. Although crypto assets are an emerging asset class, they are not presently widely accepted as a medium of exchange. There are thousands of crypto assets, the most well-known of which is Bitcoin.

Bitcoin or BTC was the first decentralized crypto asset. Bitcoin is a type of crypto asset that is not issued by a government, bank or central organization. Bitcoin exists on an online, peer-to-peer computer network that hosts the Bitcoin Blockchain. Bitcoin has no physical existence and exists solely through the record of bitcoin transactions on the Bitcoin Blockchain. The Bitcoin Network allows people to exchange tokens of value, bitcoins, which are recorded on a public transaction ledger known as a Blockchain. The Fund may invest indirectly in bitcoin through the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust and through other pooled investment vehicles that provide exposure to crypto assets. Grayscale Bitcoin Trust is a Bitcoin ETF that enables investors to gain exposure to bitcoin in the form of a security while avoiding the challenges of buying, storing, and safekeeping bitcoin, directly.

In addition to the general risks of investing in other investment vehicles, the value of the Fund’s indirect investments in crypto assets are subject to fluctuations in the value of the crypto asset, which can be highly volatile. The value of crypto assets is determined by the supply and demand for crypto assets in the global market for the trading of crypto assets, which consists primarily of transactions on crypto asset trading platforms. The price of crypto assets could drop precipitously (including to zero) for a variety of reasons including but not limited to regulatory changes, a crisis of confidence in the crypto assets network or a change in user preference to competing crypto assets. The Fund’s exposure to crypto assets can result in substantial losses to the Fund.

Crypto assets facilitate decentralized, peer-to-peer financial exchange and value storage, without the oversight of a central authority or banks. The value of crypto assets is not backed by any government, corporation, or other identified body. Crypto assets are also susceptible to theft, loss and destruction.

Crypto assets trade on crypto asset trading platforms. The regulatory environment for crypto asset trading platforms continues to evolve and is less stringent than that for trading platforms for traditional assets. As a result, crypto asset trading platforms may be more exposed to fraud and failure than established, regulated exchanges for securities, derivatives and other currencies. These crypto asset trading platforms can cease operating temporarily or even permanently, resulting in the potential loss of users’ crypto assets or other market disruptions. Crypto asset trading platforms may be more exposed to the risk of market manipulation than exchanges for more traditional assets. Crypto asset trading platforms that are regulated typically must comply with minimum net worth, cybersecurity, and anti-money laundering requirements, but are not typically required to protect customers or their markets to the same extent that regulated securities exchanges or futures exchanges are required to do so. Furthermore, many crypto asset trading platforms lack certain safeguards established by more traditional exchanges to enhance the stability of trading on the exchange, such as measures designed to prevent sudden drops in value of items traded on the exchange (i.e., “flash crashes”). As a result, the prices of crypto assets on crypto asset trading platforms may be subject to larger and more frequent sudden declines than assets traded on more traditional exchanges.

Currently, there is relatively limited use of crypto assets in the retail and commercial marketplace, which contributes to price volatility. A lack of expansion by crypto assets into retail and commercial markets, or a contraction of such use, may result in increased volatility or a reduction in the value of crypto assets, either of which could adversely impact the value of the Fund’s investments. In addition, to the extent market

participants develop a preference for one crypto asset over another, the value of the less preferred crypto asset would likely be adversely affected.

The crypto asset industry is a newer, speculative, and still-developing industry that faces many risks. The crypto asset industry may still be experiencing a bubble or may experience a bubble again in the future. For example, in the first half of 2022, each of Celsius Network, Voyager Digital Ltd., and Three Arrows Capital declared bankruptcy, resulting in a loss of confidence in participants of the digital asset ecosystem and negative publicity surrounding digital assets more broadly. In November 2022, FTX Trading Ltd. (“FTX”), one of the largest digital asset platforms by volume at the time, halted customer withdrawals amid rumors of the company’s liquidity issues and likely insolvency, which were subsequently corroborated by its CEO. Shortly thereafter, FTX’s CEO resigned and FTX and many of its affiliates filed for bankruptcy in the United States, while other affiliates have entered insolvency, liquidation, or similar proceedings around the globe, following which the U.S. Department of Justice brought criminal fraud and other charges, and the SEC and CFTC brought civil securities and commodities fraud charges, against certain of FTX’s and its affiliates’ senior executives, including its former CEO. In addition, several other entities in the crypto asset industry filed for bankruptcy following FTX’s bankruptcy filing, such as BlockFi Inc. and Genesis Global Capital, LLC. In response to these events, the prices of crypto assets experienced extreme volatility and other entities in the crypto asset industry have been negatively affected. It is possible that similar events could occur in the future, which would undermine confidence in the crypto asset industry and negatively affect the value of crypto assets. It is not possible to predict at this time all of the risks that they may pose to the Fund, its service providers or to the crypto asset industry as a whole.

Factors affecting the further development of crypto assets include, but are not limited to, continued worldwide growth or possible cessation or reversal in the adoption and use of crypto assets and other digital assets; government and quasi-government regulation or restrictions on or regulation of access to and operation of digital asset networks; changes in consumer demographics and public preferences; maintenance and development of open-source software protocol; availability and popularity of other forms or methods of buying and selling goods and services; the use of the networks supporting digital assets, such as those for developing smart contracts and distributed applications; general economic conditions and the regulatory environment relating to digital assets; negative consumer or public perception; and general risks tied to the use of information technologies, including cyber risks. A hack or failure of one crypto asset may lead to a loss in confidence in, and thus decreased usage and/or value of, other crypto assets.

Crypto asset markets in the U.S. exist in a state of regulatory uncertainty. Regulatory changes or actions by Congress as well as U.S. federal or state agencies may adversely affect the value of the Fund’s indirect investments in crypto assets. As digital assets have grown in both popularity and market size, a number of state and federal agencies have issued consumer advisories regarding the risks posed by digital assets to investors. In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission, U.S. state securities regulators and several foreign governments have issued warnings and instituted legal proceedings in which they argue that certain digital assets may be classified as securities and that both those digital assets and any related initial coin offerings are subject to securities regulations. Additionally, U.S. state and federal, and foreign regulators and legislatures have taken action against virtual currency businesses or enacted restrictive regimes in response to adverse publicity arising from hacks, consumer harm, or criminal activity stemming from virtual currency activity.

The Fund’s exposure to crypto assets may change over time and, accordingly, such exposure may not be represented in the Fund’s portfolio at any given time. Many significant aspects of the tax treatment of investments in crypto assets are uncertain, and a direct or indirect investment in crypto assets may produce non-qualifying income. Crypto assets are a new technological innovation with a limited history; it is a highly speculative asset and future regulatory actions or policies may limit, perhaps to a materially adverse extent, the value of the Fund’s indirect investment in crypto assets and the ability to exchange a crypto asset or utilize it for payments.

Blockchain technology is a relatively new and untested technology which operates as a distributed ledger. The risks associated with blockchain technology may not fully emerge until the technology is widely used. Blockchain systems could be vulnerable to fraud, particularly if a significant minority of participants colluded to defraud the rest. Access to a given blockchain requires an individualized key, which, if compromised, could result in loss due to theft, destruction or inaccessibility. There is little regulation of blockchain technology other than the intrinsic public nature of the blockchain system. Any future regulatory developments could affect the viability and expansion of the use of blockchain technology.

The adoption of blockchain and the development of competing platforms or technologies could affect its usage. There are currently a number of competing blockchain platforms with competing intellectual property claims. The uncertainty inherent in these competing technologies could cause companies to use alternatives to blockchain. In addition, blockchain networks may undergo technological developments or upgrades. Certain upgrade proposals to a blockchain may not be accepted by all the participants in an ecosystem. If one significant group adopts a proposed upgrade and another does not – or if groups adopt different upgrades – this can result in a “fork” of the blockchain, wherein two distinct sets of users and validators or users and miners run two different versions of a protocol. If the versions are sufficiently different such that the two versions of the protocol cannot simultaneously maintain and update a shared record of the blockchain database, it is called a “hard fork.” A hard fork can result in the creation of two competing blockchains, each with its own native crypto assets.

Technological developments may lead to technical or other flaws (including undiscovered flaws) in the underlying blockchain technology, including in the process by which transactions are recorded to a blockchain, or by which the validity of a copy of such blockchain can be proven, or the development of new or existing hardware or software tools or mechanisms that could negatively impact the functionality of the blockchain systems, all of which could negatively impact Fund shares.

***Cayman Subsidiary.*** The Fund may invest in crypto assets by investing up to 25% of the value of its total assets in a wholly-owned and controlled subsidiary of the Fund organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands (the “Subsidiary”) that may acquire interests in pooled investment vehicles that provide exposure to crypto assets. The Fund will invest in its Subsidiary within the limitations of the federal tax law, rules and regulations that apply to “regulated investment companies” under Subchapter M of the Code (“RICs”). Unlike the Fund, the Subsidiary may invest without limitation in pooled investment vehicles that provide exposure to crypto assets. However, the Fund and its Subsidiary comply with the same fundamental investment restrictions on an aggregate basis, to the extent those restrictions are applicable to the investment activities of the Subsidiary. The Subsidiary also complies with Section 17 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “1940 Act”) relating to affiliated transactions and custody. Unlike the Fund, the Subsidiary does not, and will not, seek to qualify as a RIC. The Fund is the sole shareholder of its Subsidiary and does not expect shares of its Subsidiary to be offered or sold to other investors.

The Fund will make investments through a wholly-owned subsidiary organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands (the “Subsidiary”). By investing in its Subsidiary, the Fund is indirectly exposed to the risks associated with the Subsidiary’s investments. The investments held by a Subsidiary are generally similar to those that are permitted to be held by the Fund and are subject to the same risks that apply to similar investments if held directly by the Fund. These risks are described elsewhere in this SAI.

The Subsidiary is not registered under the 1940 Act, and, unless otherwise noted in this SAI, is not subject to all the investor protections of the 1940 Act. However, the Fund wholly-owns and controls its Subsidiary, making it unlikely that the Subsidiary will take action contrary to the interests of the Fund and its shareholders. The Board has oversight responsibility for the investment activities of the Fund, including its investment in its Subsidiary, and the Fund’s role as sole shareholder of its Subsidiary. The Subsidiary will be

subject to the same investment restrictions and limitations, and follow the same compliance policies and procedures, as the Fund.

Changes in the laws of the United States and/or the Cayman Islands could result in the inability of the Fund and/or its Subsidiary to operate as described in the Fund's Prospectus and SAI and could adversely affect the Fund. For example, the Cayman Islands does not currently impose any income, corporate or capital gains tax or withholding tax on the Subsidiary. If Cayman Islands law changes such that the Subsidiary must pay Cayman Islands taxes, Fund shareholders would likely suffer decreased investment returns.

### **Distressed Investments**

The Fund may invest in securities of companies that are in financial distress (i.e., involved in bankruptcy or reorganization proceedings). These securities may include, among other things, senior or subordinated fixed income securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants and other kinds of indebtedness. There can be no assurance that the Fund will correctly evaluate all the factors that could affect the outcome of an investment in these types of securities. Financially distressed securities involve considerable risk that can result in substantial or even total loss of the Fund's investment. It is often difficult to obtain information as to the true condition of financially distressed securities. These securities are often subject to litigation among the participants in the bankruptcy or reorganization proceedings. Such investments may also be adversely affected by U.S. federal and state laws relating to, among other things, fraudulent transfers and other voidable transfers or payments, lender liability and a bankruptcy court's power to disallow, reduce, subordinate or disenfranchise particular claims. These and other factors contribute to above-average price volatility and abrupt and erratic movements of the market prices of these securities. In addition, the spread between the bid and asked prices of such securities may be greater than normally expected and it may take a number of years for the market price of such securities to reflect their intrinsic value.

Securities of financially troubled companies require active monitoring and may, at times, require participation in bankruptcy or reorganization proceedings by Kinetics. To the extent that Kinetics becomes involved in such proceedings, Kinetics may have a more active participation in the affairs of the issuer than that assumed generally by a shareholder, and such participation may generate higher legal fees and other transaction costs relating to the investment than would normally be the case.

In bankruptcy and other forms of corporate reorganization, there exists the risk that the reorganization will: (1) be unsuccessful (due to, for example, failure to obtain the necessary approvals); (2) be delayed (for example, until various liabilities, actual or contingent, have been satisfied); or (3) result in a distribution of cash or a new security the value of which will be less than the purchase price of the security in respect to which such distribution was made.

### **Debt Securities**

Debt securities are used by issuers to borrow money. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on such factors as interest rates, credit quality and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall.

Lower rated debt securities, those rated Ba or below by Moody's Ratings. ("Moody's") and/or BB or below by S&P Global ("S&P") or unrated but determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality, are described by the rating agencies as speculative and involve greater risk of default or price changes than higher rated debt securities due to changes in the issuer's creditworthiness or the fact that the issuer may already be in default. The market prices of these securities may fluctuate more than higher quality securities and may decline significantly in periods of general economic difficulty. It may be more difficult to sell or to determine the value of lower rated debt securities.

Certain additional risk factors related to debt securities are discussed below:

**Sensitivity to interest rate and economic changes.** Debt securities may be sensitive to economic changes, political and corporate developments, and interest rate changes. In addition, during an economic downturn or periods of rising interest rates, issuers that are highly leveraged may experience increased financial stress that could adversely affect their ability to meet projected business goals, obtain additional financing, and service their principal and interest payment obligations. Furthermore, periods of economic change and uncertainty can be expected to result in increased volatility of market prices and yields of certain debt securities. For example, prices of these securities can be affected by financial contracts held by the issuer or third parties (such as derivatives) related to the security or other assets or indices.

**Payment expectations.** Debt securities may contain redemption or call provisions. If an issuer exercises these provisions in a lower interest rate environment, the Fund would have to replace the security with a lower yielding security, resulting in decreased income to investors. If the issuer of a debt security defaults on its obligations to pay interest or principal or is the subject of bankruptcy proceedings, the Fund may incur losses or expenses in seeking recovery of amounts owed to it.

**Liquidity.** Liquidity risk may result from the lack of an active market, reduced number and capacity of traditional market participants to make a market in fixed income securities, and may be magnified in a rising interest rate environment or other circumstances where investor redemptions from fixed income mutual funds may be higher than normal, causing increased supply in the market due to selling activity. In such cases, the Fund, due to limitations on investments in illiquid investments and the difficulty in purchasing and selling such securities or instruments, may be unable to achieve its desired level of exposure to a certain sector. To the extent that the Fund's principal investment strategies involve investments in securities of companies with smaller market capitalizations, foreign non-U.S. securities, Rule 144A securities, illiquid sectors of fixed income securities, derivatives or securities with substantial market and/or credit risk, the Fund will tend to have the greatest exposure to liquidity risk. Further, fixed income securities with longer durations until maturity face heightened levels of liquidity risk as compared to fixed income securities with shorter durations until maturity. Finally, liquidity risk also refers to the risk of unusually high redemption requests or other unusual market conditions that may make it difficult for the Fund to fully honor redemption requests within the allowable time period. Meeting such redemption requests could require the Fund to sell securities at reduced prices or under unfavorable conditions, which would reduce the value of the Fund. It may also be the case that other market participants may be attempting to liquidate fixed income holdings at the same time as the Fund, causing increased supply in the market and contributing to liquidity risk and downward pricing pressure.

The Adviser attempts to reduce the risks described above through diversification of the Fund's portfolio, credit analysis of each issuer, and by monitoring broad economic trends as well as corporate and legislative developments, but there can be no assurance that it will be successful in doing so. Credit ratings of debt securities provided by rating agencies indicate a measure of the safety of principal and interest payments, not market value risk. The rating of an issuer is a rating agency's view of past and future potential developments related to the issuer and may not necessarily reflect actual outcomes. There can be a lag between corporate developments and the time a rating is assigned and updated.

**Changing Fixed Income Market Conditions.** Following the financial crisis that began in 2007, the U.S. government and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve"), as well as certain foreign governments and central banks, took steps to support financial markets, including seeking to maintain interest rates at or near historically low levels and by purchasing large quantities of fixed income securities on the open market, such as securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, ("Quantitative Easing"). Similar steps have taken place more recently in an effort to support



the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is unclear how long these policies will last. In addition, this and other government interventions may not work as intended, particularly if the efforts are perceived by investors as being unlikely to achieve the desired results. When the Federal Reserve determines to “taper” or reduce Quantitative Easing and/or raise the federal funds rate, there is a risk that interest rates across the U.S. financial system will rise. Recently, the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates and has indicated that it expects to continue to raise interest rates further this year in an effort to control inflation. Such policy changes may expose fixed-income and related markets to heightened volatility and may reduce liquidity for certain fixed income investments, including fixed income investments held by the Fund, which could cause the value of the Fund’s investments and share price to decline. To the extent that the Fund invests in derivatives tied to fixed income markets, the Fund will be more substantially exposed to these risks than a fund that does not invest in such derivatives.

**Bond Ratings.** Bond rating agencies may assign modifiers (such as +/-) to ratings categories to signify the relative position of a credit within the rating category. Investment policies that are based on ratings categories should be read to include any security within that category, without considering the modifier. Please refer to Appendix A for more information about credit ratings.

### **Lower-Rated Debt Securities**

The Fund may invest in lower-rated fixed-income securities (commonly known as “junk bonds”). The lower ratings reflect a greater possibility that adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer or in general economic conditions, or both, or an unanticipated rise in interest rates, may impair the ability of the issuer to make payments of interest and principal. The inability (or perceived inability) of issuers to make timely payment of interest and principal would likely make the values of securities held by the Fund more volatile and could limit the Fund’s ability to sell its securities at prices approximating the values the Fund had placed on such securities. In the absence of a liquid trading market for securities held by it, the Fund at times may be unable to establish the fair value of such securities. Securities ratings are based largely on the issuer’s historical financial condition and the rating agencies’ analysis at the time of rating. Consequently, the rating assigned to any particular security is not necessarily a reflection of the issuer’s current financial condition, which may be better or worse than the rating would indicate. In addition, the rating assigned to a security by Moody’s or S&P (or by any other nationally recognized securities rating agency) does not reflect an assessment of the volatility of the security’s market value or the liquidity of an investment in the security.

Like those of other fixed-income securities, the values of lower-rated securities fluctuate in response to changes in interest rates. A decrease in interest rates will generally result in an increase in the value of the Fund’s fixed-income assets. Conversely, during periods of rising interest rates, the value of the Fund’s fixed-income assets will generally decline. The values of lower-rated securities may often be affected to a greater extent by changes in general economic conditions and business conditions affecting the issuers of such securities and their industries. Negative publicity or investor perceptions may also adversely affect the values of lower-rated securities. Changes by nationally recognized securities rating agencies in their ratings of any fixed-income security and changes in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal may also affect the value of these investments. Changes in the value of portfolio securities generally will not affect income derived from these securities, but will affect the Fund’s net asset value. The Fund will not necessarily dispose of a security when its rating is reduced below its rating at the time of purchase. However, the Adviser will monitor the investment to determine whether its retention will assist in meeting the Fund’s investment objective. Issuers of lower-rated securities are often highly leveraged, so that their ability to service their debt obligations during an economic downturn or during sustained periods of rising interest rates may be impaired. Such issuers may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them and may be unable to repay outstanding obligations at maturity by refinancing.

The risk of loss due to default in payment of interest or repayment of principal by such issuers is significantly greater because such securities frequently are unsecured and subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness. It is possible that, under adverse market or economic conditions or in the event of adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer, the Fund could find it more difficult to sell these securities when the Adviser believes it advisable to do so or may be able to sell the securities only at prices lower than if they were more widely held. Under these circumstances, it may also be more difficult to determine the fair value of such securities for purposes of computing the Fund's net asset value. In order to enforce its rights in the event of a default, the Fund may be required to participate in various legal proceedings or take possession of and manage assets securing the issuer's obligations on such securities. This could increase the Fund's operating expenses and adversely affect the Fund's net asset value. The ability of a holder of a tax-exempt security to enforce the terms of that security in a bankruptcy proceeding may be more limited than would be the case with respect to securities of private issuers. In addition, the Fund's intention to qualify as a "regulated investment company" under the Code may limit the extent to which the Fund may exercise its rights by taking possession of such assets. To the extent the Fund invests in securities in the lower rating categories, the achievement of the Fund's investment objective is more dependent on the Adviser's investment analysis than would be the case if the Fund were investing in securities in the higher rating categories.

### **Sovereign Debt Obligations**

The Fund may invest in sovereign debt obligations, which are securities issued or guaranteed by foreign governments, governmental agencies or instrumentalities and political subdivisions, including debt of developing countries. Sovereign debt may be in the form of conventional securities or other types of debt instruments such as loans or loan participations. Sovereign debt of developing countries may involve a high degree of risk, and may be in default or present the risk of default. Governmental entities responsible for repayment of the debt may be unable or unwilling to repay principal and pay interest when due, and may require renegotiation or rescheduling of debt payments. In addition, prospects for repayment of principal and payment of interest may depend on political as well as economic factors. Although some sovereign debt, such as Brady Bonds, is collateralized by U.S. government securities, repayment of principal and payment of interest is not guaranteed by the U.S. government. There is no bankruptcy proceeding by which sovereign debt on which governmental entities have defaulted may be collected in whole or in part.

### **Municipal Bonds**

Municipal bonds are debt obligations issued by the states, possessions, or territories of the United States (including the District of Columbia) or a political subdivision, public instrumentality, agency, public authority or other governmental unit of such states, possessions, or territories (*e.g.*, counties, cities, towns, villages, districts and authorities). For example, states, possessions, territories and municipalities may issue municipal bonds to raise funds for various public purposes such as airports, housing, hospitals, mass transportation, schools, water and sewer works, gas, and electric utilities. They may also issue municipal bonds to refund outstanding obligations and to meet general operating expenses. Municipal bonds may be general obligation bonds or revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue bonds are payable from revenues derived from particular facilities, from the proceeds of a special excise tax or from other specific revenue sources. They are not usually payable from the general taxing power of a municipality. In addition, certain types of "private activity" bonds may be issued by public authorities to obtain funding for privately operated facilities, such as housing and pollution control facilities, for industrial facilities and for water supply, gas, electricity and waste disposal facilities. Other types of private activity bonds are used to finance the construction, repair or improvement of, or to obtain equipment for, privately operated industrial or commercial facilities. Current federal tax laws place substantial limitations on the size of certain of such issues. In certain cases, the interest on a private activity bond may not be exempt from U.S. federal income tax or the alternative minimum tax.

## **Zero Coupon, Step Coupon, and Pay-In-Kind Securities**

Within the parameters of its specific investment policies, the Fund may invest in zero coupon, pay-in-kind, and step coupon securities. Zero coupon bonds are securities that make no fixed interest payments but instead are issued and traded at a discount from their face value. They do not entitle the holder to any periodic payment of interest prior to maturity. Step coupon bonds trade at a discount from their face value and pay coupon interest. The coupon rate is low for an initial period and then increases to a higher coupon rate thereafter. The discount from the face amount or par value depends on the time remaining until cash payments begin, prevailing interest rates, liquidity of the security, and the perceived credit quality of the issuer. Pay-in-kind bonds normally give the issuer an option to pay cash at a coupon payment date or give the holder of the security a similar bond with the same coupon rate and a face value equal to the amount of the coupon payment that would have been made.

Generally, the market prices of zero coupon, step coupon, and pay-in-kind securities are more volatile than the prices of securities that pay interest periodically and in cash and are likely to respond to changes in interest rates to a greater degree than other types of debt securities having similar maturities and credit quality.

## **Floating Rate, Inverse Floating Rate and Index Obligations**

The Fund may invest in debt securities with interest payments or maturity values that are not fixed, but float in conjunction with (or inversely to) an underlying index or price. These securities may be backed by sovereign or corporate issuers, or by collateral such as mortgages. The indices and prices upon which such securities can be based include interest rates, currency rates and commodities prices. Floating rate securities pay interest according to a coupon which is reset periodically. The reset mechanism may be formula based, or reflect the passing through of floating interest payments on an underlying collateral pool. Inverse floating rate securities are similar to floating rate securities except that their coupon payments vary inversely with an underlying index by use of a formula. Inverse floating rate securities tend to exhibit greater price volatility than other floating rate securities. Interest rate risk and price volatility on inverse floating rate obligations can be high, especially if leverage is used in the formula. Index securities pay a fixed rate of interest, but have a maturity value that varies by formula, so that when the obligation matures a gain or loss may be realized. The risk of index obligations depends on the volatility of the underlying index, the coupon payment and the maturity of the obligation.

## **Derivatives**

The Fund may utilize a variety of derivatives contracts, such as options, futures, swaps and forward contracts, both for investment purposes and for hedging purposes. Hedging involves special risks including the possible default by the other party to the transaction, illiquidity and, to the extent the Adviser's assessment of certain market movements is incorrect, the risk that the use of hedging could result in losses greater than if hedging had not been used. Nonetheless, with respect to certain investment positions, the Fund may not be sufficiently hedged against market fluctuations, in which case an investment position could result in a loss greater than if the Advisor had been sufficiently hedged with respect to such position.

The Adviser will not, in general, attempt to hedge all market or other risks inherent in the Fund's positions, and may hedge certain risks, if at all, only partially. Specifically, the Adviser may choose not, or may determine that it is economically unattractive, to hedge certain risks, either in respect of particular positions or in respect of the Fund's overall portfolio. Moreover, it should be noted that the Fund's portfolio always will be exposed to unidentified systematic risk factors and to certain risks that cannot be completely hedged, such as credit risk (relating both to particular securities and to counterparties). The Fund's portfolio composition

may result in various directional market risks remaining unhedged, although the Adviser may rely on diversification to control such risks to the extent that the Adviser believes it is desirable to do so.

In October 2020, the SEC adopted Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act related to the use of derivatives, short sales, reverse repurchase agreements and certain other transactions by registered investment companies. Rule 18f-4 requires that the Fund trade derivatives and other transactions that create future payment or delivery obligations (except reverse repurchase agreements and similar financing transactions) subject to a value-at-risk (“VaR”) leverage limit and certain derivatives risk management program and reporting requirements. Generally, these requirements apply unless a fund qualifies as a “limited derivatives user,” as defined in Rule 18f-4. Under Rule 18f-4, when the Fund trades reverse repurchase agreements or similar financing transactions it needs to aggregate the amount of indebtedness associated with the reverse repurchase agreements or similar financing transactions with the aggregate amount of any other senior securities representing indebtedness when calculating the Fund's asset coverage ratio or treat all such transactions as derivatives transactions. Reverse repurchase agreements or similar financing transactions aggregated with other indebtedness do not need to be included in the calculation of whether a fund is a limited derivatives user, but for funds subject to the VaR testing, reverse repurchase agreements and similar financing transactions must be included for purposes of such testing whether treated as derivatives transactions or not. These requirements may limit the ability of the Fund to use derivatives and reverse repurchase agreements and similar financing transactions as part of its investment strategies. These requirements may increase the cost of the Fund's investments and cost of doing business, which could adversely affect investors in the Fund.

The use of derivatives is subject to operational and legal risks. Operational risks generally refer to risks related to potential operational issues, including documentation issues, settlement issues, system failures, inadequate controls, and human error. Legal risks generally refer to risks of loss resulting from insufficient documentation, insufficient capacity or authority of counterparty, or legality or enforceability of a contract. Certain additional risk factors related to derivatives are discussed below:

Derivatives Risk. Under CFTC rules, transactions in some types of interest rate swaps and index credit default swaps on North American and European indices are required to be cleared. In a cleared derivatives transaction, the Fund's counterparty is a clearing house (such as CME Clearing, ICE Clearing or LCH.Clearnet), rather than a bank or broker. Since the Fund is not a member of clearing houses and only members of a clearing house can participate directly in the clearing house, the Fund will hold cleared derivatives through accounts at clearing members, who are futures commission merchants that are members of the clearing houses and who have the appropriate regulatory approvals to engage in swap transactions. The Fund will make and receive payments owed under cleared derivatives transactions (including margin payments) through its accounts at clearing members. Clearing members guarantee performance of their clients' obligations to the clearing house. In contrast to bilateral derivatives transactions, following a period of advance notice to the Fund, clearing members generally can require termination of existing cleared derivatives transactions at any time and increases in margin above the margin that it required at the beginning of a transaction. Clearing houses also have broad rights to increase margin requirements for existing transactions and to terminate transactions. Any such increase or termination could interfere with the ability of the Fund to pursue its investment strategy. Also, the Fund is subject to execution risk if it enters into a derivatives transaction that is required to be cleared (or that the Adviser expects to be cleared), and no clearing member is willing or able to clear the transaction on the Fund's behalf. While the documentation in place between the Fund and its clearing members generally provides that the clearing members will accept for clearing all transactions submitted for clearing that are within credit limits specified by the clearing members in advance, the Fund could be subject to this execution risk if the Fund submits for clearing transactions that exceed such credit limits, if the clearing house does not accept the transactions for clearing, or if the clearing members do not comply with their agreement to clear such transactions. In that case, the transaction might have to be terminated, and the Fund could lose some or all of the benefit of any increase in the value of the transaction after the time of the transaction. In addition, new regulations could, among other things, restrict the Fund's ability to engage in, or increase the cost to the Fund of, derivatives transactions, for example, by

making some types of derivatives no longer available to the Fund or increasing margin or capital requirements. If the Fund is not able to enter into a particular derivatives transaction, the Fund's investment performance and risk profile could be adversely affected as a result.

**Counterparty Risk.** Counterparty risk with respect to over-the-counter ("OTC") derivatives may be affected by new regulations promulgated by the CFTC and SEC affecting the derivatives market. As described under "Derivatives Risk" above, some derivatives transactions will be required to be cleared, and a party to a cleared derivatives transaction is subject to the credit risk of the clearing house and the clearing member through which it holds its cleared position, rather than the credit risk of its original counterparty to the derivative transaction. Clearing members are required to segregate all funds received from customers with respect to cleared derivatives transactions from the clearing member's proprietary assets. However, all funds and other property received by a clearing broker from its customers are generally held by the clearing broker on a commingled basis in an omnibus account, which may also invest those funds in certain instruments permitted under the applicable regulations. The assets of the Fund might not be fully protected in the event of the bankruptcy of the Fund's clearing member because the Fund would be limited to recovering only a pro rata share of all available funds segregated on behalf of the clearing broker's customers for a relevant account class. Also, the clearing member transfers to the clearing house the amount of margin required by the clearing house for cleared derivatives transactions, which amounts are generally held in an omnibus account at the clearing house for all customers of the clearing member. For commodities futures positions, the clearing house may use all of the collateral held in the clearing member's omnibus account to meet a loss in that account, without regard to which customer in fact supplied that collateral. Accordingly, in addition to bearing the credit risk of its clearing member, each customer to a futures transaction also bears "fellow customer" risk from other customers of the clearing member. However, with respect to cleared swaps positions, regulations promulgated by the CFTC require that the clearing member notify the clearing house of the amount of initial margin provided by the clearing member to the clearing house that is attributable to each customer. Because margin in respect of cleared swaps must be earmarked for specific clearing member customers, the clearing house may not use the collateral of one customer to cover the obligations of another customer. However, if the clearing member does not provide accurate reporting, the Fund is subject to the risk that a clearing house will use the Fund's assets held in an omnibus account at the clearing house to satisfy payment obligations of a defaulting customer of the clearing member to the clearing house. In addition, a clearing member may generally choose to provide to the clearing house the net amount of variation margin required for cleared swaps for all of the clearing member's customers in the aggregate, rather than the gross amount of each customer. The Fund is therefore subject to the risk that a clearing house will not make variation margin payments owed to the Fund if another customer of the clearing member has suffered a loss and is in default.

Under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), regulations are now in effect that require swap dealers to post and collect variation margin (comprised of specified liquid instruments and subject to a required haircut) in connection with trading of OTC swaps with the Fund. Shares of investment companies (other than certain money market funds) may not be posted as collateral under these regulations. These instruments may be subject to additional regulation as qualified financial contracts (see "Qualified Financial Contracts" below for additional information).

### **Options on Securities and Securities Indices**

A call option would entitle the Fund, in return for the premium paid, to purchase specified securities at a specified price during the option period. A put option would entitle the Fund, in return for the premium paid, to sell specified securities during the option period. The Fund may invest in both European-style or American-style options. A European-style option is only exercisable immediately prior to its expiration. American-style options are exercisable at any time prior to the expiration date of the option.

Writing Call Options. The Fund may write covered call options. A call option is “covered” if the Fund owns the security underlying the call or has an absolute right to acquire the security without additional cash consideration (or, if additional cash consideration is required, cash or cash equivalents in such amounts as held in a segregated account by the Fund’s custodian). The writer of a call option receives a premium and gives the purchaser the right to buy the security underlying the option at the exercise price. The writer has the obligation upon exercise of the option to deliver the underlying security against payment of the exercise price during the option period. If the writer of an exchange-traded option wishes to terminate his obligation, he may effect a “closing purchase transaction.” This is accomplished by buying an option of the same series as the option previously written. A writer may not effect a closing purchase transaction after it has been notified of the exercise of an option.

Effecting a closing transaction in a written call option will permit the Fund to write another call option on the underlying security with either a different exercise price, expiration date or both. Also, effecting a closing transaction will permit the cash or proceeds from the concurrent sale of any securities subject to the option to be used for other investments of the Fund. If the Fund desires to sell a particular security from its portfolio on which it has written a call option, it will effect a closing transaction prior to or concurrent with the sale of the security.

The Fund will realize a gain from a closing transaction if the cost of the closing transaction is less than the premium received from writing the option or if the proceeds from the closing transaction are more than the premium paid to purchase the option. The Fund will realize a loss from a closing transaction if the cost of the closing transaction is more than the premium received from writing the option or if the proceeds from the closing transaction are less than the premium paid to purchase the option. However, because increases in the market price of a call option will generally reflect increases in the market price of the underlying security, any loss to the Fund resulting from the repurchase of a call option is likely to be offset in whole or in part by appreciation of the underlying security owned by the Fund.

If the Fund were assigned an exercise notice on a call it has written, it would be required to liquidate portfolio securities in order to satisfy the exercise, unless it has other liquid assets that are sufficient to satisfy the exercise of the call. If the Fund has written a call, there is also a risk that the market may decline between the time the Fund has a call exercised against it, at a price which is fixed as of the closing level of the index on the date of exercise, and the time it is able to sell securities in its portfolio.

In addition to covered call options, the Fund may write uncovered (or “naked”) call options on securities, including exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), and indices.

Writing Covered Index Call Options. The Fund may sell index call options. The Fund may also execute a closing purchase transaction with respect to the option it has sold and then sell another option with either a different exercise price and/or expiration date. The Fund’s objective in entering into such closing transactions is to increase option premium income, to limit losses or to protect anticipated gains in the underlying stocks. The cost of a closing transaction, while reducing the premium income realized from the sale of the option, should be offset, at least in part, by the appreciation in the value of the underlying index, and by the opportunity to realize additional premium income from selling a new option. When the Fund sells an index call option, it does not deliver the underlying stocks or cash to the broker through whom the transaction is effected. In the case of an exchange-traded option, the Fund establishes an escrow account. The Fund’s custodian (or a securities depository acting for the custodian) acts as the Fund’s escrow agent. The escrow agent enters into documents known as escrow receipts with respect to the stocks included in the Fund (or escrow receipts with respect to other acceptable securities). The escrow agent releases the stocks from the escrow account when the call option expires or the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction. Until such release, the underlying stocks cannot be sold by the Fund. The Fund may enter into similar collateral arrangements with the counterparty when it sells OTC index call options.

The purchaser of an index call option sold by the Fund may exercise the option at a price fixed as of the closing level of the index on the exercise date. Unless the Fund has liquid assets sufficient to satisfy the exercise of the index call option, the Fund would be required to liquidate portfolio securities to satisfy the exercise. The market value of such securities may decline between the time the option is exercised and the time the Fund is able to sell the securities. For example, even if an index call which the Fund has written is “covered” by an index call held by the Fund with the same strike price, it will bear the risk that the level of the index may decline between the close of trading on the date the exercise notice is filed with the Options Clearing Corporation and the close of trading on the date the Fund exercises the call it holds or the time it sells the call, which in either case would occur no earlier than the day following the day the exercise notice was filed. If the Fund fails to anticipate an exercise, it may have to borrow from a bank (in amounts not exceeding 5% of the Fund’s total assets) pending settlement of the sale of the portfolio securities and thereby incur interest charges. If trading is interrupted on the index, the Fund would not be able to close out its option positions.

Risks of Transactions in Options. There are several risks associated with transactions in options on securities and indices. Options may be more volatile than the underlying securities and, therefore, on a percentage basis, an investment in options may be subject to greater fluctuation in value than an investment in the underlying securities themselves. There are also significant differences between the securities and options markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between these markets, causing a given transaction not to achieve its objective. In addition, a liquid secondary market for particular options may be absent for reasons which include the following: there may be insufficient trading interest in certain options; restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both; trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options of underlying securities; unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; the facilities of an exchange or clearing corporation may not be adequate to handle current trading volume at all times; or one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options), in which event the secondary market on that exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist, although outstanding options that had been issued by a clearing corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

A decision as to whether, when and how to use options involves the exercise of skill and judgment, and even a well-conceived transaction may be unsuccessful to some degree because of market behavior or unexpected events. The extent to which the Fund may enter into options transactions may be limited by the requirements of the Code, for qualification of the Fund as a regulated investment company.

OTC Options. The Fund may engage in transactions involving OTC options as well as exchange-traded options. Certain additional risks are specific to OTC options. The Fund may engage a clearing corporation to exercise exchange-traded options, but if the Fund purchased an OTC option, it must then rely on the dealer from which it purchased the option if the option is exercised. Failure by the dealer to do so would result in the loss of the premium paid by the Fund as well as loss of the expected benefit of the transaction.

Exchange-traded options generally have a continuous liquid market while OTC options may not. Consequently, the Fund may generally be able to realize the value of an over-the-counter option it has purchased only by exercising or reselling the option to the dealer who issued it. Similarly, when the Fund writes an OTC option, the Fund may generally be able to close out the option prior to its expiration only by entering into a closing purchase transaction with the dealer to whom the Fund originally wrote the option. While the Fund will seek to enter into OTC options only with dealers who will agree to and are expected to be capable of entering into closing transactions with the Fund, there can be no assurance that the Fund will at any time be able to liquidate an OTC option at a favorable price at any time prior to expiration. Unless the Fund,

as a covered OTC call option writer, is able to effect a closing purchase transaction, it will not be able to liquidate securities (or other assets) used as cover until the option expires or is exercised. In the event of insolvency of the other party, the Fund may be unable to liquidate an OTC option. With respect to options written by the Fund, the inability to enter into a closing transaction may result in material losses to the Fund.

The SEC has taken the position that purchased OTC options are illiquid investments. The Fund may treat the cover used for written OTC options as liquid if the dealer agrees that the Fund may repurchase the OTC option it has written for a maximum price to be calculated by a predetermined formula. In such cases, the OTC option would be considered illiquid only to the extent the maximum purchase price under the formula exceeds the intrinsic value of the option. Accordingly, the Fund will treat OTC options as subject to the Fund's limitation on illiquid investments. If the SEC changes its position on the liquidity of OTC options, the Fund will change the treatment of such instruments accordingly.

Stock Index Options. The Fund may invest in options on indices, including broad-based security indices. Puts and calls on indices are similar to puts and calls on other investments except that all settlements are in cash and gain or loss depends on changes in the index in question rather than on price movements in individual securities. When the Fund writes a call on an index, it receives a premium and agrees that, prior to the expiration date, the purchaser of the call, upon exercise of the call, will receive from the Fund an amount of cash if the closing level of the index upon which the call is based is greater than the exercise price of the call. The amount of cash is equal to the difference between the closing price of the index and the exercise price of the call times a specified multiple ("multiplier"), which determines the total dollar value for each point of such difference. When the Fund buys a call on an index, it pays a premium and has the same rights as to such call as are indicated above. When the Fund buys a put on an index, it pays a premium and has the right, prior to the expiration date, to require the seller of the put, upon the Fund's exercise of the put, to deliver to the Fund an amount of cash if the closing level of the index upon which the put is based is less than the exercise price of the put, which amount of cash is determined by the multiplier, as described above for calls. When the Fund writes a put on an index, it receives a premium and the purchaser of the put has the right, prior to the expiration date, to require the Fund to deliver to it an amount of cash equal to the difference between the closing level of the index and exercise price times the multiplier if the closing level is less than the exercise price.

The risks of investment in options on indices may be greater than options on securities. Because index options are settled in cash, if the Fund writes a call on an index it cannot provide in advance for its potential settlement obligations by acquiring and holding the underlying index. The Fund can offset some of the risk of writing a call index option by holding a diversified portfolio of securities or instruments similar to those on which the underlying index is based. However, the Fund cannot, as a practical matter, acquire and hold a portfolio containing exactly the same securities or instruments as underlie the index and, as a result, bears a risk that the value of the securities or instruments held will vary from the value of the index.

Even if the Fund could assemble a portfolio that exactly reproduced the composition of the underlying index, it still would not be fully covered from a risk standpoint because of the "timing risk" inherent in writing index options. When an index option is exercised, the amount of cash that the holder is entitled to receive is determined by the difference between the exercise price and the closing index level on the date when the option is exercised. As with other kinds of options, the Fund as the call writer will not learn of the assignment until the next business day at the earliest. The time lag between exercise and notice of assignment poses no risk for the writer of a covered call on a specific underlying security or instrument, such as common stock, because there the writer's obligation is to deliver the underlying security or instrument, not to pay its value as of a fixed time in the past. So long as the writer already owns the underlying security or instrument, it can satisfy its settlement obligations by simply delivering it, and the risk that its value may have declined since the exercise date is borne by the exercising holder. In contrast even if the writer of an index call holds investments that exactly match the composition of the underlying index, it will not be able to satisfy its



assignment obligations by delivering those investments against payment of the exercise price. Instead, it will be required to pay cash in an amount based on the closing index value on the exercise date. By the time it learns that it has been assigned, the index may have declined, with a corresponding decline in the value of its portfolio. This “timing risk” is an inherent limitation on the ability of index call writers to cover their risk exposure by holding security or instrument positions.

If the Fund has purchased an index option and exercises it before the closing index value for that day is available, it runs the risk that the level of the underlying index may subsequently change. If such a change causes the exercised option to fall out-of-the-money, the Fund will be required to pay the difference between the closing index value and the exercise price of the option (times the applicable multiplier) to the assigned writer.

### **Futures and Options on Futures**

The Fund may use interest rate, foreign currency, index and other futures contracts. The Fund may use options on futures contracts. A futures contract provides for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified quantity of the security or other financial instrument at a specified price and time. A futures contract on an index is an agreement pursuant to which two parties agree to take or make delivery of an amount of cash equal to the difference between the value of the index at the close of the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the index contract originally was written. Although the value of an index might be a function of the value of certain specified securities, physical delivery of these securities is not always made. A public market exists in futures contracts covering a number of indexes, as well as financial instruments, including, without limitation: U.S. Treasury bonds; U.S. Treasury notes; GNMA Certificates; three-month U.S. Treasury bills; 90-day commercial paper; bank certificates of deposit; Eurodollar certificates of deposit; the Australian Dollar; the Canadian Dollar; the British Pound; the Japanese Yen; the Swiss Franc; the Mexican Peso; and certain multinational currencies, such as the Euro. It is expected that other futures contracts will be developed and traded in the future.

The Fund may purchase and write (sell) call and put futures options. Futures options possess many of the same characteristics as options on securities and indexes (discussed above). A futures option gives the holder the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a long position (call) or short position (put) in a futures contract at a specified exercise price upon expiration of, or at any time during the period of, the option. Upon exercise of a call option, the holder acquires a long position in the futures contract and the writer is assigned the opposite short position. In the case of a put option, the opposite is true. When a purchase or sale of a futures contract is made by the Fund, the Fund is required to deposit with its futures commission merchant a specified amount of liquid assets (“initial margin”). The margin required for a futures contract is set by the exchange on which the contract is traded and may be modified during the term of the contract. The initial margin is in the nature of a performance bond or good faith deposit on the futures contract that is returned to the Fund upon termination of the contract, assuming all contractual obligations have been satisfied. The Fund expects to earn taxable interest income on its initial margin deposits. The Fund, as a writer of an option, may have no control over whether the underlying futures contracts may be sold (call) or purchased (put) and as a result, bears the market risk of an unfavorable change in the valuation of the futures contracts underlying the written option. The Fund, as a purchaser of an option, bears the risk that the counterparties to the option may not have the ability to meet the terms of the option contract.

Futures and options on futures are regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”). The Fund invests in futures, options on futures and other instruments subject to regulation by the CFTC in reliance upon and in accordance with CFTC Regulation 4.5. Under Regulation 4.5, if the Fund uses futures, options on futures, or swaps other than for bona fide hedging purposes (as defined by the CFTC), the aggregate initial margin and premiums on these positions (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions and excluding the amount by which options that are “in-the-money” at the time of

purchase of a new position are “in-the-money”) may not exceed 5% of the Fund’s net asset value, or alternatively, the aggregate net notional value of those positions at the time may not exceed 100% of the Fund’s net asset value (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). The Company, on behalf of the Fund, has filed a notice of eligibility for exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” in accordance with CFTC Regulation 4.5. Therefore, as of the date of this SAI, neither the Company nor the Fund is deemed to be a “commodity pool” or “commodity pool operator” under the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”), and they are not subject to registration or regulation as such under the CEA. In addition, as of the date of this SAI, the Adviser is not deemed to be a “commodity pool operator” or “commodity trading adviser” with respect to the advisory services it provides to the Fund. In the future, if the Fund’s use of futures, options on futures, or swaps requires the Adviser to register as a commodity pool operator with the CFTC with respect to the Fund, the Adviser will do so at that time.

A futures contract held by the Fund is valued daily at the official settlement price of the exchange on which it is traded. Each day the Fund pays or receives cash, called “variation margin”, equal to the daily change in value of the futures contract. This process is known as “marking to market.” Variation margin does not represent a borrowing or loan by the Fund but is instead a settlement between the Fund and the broker of the amount one would owe the other if the futures contract expired. In computing daily net asset value, the Fund will mark to market its open futures positions. The Fund also is required to deposit and to maintain margin with respect to put and call options on futures contracts written by it. Such margin deposits will vary depending on the nature of the underlying futures contract (and the related initial margin requirements), the current market value of the option and other futures positions held by the Fund. Although some futures contracts call for making or taking delivery of the underlying securities, generally these obligations are closed out prior to delivery by offsetting purchases or sales of matching futures contracts (involving the same exchange, underlying security or index and delivery month). If an offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, the Fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is more, the Fund realizes a capital loss. Conversely, if an offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, the Fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is less, the Fund realizes a capital loss. The transaction costs also must be included in these calculations.

The Fund may write covered straddles consisting of a call and a put written on the same underlying futures contract. A straddle will be covered when sufficient assets are deposited to meet the Fund’s immediate obligations. The Fund may use the same liquid assets to cover both the call and put options if the exercise price of the call and put are the same, or if the exercise price of the call is higher than that of the put. In such cases, the Fund also will segregate liquid assets equivalent to the amount, if any, by which the put is “in the money.”

With respect to options and futures contracts that are cash settled, the Fund is permitted to set aside liquid assets in an amount equal to the Fund’s daily marked-to-market net obligations under the contracts (less any amounts the Fund has posted as margin), if any, rather than the full notional value. In the case of options and futures contracts that are not cash settled, the Fund will set aside liquid assets equal to the full notional value of the contracts (less any amounts the Fund has posted as margin), while the positions are open.

### **Stock Index Futures**

The Fund may invest in stock index futures only as a substitute for a comparable market position in the underlying securities. A stock index future obligates the seller to deliver (and the purchaser to accept), effectively, an amount of cash equal to a specific dollar amount times the difference between the value of a specific stock index at the close of the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the agreement is made. No physical delivery of the underlying stocks in the index is made. With respect to stock indices that

are permitted investments, the Fund intends to purchase and sell futures contracts on the stock index for which it can obtain the best price with consideration also given to liquidity.

## **Swap Transactions**

The Fund may enter into interest rate, currency and index swaps and the purchase or sale of related caps, floors and collars. The Fund may enter into these transactions to preserve a return or spread on a particular investment or portion of its portfolio, to protect against currency fluctuations or to protect against any increase in the price of securities it anticipates purchasing at a later date. Swaps may be used in conjunction with other instruments to offset interest rate, currency or other underlying risks. For example, interest rate swaps may be offset with “caps,” “floors” or “collars”. A “cap” is essentially a call option which places a limit on the amount of floating rate interest that must be paid on a certain principal amount. A “floor” is essentially a put option which places a limit on the minimum amount that would be paid on a certain principal amount. A “collar” is essentially a combination of a long cap and a short floor where the limits are set at different levels.

The Fund will usually enter into swaps on a net basis; that is, the two payment streams will be netted out in a cash settlement on the payment date or dates specified in the instrument, with the Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments.

Total Return Swaps. The Fund may enter into total return swap contracts for investment purposes. Total return swaps are contracts in which one party agrees to make periodic payments based on the change in market value of the underlying assets, which may include a specified security, basket of securities or security indexes during the specified period, in return for periodic payments based on a fixed or variable interest rate of the total return from other underlying assets. Total return swaps may be used to obtain exposure to a security or market without owning or taking physical custody of such security or market, including in cases in which there may be disadvantages associated with direct ownership of a particular security. In a typical total return equity swap, payments made by the Fund or the counterparty are based on the total return of a particular reference asset or assets (such as an equity security, a combination of such securities, or an index). That is, one party agrees to pay another party the return on a stock, basket of stocks, or stock index in return for a specified interest rate. By entering into an equity index swap, for example, the index receiver can gain exposure to stocks making up the index of securities without actually purchasing those stocks. Total return swaps involve not only the risk associated with the investment in the underlying securities, but also the risk of the counterparty not fulfilling its obligations under the agreement.

Credit Default Swaps. The Fund may enter into credit default swap transactions for investment purposes. A credit default swap may have as reference obligations one or more securities that are not currently held by the Fund. The Fund may be either the buyer or seller in the transaction. Credit default swaps may also be structured based on the debt of a basket of issuers, rather than a single issuer, and may be customized with respect to the default event that triggers purchase or other factors. As a seller, the Fund would generally receive an upfront payment or a fixed rate of income throughout the term of the swap, which typically is between six months and three years, provided that there is no credit event. If a credit event occurs, generally the seller must pay the buyer the full-face amount of deliverable obligations of the reference obligations that may have little or no value. If the Fund were a buyer and no credit event occurs, the Fund would recover nothing if the swap is held through its termination date. However, if a credit event occurs, the buyer may elect to receive the full notional value of the swap in exchange for an equal face amount of deliverable obligations of the reference obligation that may have little or no value. The use of swap transactions by the Fund entails certain risks, which may be different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the securities and other investments that are the referenced asset for the swap transaction. Swaps are highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques, risk analyses, and tax planning different from those associated with stocks, bonds, and other traditional investments. The use of a swap requires an understanding not only of the referenced asset, reference rate, or index, but also of the swap itself, without the

benefit of observing the performance of the swap under all the possible market conditions. Because some swap transactions have a leverage component, adverse changes in the value or level of the underlying asset, reference rate, or index can result in a loss substantially greater than the amount invested in the swap itself. Certain swaps have the potential for unlimited loss, regardless of the size of the initial investment.

The Fund may also purchase credit default swap contracts in order to hedge against the risk of default of the debt of a particular issuer or basket of issuers, in which case the Fund would function as the counterparty referenced in the preceding paragraph. This would involve the risk that the investment may expire worthless and would only generate income in the event of an actual default by the issuer(s) of the underlying obligation(s) (or, as applicable, a credit downgrade or other indication of financial instability). It would also involve the risk that the seller may fail to satisfy its payment obligations to the Fund in the event of a default. The purchase of credit default swaps involves costs, which will reduce the Fund's return.

Currency Swaps. The Fund may enter into currency swap transactions for investment purposes. Currency swaps are similar to interest rate swaps, except that they involve multiple currencies. The Fund may enter into a currency swap when it has exposure to one currency and desires exposure to a different currency. Typically, the interest rates that determine the currency swap payments are fixed, although occasionally one or both parties may pay a floating rate of interest. Unlike an interest rate swap, however, the principal amounts are exchanged at the beginning of the contract and returned at the end of the contract. In addition to paying and receiving amounts at the beginning and termination of the agreements, both sides will also have to pay in full periodically based upon the currency they have borrowed. Change in foreign exchange rates and changes in interest rates, as described above, may negatively affect currency swaps.

Interest Rate Swaps. The Fund may enter into an interest rate swap in an effort to protect against declines in the value of fixed income securities held by the Fund. In such an instance, the Fund may agree to pay a fixed rate (multiplied by a notional amount) while a counterparty agrees to pay a floating rate (multiplied by the same notional amount). If interest rates rise, resulting in a diminution in the value of the Fund's portfolio, the Fund would receive payments under the swap that would offset, in whole or in part, such diminution in value.

Options on Swaps. An option on a swap agreement, or a "swaption," is a contract that gives a counterparty the right (but not the obligation) to enter into a new swap agreement or to shorten, extend, cancel or otherwise modify an existing swap agreement, at some designated future time on specified terms. In return, the purchaser pays a "premium" to the seller of the contract. The seller of the contract receives the premium and bears the risk of unfavorable changes on the underlying swap. The Fund may write (sell) and purchase put and call swaptions. The Fund may also enter into swaptions on either an asset-based or liability-based basis, depending on whether the Fund is hedging its assets or its liabilities. The Fund may write (sell) and purchase put and call swaptions to the same extent it may make use of standard options on securities or other instruments. The Fund may enter into these transactions primarily to preserve a return or spread on a particular investment or portion of its holdings, as a duration management technique, to protect against an increase in the price of securities the Fund anticipates purchasing at a later date, or for any other purposes, such as for speculation to increase returns. Swaptions are generally subject to the same risks involved in the Fund's use of options.

Depending on the terms of the particular option agreement, the Fund will generally incur a greater degree of risk when it writes a swaption than it will incur when it purchases a swaption. When the Fund purchases a swaption, it risks losing only the amount of the premium it has paid should it decide to let the option expire unexercised. However, when the Fund writes a swaption, upon exercise of the option the Fund will become obligated according to the terms of the underlying agreement.

## Over the Counter Derivatives Transactions

The Dodd-Frank Act, which was signed into law on July 21, 2010, established a new statutory framework that comprehensively regulated the OTC derivatives markets for the first time. Key Dodd-Frank Act provisions relating to OTC derivatives require rulemaking by the SEC and the CFTC, not all of which has been proposed or finalized as at the date of this SAI. Prior to the Dodd-Frank Act, the OTC derivatives markets were traditionally traded on a bilateral basis (so-called “bilateral OTC transactions”). Now certain OTC derivatives contracts are required to be centrally cleared and traded on exchanges or electronic trading platforms called swap execution facilities (“SEFs”). Congress may determine to repeal or revise the Dodd-Frank Act or portions thereof and other laws and regulations. The effect of such actions, if taken, cannot be known.

Bilateral OTC transactions differ from exchange-traded or cleared derivatives transactions in several respects. Bilateral OTC transactions are transacted directly with dealers and not with a clearing corporation. Without the availability of a clearing corporation, bilateral OTC transaction pricing is normally done by reference to information from market makers, which information is carefully monitored by the Adviser and verified in appropriate cases. As bilateral OTC transactions are entered into directly with a dealer, there is a risk of nonperformance by the dealer as a result of its insolvency or otherwise. Under CFTC regulations, counterparties of registered swap dealers and major swap participants have the right to elect segregation of initial margin in respect of uncleared swaps. If a counterparty makes such an election, any initial margin that is posted to the swap dealer or major swap participant must be segregated in individual customer accounts held at an independent third party custodian. In addition, the collateral may only be invested in certain categories of instruments identified in the CFTC’s regulations. Agreements covering these segregation arrangements must generally provide for consent by both the counterparty and the swap dealer or major swap participant to withdraw margin from the segregated account. Given these limitations on the use of uncleared swaps collateral, there is some likelihood that the electing counterparty will experience an increase in the costs associated with trading swaps with the relevant swap dealer or major swap participant. Certain other protections apply to a counterparty to uncleared swaps under the CFTC’s regulations even if the counterparty does not elect segregation of its initial margin. It remains unclear whether these regulations will be effective in protecting initial margin in the manner intended in the event of significant market stress or the insolvency of a swap dealer or major swap participant.

Furthermore, a bilateral OTC transaction may only be terminated voluntarily by entering into a closing transaction with the dealer with which the Fund originally dealt. Any such cancellation may require the Fund to pay a premium to that dealer. In those cases in which the Fund has entered into a covered transaction and cannot voluntarily terminate the transaction, the Fund will not be able to sell the underlying security until the transaction expires or is exercised or different cover is substituted. The Fund will seek to enter into OTC transactions only with dealers which agree to, and which are expected to be capable of, entering into closing transactions with the Fund. There is also no assurance that the Fund will be able to liquidate an OTC transaction at any time prior to expiration.

The requirement to execute certain OTC derivatives contracts on SEFs may offer certain advantages over traditional bilateral OTC trading, such as ease of execution, price transparency, increased liquidity and/or favorable pricing. However, SEF trading may make it more difficult and costly for the Fund to enter into highly tailored or customized transactions and may result in additional costs and risks. Market participants such as the Fund that execute derivatives contracts through a SEF, whether directly or through a broker intermediary, are required to submit to the jurisdiction of the SEF and comply with SEF and CFTC rules and regulations which impose, among other things disclosure and recordkeeping obligations. In addition, the Fund will generally incur SEF or broker intermediary fees when it trades on a SEF. The Fund may also be required to indemnify the SEF or broker intermediary for any losses or costs that may result from the Fund’s transactions on the SEF.

## **Non-Publicly Traded Securities And Private Placements**

The Fund may invest in securities that are neither listed on a stock exchange nor traded over-the-counter, including privately placed securities and limited partnerships. Investing in unregistered or unlisted securities, including investments in new and early stage companies, may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. As a result of the absence of a public trading market for these securities, they may be less liquid than publicly traded securities. Although these securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices realized from these sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund, or less than what may be considered the fair value of such securities. Furthermore, companies whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to the disclosure and other investor protection requirements that would be applicable if their securities were publicly traded. If such securities 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 expense of registration. Investments by the Fund in non-publicly traded securities and private placements may be limited to the Fund's prohibition on investing more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments.

## **Illiquid and Restricted Investments**

Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act, the Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. An illiquid investment is an investment that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions within seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment.

Restricted securities may be sold only in privately negotiated transactions or in a public offering with respect to which a registration statement is in effect under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). Where registration is required, the Fund may be obligated to pay all or part of the registration expenses and a considerable period may elapse between the time of the decision to sell and the time the Fund may be permitted to sell a security under an effective registration statement. If, during such a period, adverse market conditions were to develop, the Fund might obtain a less favorable price than that which prevailed when it decided to sell. Restricted securities issued pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act that have a readily available market usually are not deemed illiquid for purposes of this limitation by the Fund. However, investing in Rule 144A securities could result in increasing the level of the Fund's illiquidity if qualified institutional buyers become, for a time, uninterested in purchasing these securities.

The Fund may purchase commercial paper issued pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act. 4(2) commercial paper has substantially the same price and liquidity characteristics as commercial paper generally, except that the resale of 4(2) commercial paper is limited to the institutional investor marketplace. Such a restriction on resale makes 4(2) commercial paper technically a restricted security under the Securities Act. In practice, however, 4(2) commercial paper can be resold as easily as any other unrestricted security held by the Fund. Accordingly, 4(2) commercial paper has been determined to be liquid under procedures adopted by the Board.

The Company has implemented a liquidity risk management program and related procedures to identify illiquid investments pursuant to Rule 22e-4. If the limitation on illiquid investments is exceeded, the condition will be reported to the Board of Directors of the Company, and when required, to the SEC.

## **Investment Company Securities**

The Fund may invest in shares of other investment companies (each, an "Underlying Fund"), including open-end funds, closed-end funds, unit investment trusts ("UITs") and ETFs, to the extent permitted by applicable law and subject to certain restrictions set forth in this SAI.

Under the 1940 Act, the Fund's investments in such securities currently are limited to, subject to certain exceptions, (i) 3% of the total voting stock of any one investment company, (ii) 5% of the Fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company and (iii) 10% of the Fund's total assets with respect to investment companies in the aggregate. Rule 12d1-1 under the 1940 Act permits a Fund to invest an unlimited amount of its uninvested cash in a money market fund so long as, among other things, said investment is consistent with the Fund's investment objectives and policies.

The SEC has adopted revisions to the rules permitting funds to invest in other investment companies in excess of the limits described above. While new Rule 12d1-4 permits more types of fund of fund arrangements without reliance on an exemptive order or no-action letters, it imposes new 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.

Acquired funds typically incur fees that are separate from those fees incurred directly by the Fund. The Fund's purchase of such investment company securities results in the layering of expenses as Fund shareholders would indirectly bear a proportionate share of the operating expenses of such investment companies, including advisory fees, in addition to paying Fund expenses. In addition, the securities of other investment companies may also be leveraged and will therefore be subject to certain leverage risks. The net asset value and market value of leveraged securities will be more volatile and the yield to shareholders will tend to fluctuate more than the yield generated by unleveraged securities. Investment companies may have investment policies that differ from those of the Fund.

Under certain circumstances an open-end investment company in which the Fund invests may determine to make payment of a redemption by the Fund wholly or in part by a distribution in kind of securities from its portfolio, instead of in cash. As a result, the Fund may hold such securities until the Adviser determines it is appropriate to dispose of them. Such disposition will impose additional costs on the Fund.

Investment decisions by the investment advisors to the registered investment companies in which the Fund invests are made independently of the Fund. At any particular time, one Underlying Fund may be purchasing shares of an issuer whose shares are being sold by another Underlying Fund. As a result, under these circumstances the Fund indirectly would incur certain transactional costs without accomplishing any investment purpose.

### **Exchange-Traded Funds**

ETFs are pooled investment vehicles that generally seek to track the performance of specific indices. ETFs may be organized as open-end funds or as UITs. Their shares are listed on stock exchanges and can be traded throughout the day at market-determined prices.

Shares of ETFs are not individually redeemable, except upon termination of the ETF. To redeem shares of an ETF, an investor must accumulate enough shares of the ETF to reconstitute a Creation Unit. The liquidity of small holdings of ETF shares, therefore, will depend upon the existence of a secondary market for such shares. Upon redemption of a Creation Unit, the portfolio will receive Index Securities and cash identical to the Portfolio Deposit required of an investor wishing to purchase a Creation Unit that day.

The price of ETF shares is based upon (but not necessarily identical to) the value of the securities held by the ETF. Accordingly, the level of risk involved in the purchase or sale of ETF shares is similar to the risk involved in the purchase or sale of traditional common stock, with the exception that the pricing mechanism for ETF shares is based on a basket of stocks. Disruptions in the markets for the securities underlying ETF shares purchased or sold by the Fund could result in losses on such shares. The existence of extreme market volatility or potential lack of an active trading market for an ETF's shares could result in such shares trading at a significant premium or discount to NAV. There is no assurance that the requirements of the national

securities exchanges necessary to maintain the listing of shares of any ETF will continue to be met. See "Investment Company Securities" above for additional information.

### **Closed-End Funds**

The Fund may invest in shares of closed-end funds. Investments in closed-end funds are subject to various risks, including reliance on management's ability to meet the closed-end fund's investment objective and to manage the closed-end fund portfolio; fluctuation in the net asset value of closed-end fund shares compared to the changes in the value of the underlying securities that the closed-end fund owns; and bearing a pro rata share of the management fees and expenses of each underlying closed-end fund resulting in the Fund's shareholders being subject to higher expenses than if he or she invested directly in the closed-end fund(s). See "Investment Company Securities" above for additional information.

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

The Fund may invest in REITs. REITs are pooled investment vehicles that invest primarily in income producing real estate or real estate related loans or interests. 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 principal and interest payments. Similar to investment companies such as the Fund, REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided they comply with several requirements of the Code. The Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of expenses incurred by REITs in which the Fund invests in addition to the expenses incurred directly by the Fund.

Investing in REITs involves certain unique risks in addition to those risks associated with investing in the real estate industry in general. Equity REITs may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the REITs, while mortgage REITs may be affected by the quality of any credit extended. REITs are dependent upon management skills, are not diversified, and are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, default by borrowers and self-liquidation.

Investing in REITs involves risks similar to those associated with investing in small capitalization companies. REITs may have limited financial resources, may trade less frequently and in a limited volume and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements than larger company securities. Historically, small capitalization stocks, such as REITs, have had more price volatility than larger capitalization stocks.

REITs are subject to the possibilities of failing to qualify for the favorable U.S. federal income tax treatment generally available to them under the Code and failing to maintain their exemptions from registration under the 1940 Act. REITs (especially mortgage REITs) also are subject to interest rate risks. When interest rates decline, the value of a REIT's investment in fixed-rate obligations can be expected to rise. Conversely, when interest rates rise, the value of a REIT's investment in fixed-rate obligations can be expected to decline. In contrast, as interest rates on adjustable-rate mortgage loans are reset periodically, yields on a REIT's investments in such loans will gradually align themselves to reflect changes in market interest rates, causing the value of such investments to fluctuate less dramatically in response to interest rate fluctuations than would investments in fixed-rate obligations.



## Short-Term Investments

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

Bank Certificates of Deposit, Bankers' Acceptances and Time Deposits. The Fund may acquire certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and time deposits in U.S. dollar or foreign currencies. Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates issued against monies deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers' acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are "accepted" by a bank, meaning in effect that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity. These short-term instruments which the Fund may acquire must, at the time of purchase, have capital, surplus and undivided profits in excess of \$100 million (including assets of both domestic and foreign branches), based on latest published reports, or less than \$100 million if the principal amount of such bank obligations are fully insured by the U.S. government. If the Fund holds instruments of foreign banks or financial institutions, it may be subject to additional investment risks that are different in some respects from those incurred if the Fund invests only in debt obligations of U.S. domestic issuers. See "Foreign Investments" above. Such risks include future political and economic developments, the possible imposition of withholding taxes by the particular country in which the issuer is located, the possible confiscation or nationalization of foreign deposits, the possible establishment of exchange controls, or the adoption of other foreign governmental restrictions which may adversely affect the payment of principal and interest on these securities.

Domestic banks and foreign banks are subject to different governmental regulations with respect to the amount and types of loans that may be made and interest rates that may be charged. In addition, the profitability of the banking industry depends largely upon the availability and cost of funds and the interest income generated from lending operations. General economic conditions and the quality of loan portfolios affect the banking industry.

As a result of U.S. federal and state laws and regulations, domestic banks are required to maintain specified levels of reserves, limited in the amount that they can loan to a single borrower, and are subject to regulations designed to promote financial soundness. However, such laws and regulations may not necessarily apply to foreign banks, thereby affecting the risk involved in bank obligations that the Fund may acquire.

In addition to purchasing certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances, to the extent permitted under its investment strategies and policies stated above and in the Prospectus, the Fund may invest in interest-bearing time deposits or other interest-bearing deposits in commercial or savings banks. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained at a banking institution for a specified period of time at a specified interest rate.

Savings Association Obligations. The Fund may invest in certificates of deposit (interest-bearing time deposits) issued by savings banks or savings and loan associations that have capital, surplus and undivided profits in excess of \$100 million, based on latest published reports, or less than \$100 million if the principal amount of such obligations is fully insured by the U.S. government.

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

The Fund's investment in commercial paper and short-term notes will consist of issues rated at the time of purchase "A-2" or higher by S&P, "Prime-1" or "Prime-2" by Moody's, or similarly rated by another

nationally recognized statistical rating organization or, if unrated, will be determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality. These rating symbols are described in Appendix A.

Corporate debt obligations are subject to the risk of an issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on the obligations, *i.e.*, credit risk. The Adviser may actively expose the Fund to credit risk. However, there can be no guarantee that the Adviser will be successful in making the right selections and thus fully mitigate the impact of credit risk changes on the Fund.

### **Government Obligations**

The Fund may invest in U.S. government obligations. Such obligations include Treasury bills, certificates of indebtedness, notes and bonds. U.S. government obligations include securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities. Treasury bills, the most frequently issued marketable government securities, have a maturity of up to one year and are issued on a discount basis. U.S. government obligations include securities issued or guaranteed by government-sponsored enterprises.

Payment of principal and interest on U.S. government obligations may be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States or may be backed solely by the issuing or guaranteeing agency or instrumentality itself. In the latter case, the investor must look principally to the agency or instrumentality issuing or guaranteeing the obligation for ultimate repayment, which agency or instrumentality may be privately owned. There can be no assurance that the U.S. government would provide financial support to its agencies or instrumentalities, including government-sponsored enterprises, where it is not obligated to do so. In addition, U.S. government obligations are subject to fluctuations in market value due to fluctuations in market interest rates. As a general matter, the value of debt instruments, including U.S. government obligations, declines when market interest rates increase and rises when market interest rates decrease. Certain types of U.S. government obligations are subject to fluctuations in yield or value due to their structure or contract terms.

### **Cyber Security Risk**

Investment companies, such as the Fund, and its service providers may be subject to operational and information security risks resulting from cyber attacks. Cyber attacks include, among other behaviors, stealing or corrupting data maintained online or digitally, denial of service attacks on websites, the unauthorized release of confidential information or various other forms of cyber security breaches. Cyber attacks affecting the Fund, the Adviser, the Fund's custodian or transfer agent, or intermediaries or other third-party service providers may adversely impact the Fund. For instance, cyber attacks may interfere with the processing of shareholder transactions, impact the Fund's ability to calculate its net asset value, cause the release of private shareholder information or confidential company information, impede trading, subject the Fund to regulatory fines or financial losses, and cause reputational damage. In addition to administrative, technological and procedural safeguards, the Adviser has established business continuity plans in the event of, and risk management systems to prevent or reduce the impact of, such cyber security incidents. However, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified, as well as the rapid development of new threats. Furthermore, the Fund has limited ability to prevent or mitigate cyber security incidents involving third-party service providers, and such third-party service providers may have limited indemnification obligations to the Fund and the Adviser, and the Fund cannot control the cyber security plans and systems put in place by their service providers or any other third-parties whose operations may affect the Fund or its shareholders. The Fund may also incur additional costs for cyber security risk management purposes. While the Fund and its service providers have established business continuity plans and risk management systems designed to prevent or reduce the impact of cyber security attacks, such plans and systems have inherent limitations due in part to the ever-changing nature of technology and cyber security attack tactics, and there is a possibility that certain risks have not been

adequately identified or prepared for. Furthermore, the Fund cannot control any cyber security plans or systems implemented by its service providers.

Similar types of cyber security risks are also present for issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause the Fund's investment in such portfolio companies to lose value.

### **Operational Risk**

The Adviser and other service providers may experience disruptions or operating errors that could negatively impact the Fund. While service providers are required to have appropriate operational risk management policies and procedures, their methods of operational risk management may differ from the Fund's in the setting of priorities, the personnel and resources available or the effectiveness of relevant controls. The Adviser, through its monitoring and oversight of service providers, seeks to ensure that service providers take appropriate precautions to avoid and mitigate risks that could lead to disruptions and operating errors. However, it is not possible for the Adviser or the other service providers to identify all of the operational risks that may affect the Fund or to develop processes and controls to completely eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects.

**Qualified Financial Contracts.** Regulations adopted by federal banking regulators under the Dodd-Frank Act, require that certain qualified financial contracts ("QFCs") with counterparties that are part of U.S. or foreign global systemically important banking organizations be amended to include contractual restrictions on close-out and cross-default rights. QFCs include, but are not limited to, securities contracts, commodities contracts, forward contracts, repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements and swaps agreements, as well as related master agreements, security agreements, credit enhancements, and reimbursement obligations. If a covered counterparty of the Fund or certain of the covered counterparty's affiliates were to become subject to certain insolvency proceedings, the Fund may be temporarily unable to exercise certain default rights, and the QFC may be transferred to another entity. These requirements may impact the Fund's credit and counterparty risks.

### **TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS**

The Fund may take temporary defensive measures that are inconsistent with the Fund's normal fundamental or non-fundamental investment policies and strategies in response to adverse market, economic, political, or other conditions as determined by the Adviser. Such measures could include, but are not limited to, investments in (1) highly liquid short-term fixed income securities issued by or on behalf of municipal or corporate issuers, obligations of the U.S. government and its agencies, commercial paper, and bank certificates of deposit; (2) repurchase agreements involving any such securities; and (3) other money market instruments. The Fund also may invest in shares of money market mutual funds to the extent permitted under applicable law. Money market mutual funds are investment companies, and the investments in those companies by the Fund are in some cases subject to certain fundamental investment restrictions. As a shareholder in a mutual fund, the Fund will bear its ratable share of its expenses, including management fees, and will remain subject to payment of the fees to the Adviser, with respect to assets so invested. The Fund may not achieve its investment objectives during temporary defensive periods.

### **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 Adviser, investment considerations warrant such action. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing (1) the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by (2) the monthly average of the value of portfolio securities

owned during the fiscal year. A 100% turnover rate would occur if all the securities in the Fund's portfolio, with the exception of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less, were sold and either repurchased or replaced within one year. A high rate of portfolio turnover (100% or more) generally leads to higher transaction costs and may result in a greater number of taxable transactions. To the extent net short-term capital gains are realized, any distributions resulting from such gains will generally be taxed at ordinary income tax rates for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The Fund's portfolio turnover rates for the following fiscal years:

<b>Portfolio turnover rate for:</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023</b>
The Spin-Off Fund	6%	1%

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND**

### **Board of Directors**

The management and affairs of the Fund are overseen by the Board of Directors of the Company. The Board consists of seven individuals, five of whom are not "interested persons" of the Company as that term is defined in the 1940 Act ("Independent Directors"). The Board establishes policies for the operation of the Fund and appoints the officers who conduct the daily business of the Fund. The Board has appointed Mr. Jay Kesslen, of the Adviser, as their Anti-Money Laundering Officer.

The Board believes that each of the Director's experience, qualifications, attributes and skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Directors lead to the conclusion that each Director should serve in such capacity. Among the attributes common to all Directors is the ability to review critically, evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, to interact effectively with the other Directors, the Adviser, other service providers, counsel and the independent registered public accounting firm, and to exercise effective business judgment in the performance of their duties as Directors. A Director's ability to perform his duties effectively may have been attained through the Director's business, consulting, public service and/or academic positions; experience as a board member of the Company, other investment funds, or non-profit entities or other organizations; education or professional training; and/or other life experiences. In addition to these shared characteristics, specific details regarding each Director's principal occupations during the past five years are included in the table below.

Officers and Directors of the Company are listed below with their ages, addresses, present positions with the Company and principal occupations over at least the last five years. Each Director may be contacted by writing to the Director c/o Kinetics Mutual Funds, Inc., 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016.

### **Independent Directors**

<b>Name, Address and Age</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with Company</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b># of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Director<sup>(2)</sup></b>
Steven T. Russell (61) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Independent Director	Indefinite/ 24 years	Professor of Business Law, Suffolk County Community College (1997 to Present); Lawyer, Private Practice (2010 to present).	13	N/A
Douglas Cohen, CPA (63) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Independent Director	Indefinite/ 24 years	Chief Financial Officer, Sunrise Credit Services, Inc. (2005 to 2021).	13	N/A
William J. Graham (63) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Independent Director	Indefinite/ 24 years	Attorney, William J. Graham, PC (2001 to present); Assistant Town Attorney, Town of Islip (2016 to 2021).	13	N/A

<b>Name, Address and Age</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with Company</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b># of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Director<sup>(2)</sup></b>
Joseph E. Breslin (71) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Independent Director	Indefinite/ 24 years	Counsel, White Oak Global Advisors, LLC (2016 to present).	13	Trustee, Forethought Variable Insurance Trust (23 portfolios); Trustee, BluArc Multi-Strategy Fund (2014-2017); Chairman and Trustee, Northern Lights Fund Trust IV (21 portfolios); Trustee, Hatteras Alternative Mutual Funds Trust (5 portfolios) (2004-2016); Trustee, Underlying Funds Trust (5 portfolios) (2004-2016); Trustee, Director, Hatteras Master Fund, L.P. (2013-2016); Director, Hatteras Core Alternatives TEI Fund, L.P. (2013-2016); Director, Hatteras Core Alternatives Fund, L.P. (2013-2016); Director, Hatteras Core Alternatives Institutional Fund, L.P. (2013-2016); and Director, Hatteras Core Alternatives TEI Institutional Fund, L.P. (2013-2016).

<b>Name, Address and Age</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with Company</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b># of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Director<sup>(2)</sup></b>
James M. Breen (66) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Independent Director	Indefinite/ 16 years	Security Consultant and Licensed Florida Private Investigator (2019 to present); Special Agent, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) (2015 to 2019); Vice President, HBES Consulting, Inc. (2014 to present); Citibank, Senior AML Analyst (2014-2015); Senior Special Agent, Homeland Security Investigations, Miami, FL (2011 to 2014); Assistant Attaché Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Pretoria, South Africa (2008 to 2011).	13	N/A

## Interested Directors & Officers

<b>Name, Address and Age</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Company</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b># of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Director<sup>(2)</sup></b>
Murray Stahl <sup>(3)(4)</sup> (71) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Director & Secretary	Indefinite/ 24 years	Chairman, FRMO Corp. (2001 to present) (provides consulting services to private investment funds and research services with respect to marketable securities); Chairman and Chief Investment Officer, Horizon Kinetics LLC, (including Horizon Asset Management LLC (an SEC- registered investment adviser) (1994 to present); Kinetics Asset Management LLC and Kinetics Advisers, LLC (2000 to 2019); CEO, Horizon Kinetics LLC (2015 to present).	13	Director and Officer of RENN Fund, Inc. (closed end investment company) (2017- present); Director of Texas Pacific Land Corporation. Director, MSRH, LLC (2013- Present); Director, Bermuda Stock Exchange (2014 – Present); Chairman, Minneapolis Grain Exchange (2013-Present).



<b>Name, Address and Age</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Company</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b># of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Director<sup>(2)</sup></b>
Peter B. Doyle <sup>(3)</sup> (62) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Director President & Chairman of the Board	Indefinite/ 22 years	Vice President, FRMO Corp. (2001 to present) (provides consulting services to private investment funds and research services with respect to marketable securities); Managing Director, Horizon Kinetics LLC (including Horizon Asset Management LLC (an SEC- registered investment adviser) (1994 to present); Kinetics Asset Management LLC and Kinetics Advisers LLC (2000 to 2019)); and President of Kinetics Mutual Funds, Inc. (1998 to present); Co-Portfolio Manager, RENN Fund, Inc. (2021 to present) (closed end investment company).	13	Director and Officer, FRMO Corp.

<b>Name, Address and Age</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Company</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b># of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Director<sup>(2)</sup></b>
Steven Bregman (66) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Co-Portfolio Manager and Investment Team Member	Indefinite/8 years	President, Horizon Kinetics Holding Corporation, (including Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC (investment adviser) (1994 to present); Kinetics Asset Management LLC and Kinetics Advisers, LLC (2000 to 2019; President and CFO of FRMO Corp. (2001 to present) (provides consulting services to private investment funds and research services with respect to marketable securities); Co-Portfolio Manager of RENN Fund, Inc. (closed end investment company) (since 2021).	13	Director of Winland Electronics, Inc (electronics) (since 2020). Director and Officer of FRMO Corp. (since 2001).

<sup>(1)</sup> The term “fund complex” refers to the Company and the Kinetics Portfolios Trust, a separate registered investment company that has the Adviser in common with the Company.

<sup>(2)</sup> “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 investment companies registered under the 1940 Act.

<sup>(3)</sup> Directors who are considered “interested persons” as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act because of their association with the Adviser and its affiliates.

<sup>(4)</sup> Murray Stahl is a member of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Texas Pacific Land Corporation (“TPL”), a large holding in certain client accounts and funds managed by the Adviser, including the Fund.

## Officers

<b>Name, Address and Age</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Company</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>
Russell W. Grimaldi (45) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Chief Compliance Officer	Indefinite/1 month	Chief Compliance Officer, Horizon Kinetics Holding Corporation (including Horizon Kinetics Asset Management (2011 to present), Chief Compliance Officer, Renn Fund, Inc. (2024 to present), Secretary, Consensus Mining and Seigniorage Corporation (2022-Present).
Jay H. Kesslen (52) c/o Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	Indefinite/20 years	General Counsel, Horizon Kinetics LLC (including Horizon Asset Management LLC (an SEC-registered investment adviser) (2011 to present), Chief Compliance Officer, Renn Fund Inc. (2017-2024), Chief Compliance Officer, Horizon Kinetics LLC (2015-2016), Kinetics Asset Management LLC (2000 to present), Kinetics Advisers LLC (2000 to 2019), Kinetics Funds Distributor LLC (2000 to present), KBD Securities LLC (2000 to present); FRMO Corp. (2014 to present); Chief Compliance Officer, RENN Fund, Inc. (2017 to present); Vice-President and General Counsel, Consensus Mining and Seigniorage Corporation (2022-Present).

## Leadership Structure and Oversight Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for oversight of the Fund rests with the Board of Directors of the Company. The Company, on behalf of the Fund, has engaged the Adviser to manage the Fund on a day-to-day basis. The

Board is responsible for overseeing the Adviser and other service providers in the operations of the Fund in accordance with the provisions of the 1940 Act, applicable provisions of state and other laws and the Company's Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. The Board meets in-person at regularly scheduled meetings four times each year. In addition, the Board may hold special in-person or telephonic meetings or informal conference calls to discuss specific matters that may arise or require action between regular meetings. The Independent Directors have also engaged independent legal counsel to assist them in performing their oversight responsibility. The Independent Directors meet with their independent legal counsel in-person during each quarterly in-person board meeting. As described below, the Board has established an Audit Committee and a Pricing Committee, and may establish ad hoc committees or working groups from time to time to assist them in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities.

The Board has appointed Peter B. Doyle, an interested Director, to serve in the role of Chairman. The Chairman's role is to preside at all meetings of the Board and to act as liaison with the Company's service providers, counsel and other Directors generally between meetings. The Chairman may also perform such other functions as may be delegated by the Board from time to time. The Board does not have a lead independent Director. The Board has determined that the Board's leadership structure is appropriate because it allows the Board to exercise informed and independent judgment over matters under its purview and it allocates areas of responsibility among committees of Directors and the full Board in a manner that enhances effective oversight.

The Fund is subject to a number of risks, including investment, compliance, operational and valuation risks, among others. Risk oversight forms part of the Board's general oversight of the Company and is addressed as part of various Board and committee activities. Day-to-day risk management functions are subsumed within the responsibilities of the Adviser and other service providers (depending on the nature of the risk), which carry out the Fund's investment management and business affairs. The Adviser and other service providers employ a variety of processes, procedures and controls to identify various events or circumstances that give rise to risks, to lessen the probability of their occurrence and/or to mitigate the effects of such events or circumstances if they do occur. The Adviser and other service providers have their own independent interests in risk management, and their policies and methods of risk management will depend on their functions and business models. The Board recognizes that it is not possible to identify all of the risks that may affect the Fund or to develop processes and controls to eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects. The Board requires senior officers of the Company, including the President, Treasurer and Chief Compliance Officer, and the Adviser, to report to the full Board on a variety of matters at regular and special meetings of the Board, including matters relating to risk management. The Board and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from the Company's independent registered public accounting firm on internal control and financial reporting matters. The Board also receives reports from certain of the Company's other primary service providers on a periodic or regular basis, including the Company's custodian, distributor and administrator. The Board may, at any time and in its discretion, change the manner in which it conducts risk oversight.

## Board Committees

The Board has two standing committees as described below:

<b>Audit Committee</b>		
<b><u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u># of Meetings during Past Fiscal Year</u></b>
James M. Breen Joseph E. Breslin Douglas Cohen, CPA* William J. Graham Steven T. Russell	Responsible for advising the full Board with respect to accounting, auditing and financial matters affecting the Fund.	The Committee met two times during the year ended December 31, 2024.

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**Pricing Committee**

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<b>Members</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b># of Meetings during Past Fiscal Year</b>
James M. Breen Joseph E. Breslin* Douglas Cohen, CPA William J. Graham Steven T. Russell	Responsible for (1) monitoring the valuation of the Fund's securities and other investments; and (2) as required by the Fund's valuation policies, when the full Board is not in session, overseeing the fair value determination of illiquid and other holdings by the Portfolios' valuation designee, which determinations shall be reported to the full	The Committee met two times during the year ended December 31, 2024.

\* Designates the Chairperson of the respective Committee.

**Board Interest in the Fund**

As of March 31, 2025, the Directors owned the following amounts in the Fund and in all of the Funds overseen by the Directors:

<b>Name of Director</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Funds/Portfolios Overseen by Director</b>
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**INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS**

Steven T. Russell	None	None
Douglas Cohen, CPA	None	Over \$100,000
William J. Graham	None	Over \$100,000
Joseph E. Breslin	None	Over \$100,000
James M. Breen	None	None

<b>Name of Director</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Funds/Portfolios Overseen by Director</b>
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**INTERESTED DIRECTORS**

Murray Stahl	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Peter B. Doyle	None	Over \$100,000
Steven Bregman	None	None

**Compensation**

Effective January 1, 2024, for their service as Directors of the Company and Trustees of the Trust, the Independent Directors/Independent Trustees receive an aggregate fee of \$60,000 per year and \$3,750 per

Board meeting attended, with an additional \$2,000 for each Pricing and/or Audit Committee meeting attended, as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with attendance at such meetings. In addition, each Committee Chairman of the Company and the Trust (such as the Audit Committee or Pricing Committee) receives an additional fee of \$5,000 per year for his service as chairman.

Prior to January 1, 2024, for their service as Directors of the Company, the Independent Directors receive an aggregate fee of \$50,000 per year and \$3,750 per Board meeting attended, with an additional \$2,000 for each Pricing and/or Audit Committee meeting attended, as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with attendance at such meetings. In addition, each Committee Chairman of the Company (such as the Audit Committee or Pricing Committee) received an additional fee of \$5,000 per year for his service as chairman.

The “interested persons” who serve as Directors of the Company receive no compensation for their service as Directors. None of the executive officers receive compensation from the Fund except the Company’s Chief Compliance Officer. The following table provides compensation information for the Directors for the year-ended March 31, 2025.

<b>Name and Position</b>	<b>Aggregate Compensation From Fund</b>	<b>Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund/Portfolio Expenses</b>	<b>Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement</b>	<b>Total Compensation from Fund and Fund Complex Paid to Directors<sup>(2)</sup></b>
<b>Interested Directors/Trustees</b>				
Murray Stahl <sup>(1)</sup>	None	None	None	None
Peter B. Doyle <sup>(1)</sup>	None	None	None	None
<b>Independent Directors/Trustees</b>				
Steven T. Russell	\$486	None	None	\$60,000
Douglas Cohen, CPA	\$525	None	None	\$65,000
William J. Graham	\$486	None	None	\$65,000
Joseph E. Breslin	\$559	None	None	\$60,000
James M. Breen	\$486	None	None	\$60,000

<sup>(1)</sup> “Interested person” as defined under the 1940 Act.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes compensation paid by Kinetics Portfolios Trust.

## Control Persons and Principal Holders of Securities

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of any class of the Fund as of March 31, 2025. A control person is one who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of the Fund or acknowledges the existence of control. Shareholders with a controlling interest could affect the outcome of voting or the direction of management of the Fund. For all control persons that are companies, the parent company and jurisdiction under which the control person is organized is also provided.

**The Kinetics Spin-Off and Corporate Restructuring Fund** *(No Load Shares)*

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>% Ownership</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>
US Bank NA Cust Janet H. Murdock IRA Horizon Kinetics LLC 470 Park Ave South 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10016-6957	U.S. Bancorp, LLC	DE	65.07%	Beneficial
Horizon Kinetics LLC Attn Jonathan Kohen 470 Park Ave South 3rd Fl New York, NY 10016-6957	N/A	N/A	16.02%	Record
US Bank NA CUST Mark L Murdock IRA Austin TX 78750-2828	N/A	N/A	10.51%	Beneficial

**The Kinetics Spin-Off and Corporate Restructuring Fund** *(Advisor Class A Shares)*

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>% Ownership</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>
UBS WM USA Spec Cdy A/C EBOC UBSFSI 1000 Harbor Blvd Weehawken, NJ 07086-6761	UBS Americas Inc.	DE	31.52%	Record
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC For The Exclusive Benefit of Its Customers 1 New York Plz Fl 12 New York, NY 10004-1965	N/A	N/A	25.92%	Record
Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC Special Custody Acct For the Exclusive Benefit Of Customer 2801 Market St Saint Louis, Mo 63103-2523	N/A	N/A	11.85%	Record
US Bank NA Cust Kenneth R Fisher IRA Pawleys Isl, SC 29585-4841	N/A	N/A	7.95%	Beneficial
Pershing LLC P.O. Box 2052 Jersey City, NJ 07303-2052	N/A	N/A	5.32%	Record
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Blvd Fl 4TH Jersey City, NJ 07310-2010	N/A	N/A	4.62%	Record

**The Kinetics Spin-Off and Corporate Restructuring Fund (Advisor Class C Shares)**

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>% Ownership</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>
Raymond James & Assoc Inc. 880 CARILLON PKWY St Petersburg, FL 33716-1100	N/A	N/A	23.86%	Record
Raymond James & Assoc Inc. 880 CARILLON PKWY St Petersburg, FL 33716-1100	N/A	N/A	20.95%	Record
Raymond James & Assoc Inc. 880 CARILLON PKWY St Petersburg, FL 33716-1100	N/A	N/A	15.03%	Record
Raymond James & Assoc Inc. 880 CARILLON PKWY St Petersburg, FL 33716-1100	N/A	N/A	13.84%	Record
Raymond James & Assoc Inc. 880 CARILLON PKWY St Petersburg, FL 33716-1100	N/A	N/A	10.35%	Record
Charles Schwab & Co Inc. Special Custody A/C Fbo Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	N/A	N/A	8.11%	Record
Raymond James & Assoc Inc. 880 CARILLON PKWY St Petersburg, FL 33716-1100	N/A	N/A	7.85%	Record

**The Kinetics Spin-Off and Corporate Restructuring Fund (Institutional Shares)**

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>% Ownership</b>	<b>Type of Ownership</b>
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Blvd Fl 4TH Jersey City, NJ 07310-2010	Fidelity Global Brokerage Group, Inc.	DE	39.80%	Record
UBS WM USA Spec Cdy A/C EBOC UBSFSI 1000 Harbor Boulevard Weehawken, NJ 07086-6761	UBS Americas Inc.	DE	36.53%	Record
Charles Schwab & Co INC Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn Mutual Funds 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	N/A	N/A	6.64%	Record
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC For The Exclusive Benefit Of Its Customers 1 New York Plz Fl 12 New York, NY 10004-1965	N/A	N/A	5.20%	Record

**Management Ownership**

As of March 31, 2025, the Directors and officers of the Company as a group owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each Fund Class with the exception of the Institutional Class of the Fund. As of



March 31, 2025, the Directors and officers of the Company as a group owned 2.52% of the outstanding shares of the Institutional Class of the Fund. Furthermore, neither the Independent Directors, nor members of their immediate families, own securities beneficially or of record in the Adviser, the Fund's distributor, KFD, or any of their respective affiliates.

## **PROXY VOTING POLICIES**

The Company, on behalf of the Fund, has delegated the voting of portfolio securities to the Adviser. The Adviser has adopted policies and procedures for the voting of proxies on behalf of client accounts, including the Fund, for which the Adviser has voting discretion. Pursuant to these policies and procedures, the Adviser's guiding principles in voting proxies is to ensure that the manner in which proxies are voted is in the best interest of its clients and the value of the investment. To this end, an independent third party proxy service, Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS"), has been retained by the Adviser for their fundamental research on the proxy question and subsequent recommendations. Proxies are voted by ISS in accordance with their proxy voting guidelines with the intent of serving the best interests of the Adviser's clients.

ISS will inform the Adviser's proxy administrator of any proxies that do not fall within the adopted guidelines. The Adviser's proxy administrator will send the proxies in question to the portfolio manager for review, documentation of vote rationale, and signature. In the event the designated portfolio manager is unavailable, the proxy will be forwarded to the Chief Investment Strategist for execution.

ISS also updates and revises the Guidelines on a periodic basis, and the revisions are reviewed by the Adviser to determine whether they are consistent with the Adviser's guiding principles. ISS also assists the Adviser in the proxy voting process by providing operational, recordkeeping and reporting services.

The Adviser is responsible for reviewing its relationship with ISS and for evaluating the quality and effectiveness of the various services provided by ISS. The Adviser may hire other service providers to replace or supplement ISS with respect to any of the services the Adviser currently receives from ISS.

The Adviser has implemented procedures that are intended to prevent conflicts of interest from influencing proxy voting decisions. These procedures include the Adviser's use of ISS as an independent third party and a review and approval process for individual decisions that do not follow ISS recommendations.

### **More Information**

The Fund's actual voting records relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available without charge, upon request by calling toll-free at 1-800-930-3828 or by accessing the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, a copy of the Adviser's proxy voting policies and procedures are also available on the Fund's website at [www.kineticsfunds.com](http://www.kineticsfunds.com) or by calling toll-free at 1-800-930-3828 and will be sent within three business days of receipt of a request.

## **INVESTMENT ADVISER**

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The Adviser, Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC, serves as investment advisor to the Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement with the Company (the "Advisory Agreement"). Horizon Kinetics Asset Management LLC, is located at 470 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016.

Under the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser furnishes investment advice to the Fund by continuously reviewing the securities portfolios and recommending to the Fund to what extent securities should be purchased or sold. Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser:

- (1) renders research, statistical and advisory services to the Fund;
- (2) makes specific recommendations based on the Fund's investment requirements; and
- (3) pays the salaries of those of the Fund's employees who may be officers or directors or employees of the Adviser.

The Advisory Agreement continues on a year-to-year basis provided that specific approval is voted at least annually by the Board of Directors or by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund, as applicable. In either event, it must also be approved by a majority of the Directors of the Company who are neither parties to the Advisory Agreement nor "interested persons" of the Company as defined in the 1940 Act at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Adviser's investment decisions are made subject to the direction and supervision of the Board of Directors. The Advisory Agreement may be terminated at any time, without the payment of any penalty, by the Board of Directors or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Ultimate decisions as to the Fund's investment policies are made by the Fund's officers and the Board of Directors.

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board of Directors' approval of the investment advisory agreement for the Fund is available in the Fund's Form N-CSR.

### Advisory Fees

In consideration of the services to be provided by the Adviser pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, for services rendered by the Adviser under the Advisory Agreement, the Fund pays the Adviser a fee, payable monthly, in an annual amount equal to 1.00% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

The Fund paid the following advisory fees to the Adviser for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2022, 2023 and 2024:

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<b>Period</b>	<b>Advisory Fee Accrued</b>	<b>Advisory Fee Reduced or Reimbursed</b>	<b>Advisory Fee Retained by Adviser</b>
For the year ended December 31, 2022	\$277,034	\$107,775	\$169,259
For the year ended December 31, 2023	\$254,340	\$109,399	\$27,071
For the year ended December 31, 2024	\$292,017	\$0	\$0

The Adviser has contractually agreed to waive its fees and/or pay for operating expenses of the Fund to ensure that the total annual fund operating expenses (excluding, as applicable, front-end or contingent deferred loads, taxes, leverage interest, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses (as determined in accordance with Form N-1A), expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization and extraordinary expenses such as litigation expenses) do not exceed 1.50%, 2.25%, 1.25% and 1.45% of the average daily net assets of the Advisor Class A Shares, Advisor Class C Shares, Institutional Class and No Load Class Shares, respectively. This agreement is in effect until April 30, 2026, and may be terminated before that date only by the Company's Board of Directors. The Adviser is permitted to seek reimbursement from the Fund for a period ending three full fiscal years after the date of the waiver or payment.

Any reduction in advisory fees or payment of the Fund's expenses made by the Advisor in a fiscal year may be reimbursed by the Fund for a period ending three full fiscal years after the date of reduction or payment if the Advisor so requests. This reimbursement may be requested from the Fund if the aggregate amount of operating expenses for a fiscal year, as accrued each month, does not exceed the lesser of (a) the limitation on Fund expenses in effect at the time of the relevant reduction in advisory fees or payment of the Fund's expenses, or (b) the limitation on Fund expenses at the time of the request. However, the reimbursement amount may not exceed the total amount of fees waived and/or Fund expenses paid by the Adviser and will not include any amounts previously reimbursed to the Adviser by the Fund. Any such reimbursement is contingent upon the Board of Directors' subsequent review of the reimbursed amounts. The Fund must pay current ordinary operating expenses before the Adviser is entitled to any reimbursement of fees and/or Fund expenses.

Fees of the custodian, administrator, fund accountant and transfer agent are paid by the Fund as more fully described below. The Fund pays all other expenses, including:

- fees and expenses of directors not affiliated with the Adviser;
- legal and accounting fees;
- interest, taxes, and brokerage commissions; and
- record keeping and the expense of operating its offices.

## Portfolio Managers

### *Investment Professionals for the Adviser*

The Fund is managed by Steven M. Bregman and Murray Stahl.

As of December 31, 2024, information on other accounts managed by the Fund's portfolio managers is as follows:

### Steven M. Bregman

Category of Account	Total Number of Accounts Managed	Total Assets in Accounts Managed (in Millions)	Number of Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance	Assets in Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance (in Millions)
Other Registered Investment Companies	4	\$1,092.61	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	10	\$940.88
Other Accounts	1,000	\$1,142.46	2	\$0.83

## Murray Stahl

Category of Account	Total Number of Accounts Managed	Total Assets in Accounts Managed (in Millions)	Number of Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance	Assets in Accounts for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance (in Millions)
Other Registered Investment Companies	4	\$257.44	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	16	\$1817.50
Other Accounts	665	\$2,059.51	16	\$122.61

Performance fee accounts are subject to the same allocation principles and the same supervisory review.

### Compensation

Portfolio Managers are compensated with a base salary and bonus. The base salary is a fixed amount. Bonuses are subjective and are not tied to performance of the Fund, but instead are based on the overall contribution to the Adviser. The Portfolio Managers also have access to a 401(k) retirement plan. Additionally, certain Portfolio Managers are also equity owners of the Adviser.

### Material Conflicts of Interest

The portfolio managers are responsible for managing the Fund, as well as other accounts. A portfolio manager may manage a separate account or other pooled investment vehicle that may have a materially higher or lower fee arrangement than the Fund or that may have a performance fee arrangement. The side-by-side management of these accounts may raise potential conflicts of interest relating to cross trading, the allocation of investment opportunities and the aggregation and allocation of trades. In addition, while portfolio managers generally only manage accounts with similar investment strategies, it is possible that due to varying investment restrictions among accounts and for other reasons that certain investments could be made for some accounts and not others or conflicting investment positions could be taken among accounts. The Adviser has a fiduciary responsibility to manage all client accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The Adviser seeks to provide best execution of all securities transactions and aggregates and then allocates securities to client accounts in a fair and timely manner. To this end, the Adviser has developed policies and procedures designed to mitigate and manage the potential conflicts of interest that may arise from side-by-side management.

Mr. Stahl is a member of the Board of Directors of Texas Pacific Land Corporation ("TPL"), a large holding in certain client accounts and funds managed by the Adviser, including the Fund. Officers, directors and employees of the Adviser may also hold substantial amounts of TPL, both directly and indirectly, in their personal accounts. The Adviser seeks to address potential conflicts of interest through the adoption of various policies and procedures, which include both electronic and physical safeguards. All personal and proprietary trading is also subject to the Adviser's Code of Ethics and is monitored by the firm's Legal and Compliance Department. As a result of Mr. Stahl being on the Board of Directors of TPL, he does not have any trading authority over shares of TPL. All trading decisions for TPL in Mr. Stahl's personal accounts and in client accounts and funds where he remains a portfolio manager has been delegated to another portfolio manager.

## Ownership of the Fund by Portfolio Managers

The following chart sets forth the dollar range of shares owned by each portfolio manager in the Fund as of March 31, 2025:

Name of Portfolio Manager	Dollar Range of Fund shares owned (None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, \$100,001 - \$500,000, \$500,001 - \$1,000,000, Over \$1,000,000)
Steven Bregman	None
Murray Stahl	\$500,001-\$1,000,000

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICING

The Adviser has entered into shareholder servicing agreements with the Fund under which the Adviser may perform, or arrange for others to perform, certain shareholder servicing functions. The Adviser has entered into written agreements with shareholder servicing agents that perform shareholder services on behalf of their clients who own shares of the Fund. For these shareholder servicing functions, the Adviser and/or shareholder servicing agents are entitled to receive an annual shareholder servicing fee in the amount of 0.25% of the average daily net assets for each of the No Load Class and Advisor Class A of the Fund and 0.20% of the average daily net assets of the Institutional Class of the Fund. The Adviser has contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse a portion of the shareholder servicing fee with respect to the Institutional Class in excess of 0.05% of the average daily net assets of the Institutional Class until at least May 1, 2025. The Adviser and/or its affiliates may pay additional compensation from time to time, out of their respective assets and not as an additional charge to the Fund, to selected shareholder servicing agents and other persons in connection with providing services to shareholders of the Fund.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022, the Fund shareholder servicing fees were as follows:

Shareholder Servicing Fees	2024	2023	2022
Spin-off Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 62,462	\$ 54,561	\$ 59,616

<sup>(1)</sup> The Adviser waived shareholder servicing fees in the amount of \$31,628, \$27,071, and \$28,925, for the Institutional Class of the Spin-Off Fund for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022, respectively.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (“Fund Services”), located at 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, serves as Administrator of the Fund. The Administrator is entitled to receive annual fees, payable monthly, based on the Fund’s average net assets.

Administrative services include, but are not limited to, providing office space, equipment, telephone facilities, various personnel, including clerical and supervisory, and computers, as is necessary or beneficial to:

- establish and maintain shareholders’ accounts and records,
- process purchase and redemption transactions,
- process automatic investments of client account cash balances,
- answer routine client inquiries regarding the Fund,
- assist clients in changing dividend options,
- account designations, and addresses, and
- providing such other services as the Fund may reasonably request.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022, the amounts payable by the Fund to Fund Services for administrative services were as follows:

<b>Administrative Services Fees</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Spin-off Fund	\$ 21,004	\$ 22,768	\$ 22,697

Fund Services also serves as the Fund's accountant and transfer agent. As such, Fund Services provides certain shareholder services and record management services and acts as the Fund's dividend disbursement agent.

## **Distributor**

Kinetics Funds Distributor LLC, 470 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016, is the distributor of the Fund's shares. KFD is a registered broker-dealer and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. and an affiliate of the Adviser.

The Distributor was paid the following commissions on sales of Advisor Class A shares during the last three fiscal years:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Spin-off Fund	\$ 664	\$ 71	\$ 4,281

The Distributor retained the commissions on sales of Advisor Class A shares during the last three fiscal years.

## Distribution Plans

The Company, on behalf of the Fund, has adopted separate Distribution Plans pursuant to Rule 12b-1 promulgated by the SEC pursuant to the 1940 Act (the “Plans”) for each of the Advisor Class A and Advisor Class C shares. Under the Plan for Advisor Class A, Advisor Class A shares may pay up to an annual rate of 0.25% of the average daily net asset value (“NAV”) of such shares to the Distributor or other qualified recipient under the Plan. Under the Plan for Advisor Class C, Advisor Class C shares may pay an annual rate of 1.00% of the average daily NAV of Advisor Class C shares to the Distributor. The Plans were adopted to facilitate the sale of a sufficient number of shares to allow the Fund to achieve economic viability.

The Plan for the Advisor Class A shares is a “reimbursement” Plan that provides the Company the ability to use assets of the Fund to reimburse KFD and other qualified recipients (*e.g.*, securities dealers, financial institutions and other industry professionals) for any expenses incurred in connection with any activity that is principally intended to result in the sale of the Fund’s shares subject to the Plan up to 0.25% of average daily net assets. The Plan for Advisor Class C shares is a “compensation” type plan that provides the Company with the ability to use assets of the Fund to pay KFD and other qualified recipients (*e.g.*, securities dealers, financial institutions and other industry professionals) fees in the amount of 1.00% of average daily net assets to finance any activity that is principally intended to result in the sale of the Fund’s shares subject to the Plan.

Activities covered by the Plans include:

- the advertising and marketing of shares of the Fund covered by the Plans;
- preparing, printing, and distributing Prospectuses and sales literature to prospective shareholders, brokers, or administrators; and
- implementing and operating the Plans.

The Plans must be renewed annually by the Board of Directors, including a majority of the Directors who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plans (as used in this section, “Independent Directors”), with votes cast in person at a meeting called for that purpose. As long as the Plans are in effect, the Independent Directors must select and nominate other Independent Directors.

The Plans and any related agreements may not be amended to materially increase the amounts to be spent for distribution expenses without approval by a majority of the Fund’s outstanding shares covered by the Plans. All material amendments to the Plans or any related agreements must be approved by a vote of the Independent Directors, with votes cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on any such amendment.

KFD is required to report in writing to the Board of Directors, at least quarterly, on the amounts and purpose of any payments made under the Plans. KFD is also required to furnish the Board of Directors with such other information as may reasonably be requested in order to enable the Board of Directors to make an informed determination of whether the Plans should be continued.

Pursuant to the Plans, during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, the Advisor Class A and Advisor Class C shares accrued the following fees:

Advisor Class A shares

<b>12b-1 Fees</b>	<b>2024</b>
Spin-off Fund	\$19,380

## Advisor Class C shares

<b>12b-1 Fees</b>	<b>2024</b>
Spin-off Fund	\$2,285

These amounts were accrued and paid to broker-dealers as compensation for distribution services. No payments pursuant to the Plans were made by the Fund for advertising, printing or mailings Prospectuses, or interest or other carrying or finance charges.

## CUSTODIAN

U.S. Bank N.A. (“U.S. Bank”), with principal offices at 1555 North RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, WI 53212 is custodian for the securities and cash of the Fund. Under a Custody Agreement with the Fund, U.S. Bank holds the Fund’s assets in safekeeping and keeps all necessary records and documents relating to its duties. U.S. Bank receives annual fees based on the Fund’s average net assets.

U.S. Bank also serves as custodian of the securities and cash held by the Fund pursuant to a Custody Agreement under which U.S. Bank is responsible for the safekeeping and keeps all necessary records and documents relating to its duties.

## CODE OF ETHICS

The Company, Kinetics and KFD have each adopted Codes of Ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act that permits investment personnel subject to the particular Code of Ethics to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund for their own accounts.

## Valuation of Shares

Shares of the Fund are sold on a continual basis at the NAV per share next computed, plus any applicable sales charge, following acceptance of an order by the Fund. The Fund’s NAV per share for the purpose of pricing purchase and redemption orders is determined at the close of normal trading (currently 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) is open for trading. The NYSE is closed on the following holidays: New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Day, Washington’s Birthday/President’s Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Equity securities are valued each day at the last quoted sales price on the securities principal exchange. If there is no sales price, a security is valued at the last reported bid price. Securities that are listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market Inc. are valued using the NASDAQ Official Closing Price (“NOCP”), and if no NOCP is available, then at the last reported bid price. In the event market quotations are not readily available or if events occur that may materially affect the value of a particular security between the time trading ends on a particular security and the close of regular trading on the NYSE, “fair value” will be determined in good faith in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors. The Fund may use independent pricing services to assist in calculating the NAV of the Fund’s shares.

Futures, options on futures and swap contracts that are listed or traded on a national securities exchange, commodities exchange, contract market or OTC markets and that are freely transferable will be valued at the composite price, using the National Best Bid and Offer quotes (“NBBO”). NBBO consists of the highest bid price and lowest ask price across any of the exchanges on which an option is quoted thus providing a view across the entire U.S. options marketplace. Composite option pricing calculates the mean of the highest bid



price and lowest ask price across the exchanges where the option is traded. If a composite price is not available, then a quote provided by one of the authorized pricing vendors would be used. If neither a composite price or quote from an authorized pricing provider is available, and it is the day of expiration or post-expiration, expiring options will be priced at intrinsic value. Non-exchange traded options also will be valued at the mean between the last bid and asked quotations. Securities which have no public market and all other assets of the Fund are considered at such value as the Investment Adviser, as valuation designee may determine in good faith, in accordance with the Fund's valuation procedures as approved by the Company's Board of Directors.

Debt obligations (including convertible securities) that are either investment grade or below investment grade and irrespective of days to maturity are valued at evaluated mean by one of the authorized third party pricing agents which rely on various valuation methodologies such as matrix pricing and other analytical pricing models as well as market transactions and dealer quotations. Certain instruments such as repurchase agreements, demand notes, and money market mutual funds are traded at cost and there are no market values available for those instruments from third parties. Those instruments are priced at cost. Debt securities that are not priced by an independent third party pricing agent shall be valued (a) at the last sale price if such last sale occurred within the previous five business days, and (b) if there was no sale price during the previous five business days, at the average of the bids, or the sole bid if there is only one. Debt securities and other securities which, in the judgment of the Investment Adviser, do not properly represent the value of a security will be valued at their fair market value as determined in good faith by the Investment Adviser, as valuation designee in accordance with procedures adopted by the Investment Adviser and approved by the Company's Board of Directors.

Trading in foreign securities may be completed at times when the NYSE is closed. In computing the NAV of the Fund, the value of a foreign security is determined as of the close of trading on the foreign exchange on which it is principally traded or as of the scheduled close of trading on the NYSE, whichever is earlier, at the closing sales prices provided by approved pricing services or other alternate sources. In the absence of sales, the last available closing bid will be used. Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith the Investment Adviser, as valuation designee. Values of foreign securities are translated from the local currency into U.S. dollars on the basis of the foreign currency exchange rates, as provided by an independent pricing service or reporting agency, generally prior to the close of the NYSE. Occasionally, events affecting the value of foreign securities and such exchange rates occur between the time at which they are determined and the close of the NYSE, which events would not be reflected in the computation of the Fund's NAV. If events materially affecting the value of such securities or currency exchange rates occur during such time period, the securities will be valued at their fair value as determined in good faith by the Investment Adviser, as valuation designee, under the oversight of the Company's Board of Directors.

The NAV per share of each Class of shares of a Fund is computed by dividing the value of the securities held by the Fund plus any cash or other assets attributable to that Class (including interest and dividends accrued but not yet received) minus all liabilities (including accrued expenses attributable to that Class) by the total number of shares of that Class outstanding at such time, as shown below:

$$\frac{(\text{Value of Assets of the Class}) - (\text{Liabilities of the Class})}{\text{Shares Outstanding of the Class}} = \text{NAV per share}$$

## **Marketing and Support Payments**

The Adviser, out of its own resources and without additional cost to the Fund or its shareholders, may provide cash payments to certain financial intermediaries who sell shares of the Fund. These payments are in addition to other fees described in the Fund's Prospectus and this SAI, and are generally provided for shareholder services or marketing support. Payments for marketing support are typically for inclusion of the Fund on sales lists, including electronic sales platforms. Investors may wish to take these payments into account when considering and evaluating recommendations to purchase shares of the Fund.

## **PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION**

The Company, on behalf of the Fund, maintains policies and procedures relating to selective disclosure of portfolio holdings ("Portfolio Holdings 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 Policies have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company on behalf of the Fund. Disclosure of the Fund's complete holdings is required to be made twice each fiscal year on Form N-CSR (with respect to each annual and semi-annual period) and twice each fiscal year on Form N-PORT (with respect to the first and third quarters of the Fund's fiscal year). These reports are available, free of charge, on the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Under the Portfolio Holdings Policies, neither the Company nor any representative of the Company may solicit or accept any compensation or other consideration in connection with Portfolio Holdings.

The Adviser only discloses information concerning securities held by the Fund under the following circumstances:

- twenty calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Adviser may post (a) the top twenty (20) securities held by the Fund and their respective percentage of the Fund on the Company's website, (b) the top five (5) performing and the bottom five (5) performing securities held by the Fund, and (c) if the Fund invests primarily in derivatives, cash and fixed income instruments, the top ten (10) derivative and top ten (10) fixed income holdings, along with their respective percentage of net assets in the Fund; and
- as required by the federal securities laws, the Fund will disclose portfolio holdings in its applicable regulatory filings, including shareholder reports, reports on Forms N-CSR and N-PORT or such other filings, reports or disclosure documents as the applicable regulatory authorities may require.

Portfolio holdings information that is not filed with the SEC or posted on the Company's website may be provided to third parties only if the third party recipients are required to keep all portfolio holdings information confidential and are prohibited from trading on the information they receive. Disclosure to such third parties must be approved in advance by the Company's or Adviser's President. The Administrator is responsible for portfolio holdings disclosure to third party service providers of auditing, custody, proxy voting and other similar services for the Fund, as well as rating and ranking organizations, which will generally be permitted; however, information may be disclosed to other third parties (including, without limitation, individuals, institutional investors, and intermediaries that sell shares of a Fund) only upon approval by the Company's or Adviser's President, who must first determine that the Fund has a legitimate business purpose for doing so. In general, each recipient of non-public portfolio holdings information must sign a confidentiality and non-trading agreement, although this requirement will not apply when the recipient is otherwise subject to a duty of confidentiality. In accordance with the policy, the identity of those recipients who receive non-public portfolio holdings information on an ongoing basis is as follows: the Adviser, the Company's transfer agent and Administrator – U.S. Bank Global Fund Services, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, the Company's custodian, the Company's legal counsel and the Company's proxy voting service. Such holdings are released on conditions of confidentiality, which include appropriate trading prohibitions. "Conditions of confidentiality" include confidentiality terms included in written

agreements, implied by the nature of the relationship (*e.g.*, attorney-client relationship), or required by fiduciary or regulatory principles (*e.g.*, custody services provided by financial institutions). Portfolio holdings may also be provided earlier to shareholders and their agents who receive redemptions in kind that reflect a pro rata allocation of all securities held in the portfolio. Third party providers of custodial or accounting services to the Fund may release non-public portfolio holdings information of the Fund only with the permission of the Administrator. From time to time portfolio holdings information may be provided to broker-dealers solely in connection with the Fund seeking portfolio securities trading suggestions. In providing this information reasonable precautions, including limitations on the scope of the portfolio holdings information disclosed, are taken to avoid any potential misuse of the disclosed information.

The Company's Portfolio Holdings Policies set forth the third parties who receive portfolio holdings information pursuant to ongoing arrangements. Furthermore, the Portfolio Holdings Policies can only be revised by Board approval. The Board will be notified by the Adviser and the Administrator if disclosures are made concerning the Company's portfolio holdings in contravention of the Company's Portfolio Holdings Policies.

In determining the existence of a legitimate business purpose, and in order to ensure that the disclosure of the Company's portfolio holdings is in the best interests of the Company's shareholders, the following factors, and any additional relevant factors, shall be considered by the Company or its service providers when disclosing non-public portfolio holdings information to selected third parties: (1) whether the disclosure is consistent with the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws; and (2) avoidance of any conflicts of interest between the interests of the Company's shareholders and the service providers.

## **Purchasing Shares**

Shares of the Fund are sold in a continuous offering and may be purchased on any business day through authorized investment dealers or directly from the Fund. Shares of the Fund are sold at their NAV plus any applicable sales charge. Except for the Fund itself (through KFD), only investment dealers that have an effective selling agreement with the Fund are authorized to sell shares of the Fund.

## **Anti-Money Laundering Program**

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

Procedures to implement the Program include, but are not limited to, determining that the Fund's Distributor and transfer agent have established proper anti-money laundering procedures, reporting suspicious and/or fraudulent activity and completing a thorough review of all New Account Application Forms. The Fund will not transact business with any person or legal entity and beneficial owners, if applicable, whose identity cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

## **Offering Price of Advisor Class A Shares**

A financial intermediary may offer Fund shares subject to variations in or elimination of the Fund sales charges ("variations"), provided such variations are described in the Fund's Prospectus. All variations described in Appendix A – Financial Intermediary Sales Charge Variations ("Appendix A") to the Fund's Prospectus are applied by the identified financial intermediary. Sales charge variations may apply to purchases, sales, exchanges and reinvestments of Fund shares and a shareholder transacting in Fund shares

through the financial intermediary identified on Appendix A to the Fund's Prospectus should read the terms and conditions of Appendix A carefully. A variation that is specific to the financial intermediary is not applicable to shares held directly with the Fund or through another intermediary. Please consult the financial intermediary with respect to any variations listed on Appendix A to the Fund's Prospectus.

Advisor Class A Shares of the Funds are sold with a maximum front-end sales charge of 5.75%. Using the NAV per share as of April 3, 2025, the maximum offering price of each Fund's Advisor Class A Shares would be as follows:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Net Asset Value</b>	<b>Maximum Sales Charge</b>	<b>Offering Price to Public</b>
The Spin-off Fund	\$34.18	5.75%	\$36.27

The actual sales charge that is paid by an investor on the purchase of Advisor Class A Shares may differ slightly from the sales charge listed above or in the Prospectus due to rounding in the calculations. Contact your broker or dealer for further information.

#### **Advisor Class A Shares – Sales Load Waivers**

You will not have to pay a sales charge on purchases of Advisor Class A shares if:

- You are an employee of a broker-dealer or agent that has a selling agreement with the Distributor;
- You buy Advisor Class A shares under a wrap program or other all-inclusive program offered by your broker-dealer or agent; or
- The sales charge is waived by a broker-dealer or agent who has entered into an agreement with the Distributor that allows for load-waived Class A shares purchases.

Please consult your broker-dealer or agent to determine whether you may be eligible for these waivers.

Employees, directors of the Adviser, KFD, the Company or any of their affiliates, and members of the families (including parents, grandparents, siblings, spouses, children, and in-laws) of such entities' employees, or directors will also not have to pay a sales charge on Advisor Class A shares.

#### **Advisor Class A Shares – Reducing the Sales Charge**

Advisor Class A shares of the Fund are sold at their NAV plus a sales charge as described in the Prospectus. Shareholders can reduce the sales charge on purchases of Advisor Class A shares by:

- purchasing larger quantities of shares or putting a number of purchases together to obtain the discounts
- signing a 13-month *letter of intent*
- using the reinvestment privilege
- making concurrent purchases

Certain broker-dealers may reduce sales charges under certain circumstances. Consult your broker-dealer. For the variations applicable to shares offered through a financial intermediary, please see "Appendix A – Financial Intermediary Sales Charge Variations" in the Fund's Prospectus.

*Large Purchases and Quantity Discounts.* As indicated in the Prospectus, the more Advisor Class A shares a shareholder purchases, the smaller the sales charge per share. Shareholders who purchase \$1 million or more worth of Class A shares will pay no initial sales charge. If a shareholder purchases Advisor Class A shares on

the same day as his or her spouse or children under 21, all such purchases will be combined in calculating the sales charges.

Also, if shareholders later purchase additional shares of a Fund, the purchases will be added together with the amount already invested in the Fund. For example, if a shareholder already owns shares of the Fund with a value at the current NAV of \$40,000 and subsequently purchases \$10,000 more of that same Fund at the current NAV, the sales charge on the additional purchase would be 4.75%, not 5.75% as shown in the Prospectus. At the time of purchasing additional purchases, shareholders should inform the Fund *in writing* that they already own Advisor Class A shares of the Fund.

*Signing a Letter of Intent.* If investors intend to purchase at least \$50,000 of Advisor Class A shares over the next 13 months, they should consider signing a *letter of intent* (“LOI”) to reduce the sales charge. A letter of intent includes a provision providing for the assessment of the sales charge for each purchase based on the amount you intend to purchase within the 13-month period. It also allows the custodian to hold the maximum sales charge (*i.e.*, 5.75%) in shares in escrow until the purchases are completed. The shares held in escrow in the investor’s account will be released when the 13-month period is over. If the investor does not purchase the amount stated in the letter of intent, the Fund will redeem the appropriate number of escrowed shares to cover the difference between the sales charge paid and the sales charge applicable to the individual purchases had the LOI not been in effect. Any remaining escrow shares will be released from escrow.

The letter of intent does not obligate the investor to purchase shares, but simply allows the investor to take advantage of the lower sales charge applicable to the total amount intended to be purchased. Any shares purchased within 90 days of the date you establish a letter of intent may be used as credit toward fulfillment of the letter of intent, but the reduced sales charge will only apply to new purchases made on or after that date. The investor’s prior trade prices will not be adjusted.

*Reinvestment Privilege.* If Advisor Class A shares of the Fund have been redeemed, the investor has a one-time right, within 60 days, to reinvest the redemption proceeds at the next-determined NAV without any sales charge. Shareholders should inform the Fund, *in writing*, that they are reinvesting so that they will not be overcharged.

*Concurrent Purchases.* Another way to reduce the sales charge is to combine purchases made at the same time in a Fund and one or more other funds offered by the Company that apply sales charges. For example, if an investor invests \$30,000 in Advisor Class A shares of one of the Funds, and \$70,000 in Advisor Class A shares of another Fund offered by the Company, the sales charge would be lower. Investors should inform the Fund *in writing* about the concurrent purchases so that they will not be overcharged.

*Broker-Dealer Purchases.* Purchases of Advisor Class A shares may be made with no initial sales charge (i) by an investment adviser, broker or financial planner, provided arrangements are pre-approved through an existing agreement between the investment adviser, broker or financial planner and the Fund’s distributor, and purchases are placed through an omnibus account with the Fund; (ii) by clients of such investment adviser or financial planner who place trades for their own accounts, if such accounts are linked to a master account of such investment adviser or financial planner on the books and records of the broker or agent or (iii) in other circumstances at the Fund’s discretion. Such purchases may also be made for retirement and deferred compensation plans and trusts used to fund those plans.

*Involuntary Redemptions.* The Fund reserves the right to redeem shares of accounts where the account balance is less than \$1,000 with respect to the No Load, Advisor Class A and Advisor Class C shares and less than \$100,000 with respect to the Institutional Class. See the Prospectus for more information on accounts with low balances.

## **Exchange Privilege**

Shareholders may exchange shares of a Fund for shares of any other Fund offered by the Company. Exercising the exchange privilege is treated as a sale for U.S. federal income tax purposes and you may realize short or long-term capital gains or losses on the exchange. An exchange of Fund shares held for 30 days or less may be subject to a 2.00% redemption fee.

Shareholders may exchange shares by telephone or in writing as follows:

- By Telephone

You may exchange shares by telephone only if the shareholders registered on your account are the same shareholders registered on the account into which you are exchanging. Exchange requests must be received before 4:00 p.m. Eastern time to be processed that day.

- In Writing

You may send your exchange request in writing. Please provide the Fund name and account number for each of the Funds involved in the exchange and make sure the letter of instruction is signed by all shareholders on the account.

Generally, you may only exchange No Load shares for No Load shares, Institutional Class shares for Institutional Class shares, Advisor Class A shares for Advisor Class A shares and Advisor Class C shares for Advisor Class C shares. In all cases involving Advisor Class A share exchanges, shareholders will be required to pay a sales charge only once, assuming they are not eligible for a sales charge waiver.

**NOTE:** *The Fund may modify or terminate the exchange privilege at any time upon 60 days' prior notice to shareholders. Investors may have difficulty making exchanges by telephone through brokers or banks during times of drastic market changes. If you cannot contact your broker or bank by telephone, you should send your request in writing via overnight mail.*

## **Stock Certificates and Confirmations**

The Fund does not intend to issue stock certificates representing shares purchased. Confirmations of the opening of an account and of all subsequent transactions in the account are forwarded by the Fund to the shareholder's address of record.

## **Special Incentive Programs**

At various times the Fund may implement programs under which a dealer's sales force may be eligible to (a) win nominal awards for certain sales efforts or as part of recognition programs conforming to criteria established by the Fund, or (b) participate in sales programs sponsored by the Fund. In addition, the Adviser, in its discretion, may from time to time, pursuant to objective criteria established by the Adviser, sponsor programs designed to reward selected dealers for certain services or activities that are primarily intended to result in the sale of shares of the Fund. These programs will not change the price you pay for your shares or the amount that the Fund will receive from such sale.

## **Investing Through Authorized Brokers or Dealers**

The Fund may authorize one or more brokers to accept purchase orders on a shareholder's behalf. Brokers are authorized to designate intermediaries to accept orders on the Fund's behalf. An order is deemed to be

received when an authorized broker or agent accepts the order. Orders will be priced at the Fund's NAV next computed after they are accepted by an authorized broker or agent.

For all classes other than the Institutional Class, if any authorized dealer receives an order of at least \$1,000, the dealer may contact the Fund directly. Orders received by dealers by the close of trading on the NYSE on a business day that are transmitted to the Fund by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on that day will be effected at the NAV per share determined as of the close of trading on the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, the orders will be effected at the next determined NAV. It is the dealer's responsibility to transmit orders so that they will be received by the Distributor before 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

## **Redemption of Shares**

To redeem shares, shareholders may send a written request in "good order" to:

Kinetics Mutual Funds, Inc.  
c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services  
P.O. Box 219252  
Kansas City, MO 64121-9252  
1-800-930-3828

A written request in "good order" to redeem shares must include:

- the shareholder's name,
- the name of the Fund;
- the account number;
- the share or dollar amount to be redeemed; and
- signatures by all shareholders on the account.

The proceeds will be wired or sent via electronic funds transfer through the ACH network to the bank account of record or sent to the address of record within seven days.

If shareholders request redemption proceeds be sent to an address or bank other than that on record with the Fund or proceeds be made payable other than to the shareholder(s) of record, the written request must have signatures guaranteed by:

- a trust company or commercial bank whose deposits are insured by the Bank Insurance Fund, which is administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC");
- a member of the New York, Boston, American, Midwest, or Pacific Stock Exchange;
- a savings bank or savings association whose deposits are insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund, which is administered by the FDIC; or
- any other "eligible guarantor institution" as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The Fund does not accept signatures guaranteed by a notary public.

The Fund and its transfer agent have adopted standards for accepting signature guarantees from the above institutions. The Fund may elect in the future to limit eligible signature guarantors to institutions that are members of a signature guarantee program. The Fund and its transfer agent reserve the right to amend these standards at any time without notice.

## **Redemption Fees**

The Fund is designed for long-term investors willing to accept the risks associated with a long-term investment. The Fund is not designed for short-term traders.

For these reasons, the Fund assesses a 2.00% fee on the redemption or exchange of Fund shares held for 30 days or less. These fees will be paid to the Fund to help offset transaction costs. The Fund reserves the right to waive the redemption fee, subject to its sole discretion in instances it deems not to be disadvantageous to the Fund.

The Fund will use the first-in, first-out (“FIFO”) method to determine the 30-day holding period. Under this method, the date of the redemption or exchange will be compared to the earliest purchase date of shares held in the account. If this holding period is 30 days or less, the redemption fee will be assessed using the current NAV of those shares. The redemption fee will be applied on redemptions and exchanges of each investment made by a shareholder that does not remain in the Fund for a 30-day period from the date of purchase.

The redemption fee will not apply to any shares purchased through reinvested distributions (dividends and capital gains), or to redemptions made under the Fund’s systematic programs, as these transactions are typically de minimis. This fee will also not be assessed to the participants in employer-sponsored retirement plans that are held at the Fund in an omnibus account (such as 401(k), 403(b), 457, Keogh, Profit Sharing Plans, and Money Purchase Pension Plans) or to accounts held under trust agreements at a trust institution held at the Fund in an omnibus account. The redemption fee will also not be assessed to accounts of the Adviser or its affiliates used to capitalize the Fund as such accounts will be used specifically to control the volatility of shareholder subscriptions and redemptions to avoid adverse effects to the Fund. In addition, the Fund is authorized to waive redemption fees for redemptions to asset allocation programs, wrap fee programs and other investment programs offered by financial institutions. Although frequent purchases and redemptions of Fund shares are generally permitted, the Fund only intends to waive redemption fees for redemptions the Fund reasonably believes do not raise frequent trading or market timing concerns.

## **Brokerage**

The Fund’s assets are invested by the Adviser in a manner consistent with the Portfolio’s investment objective, strategies, policies and restrictions and with any instructions the Board of Directors may issue from time to time. Within this framework, the Adviser is responsible for making all determinations as to the purchase and sale of portfolio securities and for taking all steps necessary to implement securities transactions on behalf of the Fund.

Transactions on U.S. stock exchanges, commodities markets and futures markets and other agency transactions may involve the payment by the Adviser, on behalf of the Fund, of negotiated brokerage commissions. Such commissions vary among different brokers. A particular broker may charge different commissions according to such factors as the difficulty and size of the transaction. Transactions in foreign investments often involve the payment of fixed brokerage commissions, which may be higher than those in the United States. There is generally no stated commission in the case of securities traded in the over-the-counter markets, but the price paid by the Adviser usually includes an undisclosed dealer commission or mark-up. In underwritten offerings, the price paid by the Adviser on behalf of the Fund includes a disclosed, fixed commission or discount retained by the underwriter or dealer.

U.S. government securities generally are traded in the OTC market through broker-dealers. A broker-dealer is a securities firm or bank that makes a market for securities by offering to buy at one price and sell at a slightly higher price. The difference between the prices is known as a spread.



In placing orders for the purchase and sale of portfolio securities for the Fund, the Adviser seeks to obtain the best price and execution, taking into account such factors as price, size of order, difficulty and risk of execution and operational facilities of the firm involved. For securities traded in the OTC markets, the Adviser deals directly with the dealers who make markets in these securities unless better prices and execution are available elsewhere. The Adviser negotiates commission rates with brokers based on the quality and quantity of services provided in light of generally prevailing rates, and while the Adviser generally seeks reasonably competitive commission rates, the Fund does not necessarily pay the lowest commissions available. The Company's Board of Directors periodically reviews the commission rates and allocation of orders.

When consistent with the objectives of best price and execution, business may be placed with broker-dealers who furnish investment research or services to the Adviser. Such research or services include advice, both orally and in writing, as to the value of securities; the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities; and the availability of securities, or purchasers or sellers of securities; as well as analyses and reports concerning issues, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy and the performance of accounts. To the extent portfolio transactions are effected with broker-dealers who furnish research services to the Adviser, the Adviser receives a benefit, not capable of evaluation in dollar amounts, without providing any direct monetary benefit to the Fund from these transactions. The Adviser believes that most research services obtained by it generally benefit several or all of the investment companies and private accounts that they manage, as opposed to solely benefiting one specific managed fund or account.

From time-to-time, the Adviser may effect transactions in portfolio securities with executing brokers that may also promote or sell shares of the Fund ("selling brokers") pursuant to policies adopted by the Company's Board of Directors. These policies provide that the Adviser shall not (i) take into consideration the promotion or sale of the Fund's shares as a factor in selecting executing brokers for the Fund, (ii) enter into an arrangement or understanding (whether oral or written) pursuant to which the Adviser directs, or is expected to direct, portfolio securities transactions or any other remuneration (as described below) to any broker or dealer in consideration for the promotion or sale of the Fund, and (iii) enter into a "step out" or any other type of arrangement under which a portion of the Fund's commission is directed to the selling brokers for the purpose of compensating such brokers for promoting or selling shares of the Fund. This prohibition applies to all transactions whether such transaction involves a commission, mark-up, mark down, other fee or portion of another fee paid or to be paid from a transaction effected through an executing broker. The Fund paid the following in brokerage commissions in the past three fiscal years:

<b>Total Brokerage Commissions Paid</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Spin-off Fund	\$ 2,202	\$ 1,923	\$ 903

## **Taxes**

The following summarizes certain additional income tax considerations generally affecting the Fund and its shareholders that are not described in the Prospectus. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of the tax treatment of the Fund or its shareholders, and the discussions here and in the Prospectus are not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning. Potential investors should consult their tax advisor with specific reference to their own tax situations.

The discussions of the U.S. federal income tax consequences in the Prospectus and this SAI are based on the Code and the regulations issued under it, and court decisions and administrative interpretations as in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions may significantly alter the statements included herein, and any such changes or decisions may be retroactive.

## **Federal – General Information**

The Fund has elected to be treated and intends to qualify for each taxable year as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of Subtitle A, Chapter 1, of the Code. As a regulated investment company, the Fund generally is exempt from U.S. federal income tax on its net investment income and realized capital gains that it distributes to shareholders. To qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, the Fund must meet three important tests each year.

First, the Fund must derive with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currencies, other income derived with respect to its business of investing in stock, securities, or currencies or net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships.

Second, generally, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, at least 50% of the value of the Fund's assets must consist of cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies and securities of other issuers as to which the Fund has not invested more than 5% of the value of its total assets in securities of the issuer and as to which the Fund does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer, and no more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of (1) any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies), (2) two or more issuers that the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or (3) one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships.

Third, the Fund must distribute an amount equal to at least the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (net investment income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) and 90% of its net tax-exempt income, if any, for the year.

The Fund intends to comply with this distribution requirement. If the Fund were to fail to make sufficient distributions, it could be liable for corporate income tax and for excise tax in respect of the shortfall or, if the shortfall is large enough, the Fund could be disqualified as a regulated investment company.

If for any taxable year the Fund were not to qualify as a regulated investment company, all its taxable income would be subject to tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for distributions to shareholders. In that event, taxable shareholders would recognize dividend income on distributions to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, and corporate shareholders could be eligible for the dividends-received deduction.

The Code imposes a nondeductible 4% excise tax on regulated investment companies that fail to distribute each year an amount equal to specified percentages of their ordinary taxable income and capital gain net income (excess of capital gains over capital losses). The Fund intends to make sufficient distributions or deemed distributions each year to avoid liability for this excise tax.

## **Taxation of Certain Financial Instruments**

The tax principles applicable to transactions in financial instruments, such as futures contracts and options, that may be engaged in by the Fund, and investments in passive foreign investment companies ("PFICs"), are complex and, in some cases, uncertain. The tax consequences of such transactions and investments may cause the Fund to recognize taxable income prior to the receipt of cash, thereby requiring the Fund to liquidate other positions, or to borrow money, so as to make sufficient distributions to shareholders to avoid corporate-level tax. Moreover, some or all of the taxable income recognized may be ordinary income or short-term capital gain, so that the distributions may be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income.

In addition, in the case of any shares of a PFIC in which the Fund invests, the Fund may be liable for corporate-level tax on any ultimate gain or distributions on the shares if the Fund fails to make an election to recognize income annually during the period of its ownership of the shares of the PFIC.

For the year ended December 31, 2024, the Fund did not have any short-term or long-term capital loss carryforwards.

### **State and Local Taxes**

Although the Fund expects to qualify as a regulated investment company and to be relieved of all or substantially all U.S. federal income taxes, depending upon the extent of its activities in states and localities in which its offices are maintained, in which its agents or independent contractors are located or in which it is otherwise deemed to be conducting business, the Fund could be subject to the tax laws of such states or localities.

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

Tait, Weller & Baker LLP, Two Liberty Place, 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2900, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 serves as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. Its services include an audit of the Fund's financial statements and the performance of other related audit and tax services.

### **Financial Statements**

The Fund's annual report to shareholders and Form N-CSR for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024 have been filed with the SEC. The financial statements, notes thereto and Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm included in the Fund's Form N-CSR are incorporated by reference into this SAI and is available by following the hyperlink to the [Form N-CSR](#).

Financial statements certified by the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm will be submitted to shareholders at least annually.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES RATINGS**

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

An *S&P Global Ratings* short-term issue credit rating is generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market. The following summarizes the rating categories used by S&P Global Ratings for short-term issues:

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

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

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

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

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

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

“NR” – This indicates that a rating has not been assigned or is no longer assigned.

*Moody’s Ratings (“Moody’s”)* short-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment.

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

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

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

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

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

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated issuer, obligation and/or program.

***Fitch, Inc. / Fitch Ratings Ltd. (“Fitch”)*** short-term issuer or obligation rating is based in all cases on the short-term vulnerability to default of the rated entity and relates to the capacity to meet financial obligations in accordance with the documentation governing the relevant obligation. Short-term deposit ratings may be adjusted for loss severity. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations whose initial maturity is viewed as “short-term” based on market convention.<sup>1</sup> Typically, this means up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign, and structured obligations and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets. The following summarizes the rating categories used by Fitch for short-term obligations:

“F1” – Securities possess the highest short-term credit quality. This designation indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added “+” to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

“F2” – Securities possess good short-term credit quality. This designation indicates good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

“F3” – Securities possess fair short-term credit quality. This designation indicates that the intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.

“B” – Securities possess speculative short-term credit quality. This designation indicates minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

“C” – Securities possess high short-term default risk. Default is a real possibility.

“RD” – Restricted default. Indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other financial obligations. Typically applicable to entity ratings only.

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<sup>1</sup> A long-term rating can also be used to rate an issue with short maturity.

“D” – Default. Indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a short-term obligation.

“NR” – Is assigned to an issue of a rated issuer that are not and have not been rated.

The ***DBRS Morningstar® Ratings Limited (“DBRS Morningstar”)*** short-term obligation ratings provide DBRS Morningstar’s opinion on the risk that an issuer will not meet its short-term financial obligations in a timely manner. The obligations rated in this category typically have a term of shorter than one year. The R-1 and R-2 rating categories are further denoted by the subcategories “(high)”, “(middle)”, and “(low)”.

The following summarizes the ratings used by DBRS Morningstar for commercial paper and short-term debt:

“R-1 (high)” - Short-term debt rated “R-1 (high)” is of the highest credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is exceptionally high. Unlikely to be adversely affected by future events.

“R-1 (middle)” – Short-term debt rated “R-1 (middle)” is of superior credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is very high. Differs from “R-1 (high)” by a relatively modest degree. Unlikely to be significantly vulnerable to future events.

“R-1 (low)” – Short-term debt rated “R-1 (low)” is of good credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is substantial. Overall strength is not as favorable as higher rating categories. May be vulnerable to future events, but qualifying negative factors are considered manageable.

“R-2 (high)” – Short-term debt rated “R-2 (high)” is considered to be at the upper end of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.

“R-2 (middle)” – Short-term debt rated “R-2 (middle)” is considered to be of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events or may be exposed to other factors that could reduce credit quality.

“R-2 (low)” – Short-term debt rated “R-2 (low)” is considered to be at the lower end of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events. A number of challenges are present that could affect the issuer’s ability to meet such obligations.

“R-3” – Short-term debt rated “R-3” is considered to be at the lowest end of adequate credit quality. There is a capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due. May be vulnerable to future events and the certainty of meeting such obligations could be impacted by a variety of developments.

“R-4” – Short-term debt rated “R-4” is considered to be of speculative credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is uncertain.

“R-5” – Short-term debt rated “R-5” is considered to be of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet short-term financial obligations as they fall due.

“D” – A downgrade to “D” may occur when the issuer has filed under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or winding-up statute or there is a failure to satisfy an obligation after the exhaustion of grace periods. DBRS Morningstar may also use “SD” (Selective Default) in cases where only some securities are impacted, such as the case of a “distressed exchange”.

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

The following summarizes the ratings used by ***S&P Global Ratings*** for long-term issues:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“D” – An obligation rated “D” is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the “D” rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within the next five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or the next 30 calendar days. The “D” rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. A rating on an obligation is lowered to “D” if it is subject to a distressed debt restructuring

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

“NR” – This indicates that a rating has not been assigned, or is no longer assigned.

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

**Moody’s** long-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of eleven months or more. Such ratings reflect both on the likelihood of default or

impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment. 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.

"NR" – Is assigned to unrated obligations, obligation and/or program.

The following summarizes long-term ratings used by *Fitch*:

"AAA" – Securities considered to be of the highest credit quality. "AAA" ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

"AA" – Securities considered to be of very high credit quality. "AA" ratings denote expectations of very low credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

"A" – Securities considered to be of high credit quality. "A" ratings denote expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

"BBB" – Securities considered to be of good credit quality. "BBB" ratings indicate that expectations of credit risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.

"BB" – Securities considered to be speculative. "BB" ratings indicates an elevated vulnerability to credit risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.



“B” – Securities considered to be highly speculative. “B” ratings indicate that material credit risk is present

“CCC” – A “CCC” rating indicates that substantial credit risk is present.

“CC” – A “CC” rating indicates very high levels of credit risk.

“C” – A “C” rating indicates exceptionally high levels of credit risk.

Defaulted obligations typically are not assigned “RD” or “D” ratings but are instead rated in the “CCC” to “C” rating categories, depending on their recovery prospects and other relevant characteristics. Fitch believes that this approach better aligns obligations that have comparable overall expected loss but varying vulnerability to default and loss.

Plus (+) or minus (-) may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the “AAA” obligation rating category, or to corporate finance obligation ratings in the categories below “CCC”.

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated issue of a rated issuer.

The **DBRS** Morningstar long-term obligation ratings provide DBRS Morningstar’s opinion on the risk that investors may not be repaid in accordance with the terms under which the long-term obligation was issued. The obligations rated in this category typically have a term of one year or longer. All rating categories from AA to CCC contain subcategories “(high)” and “(low)”. The absence of either a “(high)” or “(low)” designation indicates the rating is in the middle of the category. The following summarizes the ratings used by DBRS Morningstar for long-term debt:

“AAA” – Long-term debt rated “AAA” is of the highest credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is exceptionally high and unlikely to be adversely affected by future events.

“AA” – Long-term debt rated “AA” is of superior credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered high. Credit quality differs from “AAA” only to a small degree. Unlikely to be significantly vulnerable to future events.

“A” – Long-term debt rated “A” is of good credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is substantial, but of lesser credit quality than “AA.” May be vulnerable to future events, but qualifying negative factors are considered manageable.

“BBB” – Long-term debt rated “BBB” is of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.

“BB” – Long-term debt rated “BB” is of speculative, non-investment grade credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is uncertain. Vulnerable to future events.

“B” – Long-term debt rated “B” is of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet financial obligations.

“CCC”, “CC” and “C” – Long-term debt rated in any of these categories is of very highly speculative credit quality. In danger of defaulting on financial obligations. There is little difference between these three categories, although “CC” and “C” ratings are normally applied to obligations that are seen as highly likely to default or subordinated to obligations rated in the “CCC” to “B” range. Obligations in respect of which default has not technically taken place but is considered inevitable may be rated in the “C” category.

“D” – A downgrade to “D” may occur when the issuer has filed under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or winding up statute or there is a failure to satisfy an obligation after the exhaustion of grace periods.

DBRS Morningstar may also use “SD” (Selective Default) in cases where only some securities are impacted, such as the case of a “distressed exchange”.

### **Municipal Note Ratings**

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

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

Municipal Short-Term Note rating symbols are as follows:

“SP-1” – A municipal note rated “SP-1” exhibits a strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus (+) designation.

“SP-2” – A municipal note rated “SP-2” exhibits a satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

“SP-3” – A municipal note rated “SP-3” exhibits a speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

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

***Moody’s*** uses the global short-term Prime rating scale (listed above under Short-Term Credit Ratings) for commercial paper issued by U.S. municipalities and nonprofits. These commercial paper programs may be backed by external letters of credit or liquidity facilities, or by an issuer’s self-liquidity.

For other short-term municipal obligations, Moody’s uses one of two other short-term rating scales, the Municipal Investment Grade (“MIG”) and Variable Municipal Investment Grade (“VMIG”) scales provided below.

Moody’s uses the MIG scale for U.S. municipal cash flow notes, bond anticipation notes and certain other short-term obligations, which typically mature in three years or less.

#### **MIG Scale**

“MIG-1” – This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

“MIG-2” – This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.

“MIG-3” – This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.

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

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated obligation, obligation and/or program.

In the case of variable rate demand obligations (“VRDOs”), Moody’s assigns both a long-term rating and a short-term payment obligation rating. The long-term rating addresses the issuer’s ability to meet scheduled principal and interest payments. The short-term payment obligation rating addresses the ability of the issuer or the liquidity provider to meet any purchase price payment obligation resulting from optional tenders (“on demand”) and/or mandatory tenders of the VRDO. The short-term payment obligation rating uses the VMIG scale. Transitions of VMIG ratings with conditional liquidity support differ from transitions of Prime ratings reflecting the risk that external liquidity support will terminate if the issuer’s long-term rating drops below investment grade.

Moody’s typically assigns the VMIG rating if the frequency of the payment obligation is less than every three years. If the frequency of the payment obligation is less than three years but the obligation is payable only with remarketing proceeds, the VMIG short-term rating is not assigned and it is denoted as “NR”.

“VMIG-1” – This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by the superior short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

“VMIG-2” – This designation denotes strong credit quality. Good protection is afforded by the strong short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

“VMIG-3” – This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Adequate protection is afforded by the satisfactory short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

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

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated obligation, obligation and/or program.

### **About Credit Ratings**

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

Ratings assigned on ***Moody’s*** global long-term and short-term rating scales are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issued by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles, and public sector entities.

***Fitch’s*** credit ratings are forward-looking opinions on the relative ability of an entity or obligation to meet financial commitments. Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) are assigned to corporations, sovereign entities, financial institutions such as banks, leasing companies and insurers, and public finance entities (local and regional governments). Issue-level ratings are also assigned and often include an expectation of recovery, which may be notched above or below the issuer-level rating. Issue ratings are assigned to secured and unsecured debt securities, loans, preferred stock and other instruments. Credit ratings are indications of the likelihood of repayment in accordance with the terms of the issuance. In limited cases, Fitch may include additional considerations (i.e., rate to a higher or lower standard than that implied in the obligation’s documentation).

***DBRS Morningstar*** offers independent, transparent, and innovative credit analysis to the market.

Credit ratings are forward-looking opinions about credit risk that reflect the creditworthiness of an issuer, rated entity, security and/or obligation based on DBRS Morningstar's quantitative and qualitative analysis in accordance with applicable methodologies and criteria. They are meant to provide opinions on relative measures of risk and are not based on expectations of, or meant to predict, any specific default probability. Credit ratings are not statements of fact. DBRS Morningstar issues credit ratings using one or more categories, such as public, private, provisional, final(ized), solicited, or unsolicited. From time to time, credit ratings may also be subject to trends, placed under review, or discontinued. DBRS Morningstar credit ratings are determined by credit rating committees.