

# **Ranger Small Cap Fund**

Investor Class: RFTSX  
Institutional Class: RFISX

# **Ranger Micro Cap Fund**

Investor Class: RFTMX  
Institutional Class: RFIMX

*Each Fund is a Series of Ranger Funds Investment Trust*

## STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

November 30, 2023

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This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus of the Ranger Small Cap Fund and the Ranger Micro Cap Fund, dated November 30, 2023 (each a "Fund" and together the "Funds"). The Prospectus is incorporated herein by reference into this SAI (i.e., legally made a part of this SAI). You can obtain copies of the Funds' Prospectus without charge by contacting the Funds' Transfer Agent, Mutual Shareholder Services, 8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite 400, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147, or by calling toll-free 1-866-458-4744. You may also obtain a Prospectus by visiting [www.rangerfunds.com](http://www.rangerfunds.com).

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## THE FUNDS

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The Ranger Small Cap Fund and the Ranger Micro Cap Fund comprise two series of Ranger Funds Investment Trust, a Delaware statutory trust organized on June 21, 2011 (the "Trust"). The Trust is registered as an open-end management investment company. The Trust is governed by its Board of Trustees (the "Board" or "Trustees"). The Small Cap Fund and the Micro Cap Fund are diversified series of the Trust. Each Fund offers two classes of shares—Investor Class shares and Institutional Class shares. As of the date of this SAI only Institutional Class shares of the Small Cap Fund and Micro Cap Fund are available for sale.

Each Fund may issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest. All shares of a Fund have equal rights and privileges. Each share of a Fund is entitled to one vote on all matters as to which shares are entitled to vote. In addition, each share of a Fund is entitled to participate equally with other shares (i) in dividends and distributions declared by the Fund and (ii) on liquidation, to its proportionate share of the assets remaining after satisfaction of outstanding liabilities. Shares of the Funds are fully paid, non-assessable and fully transferable when issued and have no pre-emptive, conversion or exchange rights. Fractional shares have proportionately the same rights, including voting rights, as are provided for a full share. The Board may offer additional classes of each Fund's shares and may start other series and offer shares of a new investment company under the Trust at any time.

The Board of Trustees may classify and reclassify the shares of a Fund into additional classes of shares at a future date. If the Board does add additional classes of shares of a Fund, each share class will represent an interest in the same assets of the Fund, have the same rights and is identical in all material respects except that (i) each class of shares may be subject to different (or no) sales loads, (ii) each class of shares may bear different distribution fees; (iii) certain other class specific expenses will be borne solely by the class to which such expenses are attributable, including transfer agent fees attributable to a specific class of shares, printing and postage expenses related to preparing and distributing materials to current shareholders of a specific class, registration fees incurred by a specific class of shares, the expenses of administrative personnel and services required to support the shareholders of a specific class, litigation or other legal expenses relating to a class of shares, Trustees' fees or expenses incurred as a result of issues relating to a specific class of shares and accounting fees and expenses relating to a specific class of shares and (iv) each class will have exclusive voting rights with respect to matters relating to its own distribution arrangements.

Under the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, each Trustee will continue in office until the termination of the Trust or his/her earlier death, incapacity, resignation or removal. Shareholders can remove a Trustee to the extent provided by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. Vacancies may be filled by a majority of the remaining Trustees, except insofar as the 1940 Act may require the election by shareholders. As a result, normally no annual or regular meetings of shareholders will be held unless matters arise

requiring a vote of shareholders under the Agreement and Declaration of Trust or the 1940 Act.

Ranger Investment Management, L.P. is the investment adviser to the Ranger Small Cap Fund and Ranger Micro Cap Fund. Each Fund's investment objective, restrictions and policies are more fully described here and in its Prospectus.

## **TYPES OF INVESTMENTS**

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The investment objective of each Fund and a description of its principal investment strategies are set forth under "Fund Summary" in the Prospectus. Each Fund's investment objective is not "fundamental" and may be changed by the Board without the approval of a majority of its outstanding voting securities, however, shareholders will be given at least 60 days' notice of such a change.

The following information describes securities in which each Fund may invest and their related risks.

### **EQUITY SECURITIES**

Equity securities include common stock and securities convertible into common stocks, such as convertible bonds, warrants, rights and options. The value of equity securities varies in response to many factors, including the activities and financial condition of individual companies, the business market in which individual companies compete and general market and economic conditions. Equity securities fluctuate in value, often based on factors unrelated to the value of the issuer of the securities, and such fluctuations can be significant.

#### **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 the risk 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. Historically, common stocks have provided greater long-term returns and have entailed greater short-term risks than fixed-income securities and money market investments. The market value of all securities, including common stocks, is based upon the market's perception of value and not necessarily the book value of an issuer or other objective measures of a company's worth.

### Convertible Securities

Each Fund may invest in convertible securities and non-investment grade convertible securities. Convertible securities include fixed income securities that may be exchanged or converted into a predetermined number of shares of the issuer's underlying common stock at the option of the holder during a specified period. Convertible securities may take the form of convertible preferred stock, convertible bonds or debentures, units consisting of "usable" bonds and warrants or a combination of the features of several of these securities. Convertible securities are senior to common stocks in an issuer's capital structure but are usually subordinated to similar non-convertible securities. While providing a fixed-income stream (generally higher in yield than the income derivable from common stock but lower than that afforded by a similar nonconvertible security), a convertible security also gives an investor the opportunity, through its conversion feature, to participate in the capital appreciation of the issuing company depending upon a market price advance in the convertible security's underlying common stock.

### Income Trusts

Each Fund may invest in income trusts which are investment trusts that hold assets that are income producing. The income is passed on to the "unitholders." Each income trust has an operating risk based on its underlying business. The term may also be used to designate a legal entity, capital structure and ownership vehicle for certain assets or businesses. Shares or "trust units" are traded on securities exchanges just like stocks. Income is passed on to the investors, called unitholders, through monthly or quarterly distributions. Historically, distributions have typically been higher than dividends on common stocks. The unitholders are the beneficiaries of a trust, and their units represent their right to participate in the income and capital of the trust. Income trusts generally invest funds in assets that provide a return to the trust and its beneficiaries based on the cash flows of an underlying business. This return is often achieved through the acquisition by the trust of equity and debt instruments, royalty interests or real properties. The trust can receive interest, royalty or lease payments from an operating entity carrying on a business, as well as dividends and a return of capital.

Each income trust has an operating risk based on its underlying business; and, typically, the higher the yield, the higher the risk. They also have additional risk factors, including, but not limited to, poorer access to debt markets. Similar to a dividend paying stock, income trusts do not guarantee minimum distributions or even return of capital. If the business starts to lose money, the trust can reduce or even eliminate distributions; this is usually accompanied by sharp losses in a unit's market value. Since the yield is one of the main attractions of income trusts, there is the risk that trust units will decline in value if interest rates offering in competing markets, such as in the cash/treasury market, increase. Interest rate risk is also present within the trusts themselves because they hold very long term capital assets (e.g. pipelines, power plants, etc.), and much of the excess distributable income is derived from a maturity (or duration) mismatch between the life of the asset, and the life of the financing associated with it. In an increasing interest rate environment, not only does the attractiveness of trust distributions decrease, but quite possibly, the distributions may themselves decrease, leading to a double whammy of both

declining yield and substantial loss of unitholder value. Because most income is passed on to unitholders, rather than reinvested in the business, in some cases, a trust can become a wasting asset unless more equity is issued. Because many income trusts pay out more than their net income, the unitholder equity (capital) may decline over time. To the extent that the value of the trust is driven by the deferral or reduction of tax, any change in government tax regulations to remove the benefit will reduce the value of the trusts. Generally, income trusts also carry the same risks as dividend paying stocks that are traded on stock markets.

### Master Limited Partnerships

The Funds may invest in master limited partnership interests ("MLPs"). MLPs are limited partnerships the interests in which (known as "units") are typically traded on public exchanges, just like corporate stock. MLPs are limited partnerships that provide an investor with a direct interest in a group of assets (generally, but not exclusively, oil and gas properties). Master limited partnership units typically trade publicly, like stock, and thus may provide the investor more liquidity than ordinary limited partnerships. Master limited partnership are also called publicly traded partnerships and public limited partnerships. A limited partnership has one or more general partners (they may be individuals, corporations, partnerships or another entity) which manage the partnership, and limited partners, which provide capital to the partnership but have no role in its management. When an investor buys units in an MLP, he or she becomes a limited partner. MLPs are formed in several ways. A non-traded partnership may decide to go public. Several non-traded partnerships may "roll up" into a single MLP. A corporation may spin off a group of assets or part of its business into an MLP of which it is the general partner, either to realize what it believes to be the assets' full value or as an alternative to issuing debt. A corporation may fully convert to an MLP, although since 1986 the tax consequences have made this an unappealing; or, a newly formed company may operate as an MLP from its inception.

There are different types of risks to investing in MLPs, including regulatory risks and interest rate risks. Currently most partnerships enjoy pass through taxation of their income to partners, which avoids double taxation of earnings. If the government were to change MLP business tax structure, unitholders would not be able to enjoy the relatively high yields in the sector for long. In addition, MLPs that charge government-regulated fees for transportation of oil and gas products through their pipelines are subject to unfavorable changes in government-approved rates and fees, which would affect an MLP's revenue stream negatively. MLPs also carry some interest rate risks. During increases in interest rates, MLPs may not produce decent returns to shareholders.

### Publicly Traded Partnerships

Each Fund may invest in publicly traded partnerships ("PTPs"). PTPs are limited partnerships, the interests in which (known as "units") are traded on public exchanges, just like corporate stock. PTPs are limited partnerships that provide an investor with a direct interest in a group of assets (generally, oil and gas properties). Publicly traded partnership units typically trade publicly, like stock, and thus may provide the investor

more liquidity than ordinary limited partnerships. Publicly traded partnerships are also called master limited partnerships and public limited partnerships. A limited partnership has one or more general partners (they may be individuals, corporations, partnerships or another entity) which manage the partnership, and limited partners, which provide capital to the partnership but have no role in its management. When an investor buys units in a PTP, he or she becomes a limited partner. PTPs are formed in several ways. A non-traded partnership may decide to go public. Several non-traded partnerships may "roll up" into a single PTP. A corporation may spin off a group of assets or part of its business into a PTP of which it is the general partner, either to realize what it believes to be the asset's full value or as an alternative to issuing debt. A corporation may fully convert to a PTP, although since 1986 the tax consequences have made this an unappealing; or, a newly formed company may operate as a PTP from its inception.

There are different types of risks to investing in PTPs including regulatory risks and interest rate risks. Currently most partnerships enjoy pass through taxation of their income to partners, which avoids double taxation of earnings. If the government were to change PTP business tax structure, unitholders would not be able to enjoy the relatively high yields in the sector for long. In addition, PTP's which charge government-regulated fees for transportation of oil and gas products through their pipelines are subject to unfavorable changes in government-approved rates and fees, which would affect a PTPs revenue stream negatively. PTPs also carry some interest rate risks. During increases in interest rates, PTPs may not produce decent returns to shareholders.

### Real Estate Investment Trusts

Each Fund may invest in securities of real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). REITs are publicly traded corporations or trusts that specialize in acquiring, holding and managing residential, commercial or industrial real estate. A REIT is not taxed at the entity level on income distributed to its shareholders or unitholders if it distributes to shareholders or unitholders at least 95% of its taxable income for each taxable year and complies with regulatory requirements relating to its organization, ownership, assets and income.

REITs generally can be classified as "Equity REITs", "Mortgage REITs" and "Hybrid REITs." An Equity REIT invests the majority of its assets directly in real property and derives its income primarily from rents and from capital gains on real estate appreciation, which are realized through property sales. A Mortgage REIT invests the majority of its assets in real estate mortgage loans and services its income primarily from interest payments. A Hybrid REIT combines the characteristics of an Equity REIT and a Mortgage REIT. Although the Funds can invest in all three kinds of REITs, its emphasis is expected to be on investments in Equity REITs.

Investments in the real estate industry involve particular risks. The real estate industry has been subject to substantial fluctuations and declines on a local, regional and national basis in the past and may continue to be in the future. Real property values and income from real property continue to be in the future. Real property values and income from real property may decline due to general and local economic conditions, overbuilding

and increased competition, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, changes in zoning laws, casualty or condemnation losses, regulatory limitations on rents, changes in neighborhoods and in demographics, increases in market interest rates, or other factors. Factors such as these may adversely affect companies that own and operate real estate directly, companies that lend to such companies, and companies that service the real estate industry.

Investments in REITs also involve risks. Equity REITs will be affected by changes in the values of and income from the properties they own, while Mortgage REITs may be affected by the credit quality of the mortgage loans they hold. In addition, REITs are dependent on specialized management skills and on their ability to generate cash flow for operating purposes and to make distributions to shareholders or unitholders REITs may have limited diversification and are subject to risks associated with obtaining financing for real property, as well as to the risk of self-liquidation. REITs also can be adversely affected by their failure to qualify for tax-free pass-through treatment of their income under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or their failure to maintain an exemption from registration under the 1940 Act. By investing in REITs indirectly through a Fund, a shareholder bears not only a proportionate share of the expenses of the Funds, but also may indirectly bear similar expenses of some of the REITs in which it invests.

### Warrants

Each Fund may invest in warrants. Warrants are options to purchase common stock at a specific price (usually at a premium above the market value of the optioned common stock at issuance) valid for a specific period of time. Warrants may have a life ranging from less than one year to twenty years, or longer. Warrants have expiration dates after which they are worthless. In addition, a warrant is worthless if the market price of the common stock does not exceed the warrant's exercise price during the life of the warrant. Warrants have no voting rights, pay no dividends, and have no rights with respect to the assets of the corporation issuing them. The percentage increase or decrease in the market price of the warrant may tend to be greater than the percentage increase or decrease in the market price of the optioned common stock.

### FIXED INCOME/DEBT/BOND SECURITIES

Yields on fixed income securities, which the Funds define to include preferred stock, are dependent on a variety of factors, including the general conditions of the money market and other fixed income securities markets, the size of a particular offering, the maturity of the obligation and the rating of the issue. An investment in a Fund will be subjected to risk even if all fixed income securities in the Fund's portfolio are paid in full at maturity. All fixed income securities, including U.S. Government securities, can change in value when there is a change in interest rates or the issuer's actual or perceived creditworthiness or ability to meet its obligations.

There is normally an inverse relationship between the market value of securities sensitive to prevailing interest rates and actual changes in interest rates. In other words,



an increase in interest rates produces a decrease in market value. The longer the remaining maturity (and duration) of a security, the greater will be the effect of interest rate changes on the market value of that security. Changes in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal and in the markets' perception of an issuer's creditworthiness will also affect the market value of the debt securities of that issuer. Obligations of issuers of fixed income securities (including municipal securities) are subject to the provisions of bankruptcy, insolvency, and other laws affecting the rights and remedies of creditors, such as the Federal Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978. In addition, the obligations of municipal issuers may become subject to laws enacted in the future by Congress, state legislatures, or referenda extending the time for payment of principal and/or interest or imposing other constraints upon enforcement of such obligations or upon the ability of municipalities to levy taxes. Changes in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal and in the market's perception of an issuer's creditworthiness will also affect the market value of the debt securities of that issuer. The possibility exists, therefore, that, the ability of any issuer to pay, when due, the principal of and interest on its debt securities may become impaired.

The corporate debt securities in which each Fund may invest include corporate bonds and notes and short-term investments such as commercial paper and variable rate demand notes. Commercial paper (short-term promissory notes) is issued by companies to finance their or their affiliate's current obligations and is frequently unsecured. Variable and floating rate demand notes are unsecured obligations typically redeemable upon not more than 30 days' notice. These obligations include master demand notes that permit investment of fluctuating amounts at varying rates of interest pursuant to a direct arrangement with the issuer of the instrument. The issuer of these obligations often has the right, after a given period, to prepay the outstanding principal amount of the obligations upon a specified number of days' notice. These obligations generally are not traded, nor generally is there an established secondary market for these obligations. To the extent a demand note does not have a 7-day or shorter demand feature and there is no readily available market for the obligation, it is treated as an illiquid security.

Each Fund may invest in debt securities, including non-investment grade debt securities. The following describes some of the risks associated with fixed income debt securities:

*Interest Rate Risk.* Debt securities have varying levels of sensitivity to changes in interest rates. In general, the price of a debt security can fall when interest rates rise and can rise when interest rates fall. Securities with longer maturities and mortgage securities can be more sensitive to interest rate changes although they usually offer higher yields to compensate investors for the greater risks. The longer the maturity of the security, the greater the impact a change in interest rates could have on the security's price. In addition, short-term and long-term interest rates do not necessarily move in the same amount or the same direction. Short-term securities tend to react to changes in short-term interest rates and long-term securities tend to react to changes in long-term interest rates.

*Credit Risk.* Fixed income securities have speculative characteristics and changes in economic conditions or other circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened

capacity of those issuers to make principal or interest payments, as compared to issuers of more highly rated securities.

*Extension Risk.* Each Fund is subject to the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Funds (such as mortgage-backed securities) later than expected. This may happen when there is a rise in interest rates. These events may lengthen the duration (i.e. interest rate sensitivity) and potentially reduce the value of these securities.

*Prepayment Risk.* Certain types of debt securities, such as mortgage-backed securities, have yield and maturity characteristics corresponding to underlying assets. Unlike traditional debt securities, which may pay a fixed rate of interest until maturity when the entire principal amount comes due, payments on certain mortgage-backed securities may include both interest and a partial payment of principal. Besides the scheduled repayment of principal, payments of principal may result from the voluntary prepayment, refinancing, or foreclosure of the underlying mortgage loans.

Securities subject to prepayment are less effective than other types of securities as a means of "locking in" attractive long-term interest rates. One reason is the need to reinvest prepayments of principal; another is the possibility of significant unscheduled prepayments resulting from declines in interest rates. These prepayments would have to be reinvested at lower rates. As a result, these securities may have less potential for capital appreciation during periods of declining interest rates than other securities of comparable maturities, although they may have a similar risk of decline in market value during periods of rising interest rates. Prepayments may also significantly shorten the effective maturities of these securities, especially during periods of declining interest rates. Conversely, during periods of rising interest rates, a reduction in prepayments may increase the effective maturities of these securities, subjecting them to a greater risk of decline in market value in response to rising interest rates than traditional debt securities, and, therefore, potentially increasing the volatility of a Fund.

At times, some of the mortgage-backed securities in which a Fund may invest will have higher than market interest rates and therefore will be purchased at a premium above their par value. Prepayments may cause losses in securities purchased at a premium, as unscheduled prepayments, which are made at par, will cause the Funds to experience a loss equal to any unamortized premium.

#### Certificates of Deposit and Bankers' Acceptances

The Funds may invest in certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances, which are considered to be short-term money market instruments.

Certificates of deposit are receipts issued by a depository institution in exchange for the deposit of funds. The issuer agrees to pay the amount deposited plus interest to the bearer of the receipt on the date specified on the certificate. The certificate usually can be traded in the secondary market prior to maturity. Bankers' acceptances typically arise from short-term credit arrangements designed to enable businesses to obtain funds

to finance commercial transactions. Generally, an acceptance is a time draft drawn on a bank by an exporter or an importer to obtain a stated amount of funds to pay for specific merchandise. The draft is then "accepted" by a bank that, in effect, unconditionally guarantees to pay the face value of the instrument on its maturity date. The acceptance may then be held by the accepting bank as an earning asset or it may be sold in the secondary market at the going rate of discount for a specific maturity. Although maturities for acceptances can be as long as 270 days, most acceptances have maturities of six months or less.

### Commercial Paper

The Funds may purchase commercial paper. Commercial paper consists of short-term (usually from 1 to 270 days) unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations in order to finance their current operations. It may be secured by letters of credit, a surety bond or other forms of collateral. Commercial paper is usually repaid at maturity by the issuer from the proceeds of the issuance of new commercial paper. As a result, investment in commercial paper is subject to the risk the issuer cannot issue enough new commercial paper to satisfy its outstanding commercial paper, also known as rollover risk. Commercial paper may become illiquid or may suffer from reduced liquidity in certain circumstances. Like all fixed income securities, commercial paper prices are susceptible to fluctuations in interest rates. If interest rates rise, commercial paper prices will decline. The short-term nature of a commercial paper investment makes it less susceptible to interest rate risk than many other fixed income securities because interest rate risk typically increases as maturity lengths increase. Commercial paper tends to yield smaller returns than longer-term corporate debt because securities with shorter maturities typically have lower effective yields than those with longer maturities. As with all fixed income securities, there is a chance that the issuer will default on its commercial paper obligation.

### Time Deposits and Variable Rate Notes

The Funds may invest in fixed time deposits, whether or not subject to withdrawal penalties.

The commercial paper obligations, which the Funds may buy are unsecured and may include variable rate notes. The nature and terms of a variable rate note (i.e., a "Master Note") permit the Funds to invest fluctuating amounts at varying rates of interest pursuant to a direct arrangement between a Fund as Lender, and the issuer, as borrower. It permits daily changes in the amounts borrowed. A Fund has the right at any time to increase, up to the full amount stated in the note agreement, or to decrease the amount outstanding under the note. The issuer may prepay at any time and without penalty any part of or the full amount of the note. The note may or may not be backed by one or more bank letters of credit. Because these notes are direct lending arrangements between a Fund and the issuer, it is not generally contemplated that they will be traded; moreover, there is currently no secondary market for them. Except as specifically provided in the Prospectus, there is no limitation on the type of issuer from whom these notes may be purchased; however, in connection with such purchase and on an ongoing basis, a Fund's

adviser will consider the earning power, cash flow and other liquidity ratios of the issuer, and its ability to pay principal and interest on demand, including a situation in which all holders of such notes made demand simultaneously. Variable rate notes are subject to the Fund's investment restriction on illiquid securities unless such notes can be put back to the issuer on demand within seven days.

### Insured Bank Obligations

The Funds may invest in insured bank obligations. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insures the deposits of federally insured banks and savings and loan associations (collectively referred to as "banks") up to \$250,000. The Funds may purchase bank obligations that are fully insured as to principal by the FDIC. Currently, to remain fully insured as to principal, these investments must be limited to \$250,000 per bank per Fund; if the principal amount and accrued interest together exceed \$250,000, the excess principal and accrued interest will not be insured. Insured bank obligations may have limited marketability.

### High Yield Securities

The Funds may invest in high yield securities. High yield, high risk bonds are securities that are generally rated below investment grade by the primary rating agencies (BB+ or lower by S&P and Ba1 or lower by Moody's). Other terms used to describe such securities include "lower rated bonds," "non-investment grade bonds," "below investment grade bonds," and "junk bonds." These securities are considered to be high-risk investments. The risks include the following:

*Greater Risk of Loss.* These securities are regarded as predominately speculative. There is a greater risk that issuers of lower rated securities will default than issuers of higher rated securities. Issuers of lower rated securities generally are less creditworthy and may be highly indebted, financially distressed, or bankrupt. These issuers are more vulnerable to real or perceived economic changes, political changes or adverse industry developments. In addition, high yield securities are frequently subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness. If an issuer fails to pay principal or interest, the Funds would experience a decrease in income and a decline in the market value of its investments.

*Sensitivity to Interest Rate and Economic Changes.* The income and market value of lower-rated securities may fluctuate more than higher rated securities. Although non-investment grade securities tend to be less sensitive to interest rate changes than investment grade securities, non-investment grade securities are more sensitive to short-term corporate, economic and market developments. During periods of economic uncertainty and change, the market price of the investments in lower-rated securities may be volatile. The default rate for high yield bonds tends to be cyclical, with defaults rising in periods of economic downturn.

*Valuation Difficulties.* It is often more difficult to value lower rated securities than higher rated securities. If an issuer's financial condition deteriorates, accurate financial

and business information may be limited or unavailable. In addition, the lower rated investments may be thinly traded and there may be no established secondary market. Because of the lack of market pricing and current information for investments in lower rated securities, valuation of such investments is much more dependent on judgment than is the case with higher rated securities.

*Liquidity.* There may be no established secondary or public market for investments in lower rated securities. Such securities are frequently traded in markets that may be relatively less liquid than the market for higher rated securities. In addition, relatively few institutional purchasers may hold a major portion of an issue of lower-rated securities at times. As a result, the Funds may be required to sell investments at substantial losses or retain them indefinitely when an issuer's financial condition is deteriorating.

*Credit Quality.* Credit quality of non-investment grade securities can change suddenly and unexpectedly, and even recently-issued credit ratings may not fully reflect the actual risks posed by a particular high-yield security.

*New Legislation.* Future legislation may have a possible negative impact on the market for high yield, high risk bonds. As an example, in the late 1980's, legislation required federally-insured savings and loan associations to divest their investments in high yield, high risk bonds. New legislation, if enacted, could have a material negative effect on the Funds' investments in lower rated securities.

High yield, high risk investments may include the following:

*Straight fixed-income debt securities.* These include bonds and other debt obligations that bear a fixed or variable rate of interest payable at regular intervals and have a fixed or resettable maturity date. The particular terms of such securities vary and may include features such as call provisions and sinking funds.

*Zero-coupon debt securities.* These do not pay periodic interest but are issued at a discount from their value at maturity. When held to maturity, their entire return equals the difference between their issue price and their maturity value.

*Zero-fixed-coupon debt securities.* These are zero-coupon debt securities that convert on a specified date to periodic interest-paying debt securities.

*Pay-in-kind bonds.* These are bonds which allow the issuer, at its option, to make current interest payments on the bonds either in cash or in additional bonds. These are bonds are typically sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("1933 Act"), usually to a relatively small number of institutional investors.

*Convertible Securities.* These are bonds or preferred stock that may be converted to common stock.

*Preferred Stock.* These are stocks that generally pay a dividend at a specified rate and have preference over common stock in the payment of dividends and in liquidation.

*Loan Participations and Assignments.* These are participations in, or assignments of all or a portion of loans to corporations or to governments, including governments of less developed countries ("LDCs").

*Securities issued in connection with Reorganizations and Corporate Restructurings.* In connection with reorganizing or restructuring of an issuer, an issuer may issue common stock or other securities to holders of its debt securities. The Funds may hold such common stock and other securities even if it does not invest in such securities.

### Municipal Government Obligations

In general, municipal obligations are debt obligations issued by or on behalf of states, territories and possessions of the United States (including the District of Columbia) and their political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities. Municipal obligations generally include debt obligations issued to obtain funds for various public purposes. Certain types of municipal obligations are issued in whole or in part to obtain funding for privately operated facilities or projects. Municipal obligations include general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, industrial development bonds, notes and municipal lease obligations. Municipal obligations also include additional obligations, the interest on which is exempt from federal income tax, that may become available in the future as long as the Board of the Funds determine that an investment in any such type of obligation is consistent with a Fund's investment objectives. Municipal obligations may be fully or partially backed by local government, the credit of a private issuer, current or anticipated revenues from a specific project or specific assets or domestic or foreign entities providing credit support such as letters of credit, guarantees or insurance.

*Bonds and Notes.* General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of interest and principal. Revenue bonds are payable only from the revenues derived from a project or facility or from the proceeds of a specified revenue source. Industrial development bonds are generally revenue bonds secured by payments from and the credit of private users. Municipal notes are issued to meet the short-term funding requirements of state, regional and local governments. Municipal notes include tax anticipation notes, bond anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, tax and revenue anticipation notes, construction loan notes, short-term discount notes, tax-exempt commercial paper, demand notes and similar instruments.

*Municipal Lease Obligations.* Municipal lease obligations may take the form of a lease, an installment purchase or a conditional sales contract. They are issued by state and local governments and authorities to acquire land, equipment and facilities, such as vehicles, telecommunications and computer equipment and other capital assets. The Funds may invest in funds that purchase these lease obligations directly, or it may purchase participation interests in such lease obligations. States have different requirements for issuing municipal debt and issuing municipal leases. Municipal leases are generally subject to greater risks than general obligation or revenue bonds because they usually contain a "non-appropriation" clause, which provides that the issuer is not

obligated to make payments on the obligation in future years unless funds have been appropriated for this purpose each year. Such non-appropriation clauses are required to avoid the municipal lease obligations from being treated as debt for state debt restriction purposes. Accordingly, such obligations are subject to "non-appropriation" risk. Municipal leases may be secured by the underlying capital asset and it may be difficult to dispose of any such asset in the event of non-appropriation or other default.

### United States Government Obligations

These consist of various types of marketable securities issued by the United States Treasury, i.e., bills, notes and bonds. Such securities are direct obligations of the United States government and differ mainly in the length of their maturity. Treasury bills, the most frequently issued marketable government security, have a maturity of up to one year and are issued on a discount basis. Each Fund may also invest in Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS). TIPS are special types of treasury bonds that were created in order to offer bond investors protection from inflation. The values of the TIPS are automatically adjusted to the inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). If the CPI goes up by half a percent, the value of the bond (the TIPS) would also go up by half a percent. If the CPI falls, the value of the bond does not fall because the government guarantees that the original investment will stay the same. TIPS decline in value when real interest rates rise. However, in certain interest rate environments, such as when real interest rates are rising faster than nominal interest rates, TIPS may experience greater losses than other fixed income securities with similar duration.

### United States Government Agency Obligations

These consist of debt securities issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the United States government, including the various types of instruments currently outstanding or which may be offered in the future. Agencies include, among others, the Federal Housing Administration, Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae"), Farmer's Home Administration, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Maritime Administration, and General Services Administration. Instrumentalities include, for example, each of the Federal Home Loan Banks, the National Bank for Cooperatives, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac"), the Farm Credit Banks, the Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), and the United States Postal Service. These securities are either: (i) backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government (e.g., United States Treasury Bills); (ii) guaranteed by the United States Treasury (e.g., Ginnie Mae mortgage-backed securities); (iii) supported by the issuing agency's or instrumentality's right to borrow from the United States Treasury (e.g., Fannie Mae Discount Notes); or (iv) supported only by the issuing agency's or instrumentality's own credit (e.g., Tennessee Valley Association). On September 7, 2008, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Housing Finance Authority (the "FHFA") announced that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac had been placed into conservatorship, a statutory process designed to stabilize a troubled institution with the objective of returning the entity to normal business operations. The U.S. Treasury Department and the FHFA at the same time established a secured lending facility and a Secured Stock Purchase Agreement with both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to ensure that each entity had the

ability to fulfill its financial obligations. The FHFA announced that it does not anticipate any disruption in pattern of payments or ongoing business operations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Government-related guarantors (i.e. not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government) include Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Fannie Mae is a government-sponsored corporation owned by stockholders. It is subject to general regulation by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Fannie Mae purchases conventional (i.e., not insured or guaranteed by any government agency) residential mortgages from a list of approved seller/servicers which include state and federally chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks and credit unions and mortgage bankers. Pass-through securities issued by Fannie Mae are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by Fannie Mae but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

Freddie Mac was created by Congress in 1970 for the purpose of increasing the availability of mortgage credit for residential housing. It is a government-sponsored corporation formerly owned by the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks and now owned by stockholders. Freddie Mac issues Participation Certificates ("PCs"), which represent interests in conventional mortgages from Freddie Mac's national portfolio. Freddie Mac guarantees the timely payment of interest and ultimate collection of principal, but PCs are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers and other secondary market issuers also create pass-through pools of conventional residential mortgage loans. Such issuers may, in addition, be the originators and/or servicers of the underlying mortgage loans as well as the guarantors of the mortgage-related securities. Pools created by such nongovernmental issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than government and government-related pools because there are no direct or indirect government or agency guarantees of payments in the former pools. However, timely payment of interest and principal of these pools may be supported by various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance and letters of credit. The insurance and guarantees are issued by governmental entities, private insurers and the mortgage poolers.

#### Mortgage Pass-Through Securities

Interests in pools of mortgage pass-through securities differ from other forms of debt securities (which normally provide periodic payments of interest in fixed amounts and the payment of principal in a lump sum at maturity or on specified call dates). Instead, mortgage pass-through securities provide monthly payments consisting of both interest and principal payments. In effect, these payments are a "pass-through" of the monthly payments made by the individual borrowers on the underlying residential mortgage loans, net of any fees paid to the issuer or guarantor of such securities. Unscheduled payments of principal may be made if the underlying mortgage loans are repaid or refinanced or the underlying properties are foreclosed, thereby shortening the securities' weighted average life. Some mortgage pass-through securities (such as securities guaranteed by Ginnie Mae) are described as "modified pass-through securities." These securities entitle the



holder to receive all interest and principal payments owed on the mortgage pool, net of certain fees, on the scheduled payment dates regardless of whether the mortgagor actually makes the payment.

The principal governmental guarantor of mortgage pass-through securities is Ginnie Mae. Ginnie Mae is authorized to guarantee, with the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury, the timely payment of principal and interest on securities issued by lending institutions approved by Ginnie Mae (such as savings and loan institutions, commercial banks and mortgage bankers) and backed by pools of mortgage loans. These mortgage loans are either insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Veterans Administration. A "pool" or group of such mortgage loans is assembled and after being approved by Ginnie Mae, is offered to investors through securities dealers.

Government-related guarantors of mortgage pass-through securities (i.e., not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury) include Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Fannie Mae is subject to general regulation by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Fannie Mae purchases conventional (i.e., not insured or guaranteed by any government agency) residential mortgages from a list of approved sellers/servicers which include state and federally chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks and credit unions and mortgage bankers. Mortgage pass-through securities issued by Fannie Mae are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by Fannie Mae but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury.

Commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers and other secondary market issuers also create pass-through pools of conventional residential mortgage loans. Such issuers may, in addition, be the originators and/or servicers of the underlying mortgage loans as well as the guarantors of the mortgage pass-through securities.

*Resets.* The interest rates paid on the Adjustable Rate Mortgage Securities ("ARMs") in which the Funds may invest generally are readjusted or reset at intervals of one year or less to an increment over some predetermined interest rate index. There are two main categories of indices: those based on U.S. Treasury securities and those derived from a calculated measure, such as a cost of funds index or a moving average of mortgage rates. Commonly utilized indices include the one-year and five-year constant maturity Treasury Note rates, the three-month Treasury Bill rate, the 180-day Treasury Bill rate, rates on longer-term Treasury securities, the National Median Cost of Funds, the prime rate of a specific bank, or commercial paper rates. Some indices, such as the one-year constant maturity Treasury Note rate, closely mirror changes in market interest rate levels. Others tend to lag changes in market rate levels and tend to be somewhat less volatile.

*Caps and Floors.* The underlying mortgages which collateralize the ARMs in which the Funds invest will frequently have caps and floors which limit the maximum amount by which the loan rate to the residential borrower may change up or down: (1) per reset or adjustment interval, and (2) over the life of the loan. Some residential mortgage loans

restrict periodic adjustments by limiting changes in the borrower's monthly principal and interest payments rather than limiting interest rate changes. These payment caps may result in negative amortization. The value of mortgage securities in which the Funds invest may be affected if market interest rates rise or fall faster and farther than the allowable caps or floors on the underlying residential mortgage loans. Additionally, even though the interest rates on the underlying residential mortgages are adjustable, amortization and prepayments may occur, thereby causing the effective maturities of the mortgage securities in which the Funds invest to be shorter than the maturities stated in the underlying mortgages.

### Preferred Stock

Each Fund defines preferred stock as form of fixed income security because it has similar features to other forms of fixed income securities. Preferred stocks are securities that have characteristics of both common stocks and corporate bonds. Preferred stocks may receive dividends but payment is not guaranteed as with a bond. These securities may be undervalued because of a lack of analyst coverage resulting in a high dividend yield or yield to maturity. The risks of preferred stocks include a lack of voting rights and a Fund's adviser may incorrectly analyze the security, resulting in a loss to the Funds. Furthermore, preferred stock dividends are not guaranteed and management can elect to forego the preferred dividend, resulting in a loss to the Funds. Preferred stock may also be convertible in the common stock of the issuer. Convertible securities may be exchanged or converted into a predetermined number of shares of the issuer's underlying common stock at the option of the holder during a specified period. Convertible securities are senior to common stocks in an issuer's capital structure but are usually subordinated to similar non-convertible securities. A convertible security also gives an investor the opportunity, through its conversion feature, to participate in the capital appreciation of the issuing company depending upon a market price advance in the convertible security's underlying common stock. In general, preferred stocks generally pay a dividend at a specified rate and have preference over common stock in the payment of dividends and in liquidation. The Funds may invest in preferred stock with any or no credit rating. Preferred stock is a class of stock having a preference over common stock as to the payment of dividends and the recovery of investment should a company be liquidated, although preferred stock is usually junior to the debt securities of the issuer. Preferred stock market value may change based on changes in interest rates.

### Exchange-Traded Notes and Structured Notes

Each Fund may invest in exchange-traded notes ("ETNs"), which are a type of debt security that is typically unsecured and unsubordinated. This type of debt security differs from other types of bonds and notes because ETN returns are based upon the performance of a market index minus applicable fees, and typically, no periodic coupon payments are distributed and no principal protections exists, even at maturity. But as debt securities, ETNs do not own the underlying commodity or other index they are tracking. The purpose of ETNs is to create a type of security that combines both the aspects of bonds and exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). Similar to ETFs, ETNs are traded on a major exchange, such as the New York Stock Exchange during normal trading hours.

However, investors such as the Funds can also hold the debt security until maturity. At that time, the issuer will pay the investor a cash amount that would be equal to principal amount times the return of a benchmark index, less any fees or other reductions. Because fees reduce the amount of return at maturity or upon redemption, if the value of the underlying decreases or does not increase significantly, a Fund may receive less than the principal amount of investment at maturity or upon redemption.

Each Fund may invest in structured notes, which are a type of debt security that is typically unsecured and unsubordinated. These notes are typically issued by banks or brokerage firms and have interest and/or principal payments which are linked to changes in the price level of certain assets or to the price performance of certain indices. The value of a structured note will be influenced by time to maturity, level of supply and demand for this type of note, interest rate and commodity market volatility, changes in the issuer's credit quality rating, and economic, legal, political, or geographic events that affect the referenced commodity. In addition, there may be a lag between a change in the value of the underlying reference asset and the value of the structured note. A Fund may also be exposed to increased transaction costs when it seeks to sell such notes in the secondary market.

## INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Each Fund may invest in investment companies such as open-end funds (mutual funds), closed-end funds, and exchange-traded funds (also referred to as "Underlying Funds"). The 1940 Act provides that the mutual funds may not: (1) purchase more than 3% of an investment company's outstanding shares, (2) invest more than 5% of its assets in any single such investment company (the "5% Limit"), and (3) invest more than 10% of its assets in investment companies overall (the "10% Limit"), unless: (i) the underlying investment company and/or the Funds have received an order for exemptive relief from such limitations from the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"); and (ii) the underlying investment company and the Funds take appropriate steps to comply with any conditions in such order. The Funds may also rely upon Rule 12d1-4 to exceed the 3%, 5% and 10% limits.

In addition, Section 12(d)(1)(F) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, provides that the provisions of paragraph 12(d)(1) shall not apply to securities purchased or otherwise acquired by the Funds if (i) immediately after such purchase or acquisition not more than 3% of the total outstanding stock of such registered investment company is owned by the Funds and all affiliated persons of the Funds; and (ii) the Funds have not, and are not proposing to offer or sell any security issued by it through a principal underwriter or otherwise at a public or offering price which includes a sales load of more than 1 ½% percent. An investment company that issues shares to the Funds pursuant to paragraph 12(d)(1)(F) shall not be required to redeem its shares in an amount exceeding 1% of such investment company's total outstanding shares in any period of less than thirty days. The Funds (or the adviser acting on behalf of the Funds) must comply with the following voting restrictions: when the Funds exercise voting rights, by proxy or otherwise, with respect to investment companies owned by the Funds, the Funds will either seek instruction from the Funds' shareholders with regard to the voting of all proxies and vote

in accordance with such instructions, or vote the shares held by the Funds in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of such security.

Further, the Funds may rely on Rule 12d1-3, which allows unaffiliated mutual funds to exceed the 5% Limit and the 10% Limit, provided the aggregate sales loads any investor pays (i.e., the combined distribution expenses of both the acquiring fund and the acquired funds) does not exceed the limits on sales loads established by FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.) for funds of funds.

The Funds and any "affiliated persons," as defined by the 1940 Act, under certain circumstances, may purchase in the aggregate only up to 3% of the total outstanding securities of any Underlying Fund. Accordingly, when affiliated persons hold shares of any of the Underlying Funds, the Fund's ability to invest fully in shares of those funds is restricted, and the adviser must then, in some instances, select alternative investments that would not have been its first preference. The 1940 Act also provides that an Underlying Fund whose shares are purchased by the Funds will be obligated to redeem shares held by the Funds only in an amount up to 1% of the Underlying Fund's outstanding securities during any period of less than 30 days. Shares held by the Funds in excess of 1% of an Underlying Fund's outstanding securities, therefore, will be considered not readily marketable securities, which, together with other such securities, may not exceed 15% of the Fund's total assets.

Under certain circumstances an Underlying Fund may determine to make payment of a redemption by the Funds wholly or partly by a distribution in kind of securities from its portfolio, in lieu of cash, in conformity with the rules of the SEC. In such cases, the Funds may hold securities distributed by an Underlying Fund until the adviser determines that it is appropriate to dispose of such securities.

Investment decisions by the investment advisors of the Underlying Funds are made independently of the Funds and its adviser. Therefore, the investment advisor of one Underlying Fund may be purchasing shares of the same issuer whose shares are being sold by the investment advisor of another such fund. The result would be an indirect expense to the Funds without accomplishing any investment purpose. Because other investment companies employ an investment adviser, such investments by the Funds may cause shareholders to bear duplicate fees.

*Closed-End Investment Companies.* Each Fund may invest its assets in "closed-end" investment companies (or "closed-end funds"), subject to the investment restrictions set forth above. Shares of closed-end funds are typically offered to the public in a one-time initial public offering by a group of underwriters who retain a spread or underwriting commission of between 4% or 6% of the initial public offering price. Such securities are then listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange, the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (commonly known as "NASDAQ") and, in some cases, may be traded in other over-the-counter markets. Because the shares of closed-end funds cannot be redeemed upon demand to the issuer like the shares of an open-end investment company (such as each Fund), investors seek to buy and sell shares of closed-end funds in the secondary market.

The Funds generally will purchase shares of closed-end funds only in the secondary market. The Funds will incur normal brokerage costs on such purchases similar to the expenses the Funds would incur for the purchase of securities of any other type of issuer in the secondary market. The Funds may, however, also purchase securities of a closed-end fund in an initial public offering when, in the opinion of the adviser, based on a consideration of the nature of the closed-end fund's proposed investments, the prevailing market conditions and the level of demand for such securities, they represent an attractive opportunity for growth of capital. The initial offering price typically will include a dealer spread, which may be higher than the applicable brokerage cost if a Fund purchased such securities in the secondary market.

The shares of many closed-end funds, after their initial public offering, frequently trade at a price per share that is less than the net asset value per share, the difference representing the "market discount" of such shares. This market discount may be due in part to the investment objective of long-term appreciation, which is sought by many closed-end funds, as well as to the fact that the shares of closed-end funds are not redeemable by the holder upon demand to the issuer at the next determined net asset value but rather are subject to the principles of supply and demand in the secondary market. A relative lack of secondary market purchasers of closed-end fund shares also may contribute to such shares trading at a discount to their net asset value.

The Funds may invest in shares of closed-end funds that are trading at a discount to net asset value or at a premium to net asset value. There can be no assurance that the market discount on shares of any closed-end fund purchased by the Funds will ever decrease. In fact, it is possible that this market discount may increase and the Funds may suffer realized or unrealized capital losses due to further decline in the market price of the securities of such closed-end funds, thereby adversely affecting the net asset value of the Funds' shares. Similarly, there can be no assurance that any shares of a closed-end fund purchased by the Funds at a premium will continue to trade at a premium or that the premium will not decrease subsequent to a purchase of such shares by the Funds.

Closed-end funds may issue senior securities (including preferred stock and debt obligations) for the purpose of leveraging the closed-end fund's common shares in an attempt to enhance the current return to such closed-end fund's common shareholders. The Funds' investment in the common shares of closed-end funds that are financially leveraged may create an opportunity for greater total return on its investment, but at the same time may be expected to exhibit more volatility in market price and net asset value than an investment in shares of investment companies without a leveraged capital structure.

*Exchange-Traded Funds.* ETFs are typically passive funds that track their related index and have the flexibility of trading like a security. They are managed by professionals and provide the investor with diversification, cost and tax efficiency, liquidity, marginability, are useful for hedging, have the ability to go long and short, and some provide quarterly dividends. Additionally, some ETFs are unit investment trusts (UITs), which are unmanaged portfolios overseen by trustees and some ETFs may be grantor trusts. An ETF typically holds a portfolio of securities or contracts. The Funds may use

EFTs as part of an overall investment strategy and as part of a hedging strategy. To offset the risk of declining security prices, the Funds may invest in inverse ETFs. Inverse EFTs are funds designed to rise in price when stock prices are falling. Additionally, inverse EFTs may employ leverage which magnifies the changes in the underlying stock index upon which they are based. Inverse ETF index funds seek to provide investment results that will match a certain percentage of the inverse of the performance of a specific benchmark on a daily basis. For example, if an inverse ETF's current benchmark is 200% of the inverse of the Russell 2000 Index and the ETF meets its objective, the value of the ETF will tend to increase on a daily basis when the value of the underlying index decreases (e.g., if the Russell 2000 Index goes down 5% then the inverse ETF's value should go up 10%). ETFs generally have two markets. The primary market is where institutions swap "creation units" in block-multiples of 50,000 shares for in-kind securities and cash in the form of dividends. The secondary market is where individual investors can trade as little as a single share during trading hours on the exchange. This is different from open-ended mutual funds that are traded after hours once the net asset value (NAV) is calculated. ETFs share many similar risks with open-end and closed-end funds.

There is a risk that ETFs in which the Funds invest may terminate due to extraordinary events that may cause any of the service providers to the ETFs, such as the trustee or sponsor, to close or otherwise fail to perform their obligations to the ETF. Also, because the ETFs in which the Funds intend to invest may be granted licenses by agreement to use the indices as a basis for determining their compositions and/or otherwise to use certain trade names, the ETFs may terminate if such license agreements are terminated. In addition, an ETF may terminate if its entire net asset value falls below a certain amount. Although the Funds believe that, in the event of the termination of an underlying ETF, they will be able to invest instead in shares of an alternate ETF tracking the same market index or another market index with the same general market, there is no guarantee that shares of an alternate ETF would be available for investment at that time. To the extent the Funds invest in a sector product, the Funds are subject to the risks associated with that sector.

The Funds could also purchase an ETF to temporarily gain exposure to a portion of the U.S. or foreign market while awaiting an opportunity to purchase securities directly. The risks of owning an ETF generally reflect the risks of owning the underlying securities they are designed to track, although lack of liquidity in an ETF could result in it being more volatile than the underlying portfolio of securities and ETFs have management fees that increase their costs versus the costs of owning the underlying securities directly.

ETFs are listed on national stock exchanges and are traded like stocks listed on an exchange. ETF shares may trade at a discount or a premium in market price if there is a limited market in such shares. Investments in ETFs are subject to brokerage and other trading costs, which could result in greater expenses to the Funds. ETFs also are subject to investment advisory and other expenses, which will be indirectly paid by the Funds. As a result, your cost of investing in the Funds will be higher than the cost of investing directly in ETFs and may be higher than other mutual funds that invest exclusively in stocks and bonds. You will indirectly bear fees and expenses charged by the ETFs in addition to the Funds' direct fees and expenses. Finally, because the value

of ETF shares depends on the demand in the market, the adviser may not be able to liquidate the Funds' holdings at the most optimal time, adversely affecting the Funds' performance.

ETFs may also include high beta index funds ("HBIFs"), which track an index by investing in leveraged instruments such as equity index swaps, futures contracts and options on securities, futures contracts, and stock indices. HBIFs are more volatile than the benchmark index they track and typically don't invest directly in the securities included in the benchmark, or in the same proportion that those securities are represented in that benchmark. On a day-to-day basis, HBIFs will target a volatility that is a specific percentage of the volatility of the underlying index. HBIFs seek to provide investment results that will match a certain percentage greater than 100% of the performance of a specific benchmark on a daily basis. For example, if a HBIF's current benchmark is 200% of the S&P 500 Index and it meets its objective, the value of the HBIF will tend to increase on a daily basis 200% of any increase in the underlying index (if the S&P 500 Index goes up 5% then the HBIF's value should go up 10%). When the value of the underlying index declines, the value of the HBIF's shares should also decrease on a daily basis by 200% of the value of any decrease in the underlying index (if the S&P 500 Index goes down 5% then the value of the HBIF should go down 10%).

## DERIVATIVES

### Futures Contracts

A futures contract provides for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of a specific financial instrument (e.g., units of a stock index) for a specified price, date, time and place designated at the time the contract is made. Brokerage fees are paid when a futures contract is bought or sold and margin deposits must be maintained. Entering into a contract to buy is commonly referred to as buying or purchasing a contract or holding a long position. Entering into a contract to sell is commonly referred to as selling a contract or holding a short position.

Unlike when a Fund purchases or sells a security, no price would be paid or received by the Funds upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Upon entering into a futures contract, and to maintain the Funds' open positions in futures contracts, the Funds would be required to deposit with a custodian or futures broker in a segregated account in the name of the futures broker an amount of cash, U.S. government securities, suitable money market instruments, or other liquid securities, known as "initial margin." The margin required for a particular futures contract is set by the exchange on which the contract is traded, and may be significantly modified from time to time by the exchange during the term of the contract. Futures contracts are customarily purchased and sold on margins that may range upward from less than 5% of the value of the contract being traded.

If the price of an open futures contract changes (by increase in underlying instrument or index in the case of a sale or by decrease in the case of a purchase) so that the loss on the futures contract reaches a point at which the margin on deposit does not

satisfy margin requirements, the broker will require an increase in the margin. However, if the value of a position increases because of favorable price changes in the futures contract so that the margin deposit exceeds the required margin, the broker will pay the excess to the Funds.

These subsequent payments, called "variation margin," to and from the futures broker, are made on a daily basis as the price of the underlying assets fluctuate making the long and short positions in the futures contract more or less valuable, a process known as "marking to the market." The Funds expect to earn interest income on margin deposits.

Although certain futures contracts, by their terms, require actual future delivery of and payment for the underlying instruments, in practice most futures contracts are usually closed out before the delivery date. Closing out an open futures contract purchase or sale is effected by entering into an offsetting futures contract sale or purchase, respectively, for the same aggregate amount of the identical underlying instrument or index and the same delivery date. If the offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, the Funds realize a gain; if it is more, the Funds realize a loss. Conversely, if the offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, the Funds realize a gain; if it is less, the Funds realize a loss. The transaction costs must also be included in these calculations. There can be no assurance, however, that the Funds will be able to enter into an offsetting transaction with respect to a particular futures contract at a particular time. If the Funds are not able to enter into an offsetting transaction, the Funds will continue to be required to maintain the margin deposits on the futures contract.

For example, one contract in the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Index future is a contract to buy 25 Pounds Sterling multiplied by the level of the UK Financial Times 100 Share Index on a given future date. Settlement of a stock index futures contract may or may not be in the underlying instrument or index. If not in the underlying instrument or index, then settlement will be made in cash, equivalent over time to the difference between the contract price and the actual price of the underlying asset at the time the stock index futures contract expires.

#### Options on Futures Contracts

The Funds may purchase and sell options on the same types of futures in which they may invest. Options on futures are similar to options on underlying instruments except that options on futures give the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a futures contract (a long position if the option is a call and a short position if the option is a put), rather than to purchase or sell the futures contract, at a specified exercise price at any time during the period of the option. Upon exercise of the option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by the delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer's futures margin account which represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract, at exercise, exceeds (in the case of a call) or is less than (in the case of a put) the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. Purchasers of options who fail to exercise their options prior to the exercise date suffer a loss of the premium paid.



### *Regulation as a Commodity Pool Operator*

The adviser, on behalf of the Funds, has filed with the National Futures Association, a notice claiming an exclusion from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" under the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended, and the rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission promulgated thereunder, with respect to the Funds' operations. Accordingly, the adviser and Funds are not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator.

### Options On Securities

The Funds may purchase and write (*i.e.*, sell) put and call options. Such options may relate to particular securities or stock indices, and may or may not be listed on a domestic or foreign securities exchange and may or may not be issued by the Options Clearing Corporation. Options trading is a highly specialized activity that entails greater than ordinary investment risk. Options may be more volatile than the underlying instruments, and therefore, on a percentage basis, an investment in options may be subject to greater fluctuation than an investment in the underlying instruments themselves.

A call option for a particular security gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and the writer (seller) the obligation to sell, the underlying security at the stated exercise price at any time prior to the expiration of the option, regardless of the market price of the security. The premium paid to the writer is in consideration for undertaking the obligation under the option contract. A put option for a particular security gives the purchaser the right to sell the security at the stated exercise price at any time prior to the expiration date of the option, regardless of the market price of the security.

Stock index options are put options and call options on various stock indices. In most respects, they are identical to listed options on common stocks. The primary difference between stock options and index options occurs when index options are exercised. In the case of stock options, the underlying security, common stock, is delivered. However, upon the exercise of an index option, settlement does not occur by delivery of the securities comprising the index. The option holder who exercises the index option receives an amount of cash if the closing level of the stock index upon which the option is based is greater than, in the case of a call, or less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option. This amount of cash is equal to the difference between the closing price of the stock index and the exercise price of the option expressed in dollars times a specified multiple. A stock index fluctuates with changes in the market value of the stocks included in the index. For example, some stock index options are based on a broad market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 500® Index or the Value Line Composite Index or a narrower market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 100®. Indices may also be based on an industry or market segment, such as the AMEX Oil and Gas Index or the Computer and Business Equipment Index. Options on stock indices are currently traded on the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange, and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange.

A Fund's obligation to sell an instrument subject to a call option written by it, or to purchase an instrument subject to a put option written by it, may be terminated prior to the expiration date of the option by the Fund's execution of a closing purchase transaction, which is effected by purchasing on an exchange an option of the same series (*i.e.*, same underlying instrument, exercise price and expiration date) as the option previously written. A closing purchase transaction will ordinarily be effected to realize a profit on an outstanding option, to prevent an underlying instrument from being called, to permit the sale of the underlying instrument or to permit the writing of a new option containing different terms on such underlying instrument. The cost of such a liquidation purchase plus transactions costs may be greater than the premium received upon the original option, in which event the Funds will have incurred a loss in the transaction. There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular option. An option writer unable to effect a closing purchase transaction will not be able to sell the underlying instrument or liquidate the assets held in a segregated account, as described below, until the option expires or the optioned instrument is delivered upon exercise. In such circumstances, the writer will be subject to the risk of market decline or appreciation in the instrument during such period.

If an option purchased by a Fund expires unexercised, that Fund realizes a loss equal to the premium paid. If a Fund enters into a closing sale transaction on an option purchased by it, the Fund will realize a gain if the premium received by the Fund on the closing transaction is more than the premium paid to purchase the option or a loss if it is less. If an option written by a Fund expires on the stipulated expiration date or if the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction, it will realize a gain (or loss if the cost of a closing purchase transaction exceeds the net premium received when the option is sold). If an option written by a Fund is exercised, the proceeds of the sale will be increased by the net premium originally received and the Fund will realize a gain or loss.

*Certain Risks Regarding Options.* There are several risks associated with transactions in options. For example, there are 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 objectives. In addition, a liquid secondary market for particular options, whether traded over-the-counter or on an exchange, 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 or underlying securities or currencies; unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; the facilities of an exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading value; 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 the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

Successful use by the Funds of options on stock indices will be subject to the ability of the adviser to correctly predict movements in the directions of the stock market. This requires different skills and techniques than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. In addition, the Funds' ability to effectively hedge all or a portion of the securities in a portfolio, in anticipation of or during a market decline, through transactions in put options on stock indices, depends on the degree to which price movements in the underlying index correlate with the price movements of the securities held by the Funds. Inasmuch as the Funds' securities will not duplicate the components of an index, the correlation will not be perfect. Consequently, a Fund bears the risk that the prices of its securities being hedged will not move in the same amount as the prices of its put options on the stock indices. It is also possible that there may be a negative correlation between the index and the Funds' securities that would result in a loss on both such securities and the options on stock indices acquired by a Fund.

The hours of trading for options may not conform to the hours during which the underlying securities are traded. To the extent that the options markets close before the markets for the underlying securities, significant price and rate movements can take place in the underlying markets that cannot be reflected in the options markets. The purchase of options is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. The purchase of stock index options involves the risk that the premium and transaction costs paid by the Funds in purchasing an option will be lost as a result of unanticipated movements in prices of the securities comprising the stock index on which the option is based.

There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an options exchange will exist for any particular option, or at any particular time, and for some options no secondary market on an exchange or elsewhere may exist. If a Fund is unable to close out a call option on securities that it has written before the option is exercised, the Fund may be required to purchase the optioned securities in order to satisfy its obligation under the option to deliver such securities. If the Funds were unable to effect a closing sale transaction with respect to options on securities purchased, a Fund would have to exercise the option in order to realize any profit and would incur transaction costs upon the purchase and sale of the underlying securities.

### *Dealer Options*

The Funds may engage in transactions involving dealer options as well as exchange-traded options. Certain additional risks are specific to dealer options. While the Funds might look to a clearing corporation to exercise exchange-traded options, if the Funds were to purchase a dealer option it would need to rely on the dealer from which it purchased the option to perform if the option were exercised. Failure by the dealer to do so would result in the loss of the premium paid by the Funds as well as loss of the expected benefit of the transaction.

Exchange-traded options generally have a continuous liquid market while dealer options may not. Consequently, the Funds may generally be able to realize the value of

a dealer option it has purchased only by exercising or reselling the option to the dealer who issued it. Similarly, when the Funds write a dealer option, the Funds 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 Funds originally wrote the option. While the Funds will seek to enter into dealer options only with dealers who will agree to and which are expected to be capable of entering into closing transactions with the Funds, there can be no assurance that the Funds will at any time be able to liquidate a dealer option at a favorable price at any time prior to expiration. Unless the Funds, as a covered dealer call option writer, are able to effect a closing purchase transaction, they 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 Funds may be unable to liquidate a dealer option. With respect to options written by the Funds, the inability to enter into a closing transaction may result in material losses to the Funds. For example, because the Funds must maintain a secured position with respect to any call option on a security it writes, the Funds may not sell the assets that it has segregated to secure the position while it is obligated under the option. This requirement may impair the Funds' ability to sell portfolio securities at a time when such sale might be advantageous.

The Staff of the SEC has taken the position that purchased dealer options are illiquid securities. The Funds may treat the cover used for written dealer options as liquid if the dealer agrees that the Funds may repurchase the dealer option it has written for a maximum price to be calculated by a predetermined formula. In such cases, the dealer 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 Funds will treat dealer options as subject to the Funds' limitation on illiquid securities. If the SEC changes its position on the liquidity of dealer options, the Funds will change treatment of such instruments accordingly.

#### Spread Transactions

The Funds may purchase covered spread options from securities dealers. These covered spread options are not presently exchange-listed or exchange-traded. The purchase of a spread option gives the Funds the right to put securities that it owns at a fixed dollar spread or fixed yield spread in relationship to another security that the Funds does not own, but which is used as a benchmark. The risk to the Funds, in addition to the risks of dealer options described above, is the cost of the premium paid as well as any transaction costs. The purchase of spread options will be used to protect the Funds against adverse changes in prevailing credit quality spreads, *i.e.*, the yield spread between high quality and lower quality securities. This protection is provided only during the life of the spread options.

#### Swap Agreements

The Funds may enter into interest rate, index and currency exchange rate swap agreements in an attempt to obtain a particular desired return at a lower cost to the Funds than if they had invested directly in an instrument that yielded that desired return. Swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for

periods ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. In a standard "swap" transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of returns) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments. The gross returns to be exchanged or "swapped" between the parties are calculated with respect to a "notional amount," i.e., the return on or increase in value of a particular dollar amount invested at a particular interest rate, in a particular foreign currency, or in a "basket" of securities representing a particular index. The "notional amount" of the swap agreement is only a fictive basis on which to calculate the obligations the parties to a swap agreement have agreed to exchange. The Funds' obligations (or rights) under a swap agreement will generally be equal only to the amount to be paid or received under the agreement based on the relative values of the positions held by each party to the agreement (the "net amount"). The Funds' obligations under a swap agreement will be accrued daily (offset against any amounts owing to the Funds) and any accrued but unpaid net amounts owed to a swap counterparty will be covered by the maintenance of a segregated account consisting of cash, U.S. government securities, or other liquid securities, to avoid leveraging of the Funds' portfolio.

Whether the Funds' use of swap agreements enhance the Funds' total return will depend on the adviser's ability correctly to predict whether certain types of investments are likely to produce greater returns than other investments. Because they are two-party contracts and may have terms of greater than seven days, swap agreements may be considered to be illiquid. Moreover, the Funds bear the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a swap agreement in the event of the default or bankruptcy of a swap agreement counterparty. The Funds' adviser will cause the Funds to enter into swap agreements only with counterparties that it deem creditworthy. The swap market is a relatively new market and is largely unregulated. It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect the Funds' ability to terminate existing swap agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

Certain swap agreements are exempt from most provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") and, therefore, are not regulated as futures or commodity option transactions under the CEA, pursuant to regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC"). To qualify for this exemption, a swap agreement must be entered into by "eligible participants," which include the following, provided the participants' total assets exceed established levels: a bank or trust company, savings association or credit union, insurance company, investment company subject to regulation under the 1940 Act, commodity pool, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, organization, trust or other entity, employee benefit plan, governmental entity, broker-dealer, futures commission merchant, natural person, or regulated foreign person. To be eligible, natural persons and most other entities must have total assets exceeding \$10 million; commodity pools and employees benefit plans must have assets exceeding \$5 million. In addition, an eligible swap transaction must meet three conditions. First, the swap agreement may not be part of a fungible class of agreements that are standardized as to their material economic terms. Second, the creditworthiness of parties with actual or potential obligations under the swap agreement must be a material consideration in entering into or determining the terms of the swap agreement, including pricing, cost or credit enhancement terms. Third,

swap agreements may not be entered into and traded on or through a multilateral transaction execution facility.

#### *Certain Investment Techniques and Derivatives Risks.*

When the adviser of a Fund uses investment techniques such as margin, leverage and short sales, and forms of financial derivatives, such as options and futures, an investment in the Funds may be more volatile than investments in other mutual funds. Although the intention is to use such investment techniques and derivatives to minimize risk to the Funds, as well as for speculative purposes, there is the possibility that improper implementation of such techniques and derivative strategies or unusual market conditions could result in significant losses to the Funds. Derivatives are used to limit risk in the Funds or to enhance investment return and have a return tied to a formula based upon an interest rate, index, price of a security, or other measurement. Derivatives involve special risks, including: (1) the risk that interest rates, securities prices and currency markets will not move in the direction that a portfolio manager anticipates; (2) imperfect correlation between the price of derivative instruments and movements in the prices of the securities, interest rates or currencies being hedged; (3) the fact that skills needed to use these strategies are different than those needed to select portfolio securities; (4) the possible absence of a liquid secondary market for any particular instrument and possible exchange imposed price fluctuation limits, either of which may make it difficult or impossible to close out a position when desired; (5) the risk that adverse price movements in an instrument can result in a loss substantially greater than the Funds' initial investment in that instrument (in some cases, the potential loss is unlimited); (6) particularly in the case of privately-negotiated instruments, the risk that the counterparty will not perform its obligations, or that penalties could be incurred for positions held less than the required minimum holding period, which could leave the Funds worse off than if it had not entered into the position; and (7) the inability to close out certain hedged positions to avoid adverse tax consequences. In addition, the use of derivatives for non-hedging purposes (that is, to seek to increase total return) is considered a speculative practice and may present an even greater risk of loss than when used for hedging purposes.

#### FOREIGN SECURITIES

The Funds may invest in securities of foreign issuers and ETFs and other investment companies that hold a portfolio of foreign securities. Investing in securities of foreign companies and countries involves certain considerations and risks that are not typically associated with investing in U.S. government securities and securities of domestic companies. There may be less publicly available information about a foreign issuer than a domestic one, and foreign companies are not generally subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial standards and requirements comparable to those applicable to U.S. companies. There may also be less government supervision and regulation of foreign securities exchanges, brokers and listed companies than exists in the United States. Interest and dividends paid by foreign issuers may be subject to withholding and other foreign taxes, which may decrease the net return on such investments as compared to dividends and interest paid to the Funds by domestic companies or the U.S. government. There may be the possibility of expropriations,

seizure or nationalization of foreign deposits, confiscatory taxation, political, economic or social instability or diplomatic developments that could affect assets of the Funds held in foreign countries. Finally, the establishment of exchange controls or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions could adversely affect the payment of obligations.

To the extent the Funds' currency exchange transactions do not fully protect the Funds against adverse changes in currency exchange rates, decreases in the value of currencies of the foreign countries in which the Funds will invest relative to the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding decrease in the U.S. dollar value of the Funds' assets denominated in those currencies (and possibly a corresponding increase in the amount of securities required to be liquidated to meet distribution requirements). Conversely, increases in the value of currencies of the foreign countries in which the Funds invest relative to the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding increase in the U.S. dollar value of the Funds' assets (and possibly a corresponding decrease in the amount of securities to be liquidated).

*Emerging Markets Securities.* The Funds may purchase securities of emerging market issuers and ETFs and other closed end funds that invest in emerging market securities. Investing in emerging market securities imposes risks different from, or greater than, risks of investing in foreign developed countries. These risks include: smaller market capitalization of securities markets, which may suffer periods of relative illiquidity; significant price volatility; restrictions on foreign investment; possible repatriation of investment income and capital. In addition, foreign investors may be required to register the proceeds of sales; future economic or political crises could lead to price controls, forced mergers, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, seizure, nationalization, or creation of government monopolies. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience significant declines against the U.S. dollar, and devaluation may occur subsequent to investments in these currencies by the Funds. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries.

Additional risks of emerging markets securities may include: greater social, economic and political uncertainty and instability; more substantial governmental involvement in the economy; less governmental supervision and regulation; unavailability of currency hedging techniques; companies that are newly organized and small; differences in auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers; and less developed legal systems. In addition, emerging securities markets may have different clearance and settlement procedures, which may be unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions or otherwise make it difficult to engage in such transactions. Settlement problems may cause a Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities, hold a portion of its assets in cash pending investment, or be delayed in disposing of a portfolio security. Such a delay could result in possible liability to a purchaser of the security.

*Depositary Receipts.* The Funds may invest in sponsored and unsponsored American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), which are receipts issued by an American bank or trust company evidencing ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign issuer.

ADRs, in registered form, are designed for use in U.S. securities markets. Un-sponsored ADRs may be created without the participation of the foreign issuer. Holders of these ADRs generally bear all the costs of the ADR facility, whereas foreign issuers typically bear certain costs in a sponsored ADR. The bank or trust company depository of an un-sponsored ADR may be under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the foreign issuer or to pass through voting rights. Many of the risks described above regarding foreign securities apply to investments in ADRs.

### ILLIQUID AND RESTRICTED SECURITIES

Each Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities. Illiquid securities include securities subject to contractual or legal restrictions on resale (e.g., because they have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act")) and securities that are otherwise not readily marketable (e.g., because trading in the security is suspended or because market makers do not exist or will not entertain bids or offers). Securities that have not been registered under the Securities Act are referred to as private placements or restricted securities and are purchased directly from the issuer or in the secondary market. Foreign securities that are freely tradable in their principal markets are not considered to be illiquid.

Restricted and other illiquid securities may be subject to the potential for delays on resale and uncertainty in valuation. The Funds might be unable to dispose of illiquid securities promptly or at reasonable prices and might thereby experience difficulty in satisfying redemption requests from shareholders. The Funds might have to register restricted securities in order to dispose of them, resulting in additional expense and delay. Adverse market conditions could impede such a public offering of securities.

A large institutional market exists for certain securities that are not registered under the Securities Act, including foreign securities. The fact that there are contractual or legal restrictions on resale to the general public or to certain institutions may not be indicative of the liquidity of such investments. Rule 144A under the Securities Act allows such a broader institutional trading market for securities otherwise subject to restrictions on resale to the general public. Rule 144A establishes a "safe harbor" from the registration requirements of the Securities Act for resale of certain securities to qualified institutional buyers. Rule 144A has produced enhanced liquidity for many restricted securities, and market liquidity for such securities may continue to expand as a result of this regulation and the consequent existence of the PORTAL system, which is an automated system for the trading, clearance and settlement of unregistered securities of domestic and foreign issuers sponsored by NASDAQ.

Under guidelines adopted by the Trust's Board, the adviser of the Funds may determine that particular Rule 144A securities, and commercial paper issued in reliance on the private placement exemption from registration afforded by Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act, are liquid even though they are not registered. A determination of whether such a security is liquid or not is a question of fact. In making this determination, the adviser will consider, as it deems appropriate under the circumstances and among other factors: (1) the frequency of trades and quotes for the security; (2) the number of dealers



willing to purchase or sell the security; (3) the number of other potential purchasers of the security; (4) dealer undertakings to make a market in the security; (5) the nature of the security (e.g., debt or equity, date of maturity, terms of dividend or interest payments, and other material terms) and the nature of the marketplace trades (e.g., the time needed to dispose of the security, the method of soliciting offers, and the mechanics of transfer); and (6) the rating of the security and the financial condition and prospects of the issuer. In the case of commercial paper, the adviser will also determine that the paper (1) is not traded flat or in default as to principal and interest, and (2) is rated in one of the two highest rating categories by at least two Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (each an "NRSRO") or, if only one NRSRO rates the security, by that NRSRO, or, if the security is unrated, the adviser determines that it is of equivalent quality.

Rule 144A securities and Section 4(a)(2) commercial paper that have been deemed liquid as described above will continue to be monitored by the Funds' adviser to determine if the security is no longer liquid as the result of changed conditions. Investing in Rule 144A securities or Section 4(a)(2) commercial paper could have the effect of increasing the amount of the Funds' assets invested in illiquid securities if institutional buyers are unwilling to purchase such securities.

#### LENDING PORTFOLIO SECURITIES

For the purpose of achieving income, the Funds are authorized but not obligated to lend portfolio securities, provided (1) the loan is secured continuously by collateral consisting of U.S. Government securities or cash or cash equivalents (cash, U.S. Government securities, negotiable certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances or letters of credit) maintained on a daily mark-to-market basis in an amount at least equal to the current market value of the securities loaned, (2) the Funds may at any time call the loan and obtain the return of securities loaned, (3) the Funds will receive any interest or dividends received on the loaned securities, and (4) the aggregate value of the securities loaned will not at any time exceed one-third of the total assets of the Funds.

#### REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS

The Funds may enter into repurchase agreements. In a repurchase agreement, an investor (such as the Funds) purchases a security (known as the "underlying security") from a securities dealer or bank. Any such dealer or bank must be deemed creditworthy by the adviser. At that time, the bank or securities dealer agrees to repurchase the underlying security at a mutually agreed upon price on a designated future date. The repurchase price may be higher than the purchase price, the difference being income to the Funds, or the purchase and repurchase prices may be the same, with interest at an agreed upon rate due to the Funds on repurchase. In either case, the income to the Funds generally will be unrelated to the interest rate on the underlying securities. Repurchase agreements must be "fully collateralized," in that the market value of the underlying securities (including accrued interest) must at all times be equal to or greater than the repurchase price. Therefore, a repurchase agreement can be considered a loan collateralized by the underlying securities.

Repurchase agreements are generally for a short period of time, often less than a week, and will generally be used by the Funds to invest excess cash or as part of a temporary defensive strategy. Repurchase agreements that do not provide for payment within seven days will be treated as illiquid securities. In the event of a bankruptcy or other default by the seller of a repurchase agreement, the Funds could experience both delays in liquidating the underlying security and losses. These losses could result from: (a) possible decline in the value of the underlying security while a Fund is seeking to enforce its rights under the repurchase agreement; (b) possible reduced levels of income or lack of access to income during this period; and (c) expenses of enforcing its rights.

#### WHEN-ISSUED, FORWARD COMMITMENTS AND DELAYED SETTLEMENTS

The Funds may purchase and sell securities on a when-issued, forward commitment or delayed settlement basis. In this event, the Custodian (as defined under the section entitled "Custodian") will segregate liquid assets equal to the amount of the commitment in a separate account. Normally, the Custodian will set aside portfolio securities to satisfy a purchase commitment. In such a case, the Funds may be required subsequently to segregate additional assets in order to assure that the value of the account remains equal to the amount of the Funds' commitment. It may be expected that the Funds' net assets will fluctuate to a greater degree when it sets aside portfolio securities to cover such purchase commitments than when it sets aside cash.

The Funds do not intend to engage in these transactions for speculative purposes but only in furtherance of investment objectives. Because the Funds will segregate liquid assets to satisfy its purchase commitments in the manner described, the Funds' liquidity and the ability of the Funds' adviser to manage them may be affected in the event the Funds' forward commitments, commitments to purchase when-issued securities and delayed settlements ever exceeded 15% of the value of net assets.

The Funds will purchase securities on a when-issued, forward commitment or delayed settlement basis only with the intention of completing the transaction. If deemed advisable as a matter of investment strategy, however, the Funds may dispose of or renegotiate a commitment after it is entered into and may sell securities committed to purchase before those securities are delivered to the Funds on the settlement date. In these cases, the Funds may realize a taxable capital gain or loss. When the Funds engage in when-issued, forward commitment and delayed settlement transactions, they rely on the other party to consummate the trade. Failure of such party to do so may result in the Funds incurring a loss or missing an opportunity to obtain a price credited to be advantageous.

The market value of the securities underlying a when-issued purchase, forward commitment to purchase, or a delayed settlement and any subsequent fluctuations in market value is taken into account when determining the market value of the Funds starting on the day the Funds agree to purchase the securities. The Funds do not earn interest on the securities committed to purchase.

## INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

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

1. Borrowing Money. Each Fund will not borrow money, except: (a) from a bank, provided that immediately after such borrowing there is an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings of a Fund; or (b) from a bank or other persons for temporary purposes only, provided that such temporary borrowings are in an amount not exceeding 5% of a Fund's total assets at the time when the borrowing is made.

2. Senior Securities. Each Fund will not issue senior securities, except to the extent that such issuance or sale of a senior security by the Funds is permitted by the 1940 Act, as amended, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or interpretations of the SEC or its staff.

3. Underwriting. Each Fund will not act as underwriter of securities issued by other persons. This limitation is not applicable to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities (including restricted securities), a Fund may be deemed an underwriter under certain federal securities laws.

4. Real Estate. Each Fund will not purchase or sell real estate. This limitation is not applicable to investments in marketable securities that are secured by or represent interests in real estate. This limitation does not preclude a Fund from investing in mortgage-related securities or investing in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including real estate investment trusts).

5. Commodities. Each Fund will not purchase or sell commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other investments. This limitation does not preclude a Fund from purchasing or selling options or futures contracts, from investing in securities or other instruments backed by commodities or from investing in companies which are engaged in a commodities business or have a significant portion of their assets in commodities.

6. Loans. Each Fund will not make loans to other persons, except: (a) by loaning portfolio securities; (b) by engaging in repurchase agreements; or (c) by purchasing non-publicly offered debt securities. For purposes of this limitation, the term "loans" shall not include the purchase of a portion of an issue of publicly distributed bonds, debentures or other securities.

7. Concentration. Each Fund will not invest 25% or more of its total assets in a particular industry or group of industries and will not invest 25% or more of its total assets in any investment company that concentrates. The concentration limitation is not applicable

to investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities or repurchase agreements with respect thereto.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS OF THE FUNDS. THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS ARE DESIGNATED AS NON-FUNDAMENTAL AND MAY BE CHANGED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF SHAREHOLDERS.**

1. Pledging. Each Fund will not mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or in any manner transfer, as security for indebtedness, any assets of the Fund except as may be necessary in connection with borrowings described in limitation (1) above. Margin deposits, security interests, liens and collateral arrangements with respect to transactions involving options, futures contracts, short sales and other permitted investments and techniques are not deemed to be a mortgage, pledge or hypothecation of assets for purposes of this limitation.

2. Borrowing. Each Fund will not purchase any security while borrowings representing more than one third of its total assets are outstanding.

3. Margin Purchases. Each Fund will not purchase securities or evidences of interest thereon on "margin." This limitation is not applicable to short-term credit obtained by a Fund for the clearance of purchases and sales or redemption of securities, or to arrangements with respect to transactions involving options, futures contracts, short sales and other permitted investment techniques.

4. 80% Investment Policy. The Ranger Small Cap Fund and Ranger Micro Cap Fund have each adopted a policy to invest at least 80% of its assets (defined as net assets plus the amount of any borrowing for investment purposes) in particular name-related investments, as defined in its then current Prospectus. Shareholders of a Fund will be provided with at least 60 days' prior notice of any change in a Fund's 80% policy. The notice will be provided in a separate written document containing the following, or similar, statement, in boldface type: "Important Notice Regarding Change in Investment Policy." The statement will also appear on the envelope in which the notice is delivered, unless the notice is delivered separately from other communications to the shareholder.

If a restriction on a Fund's investments is adhered to at the time an investment is made, a subsequent change in the percentage of Fund assets invested in certain securities or other instruments, or change in average duration of a Fund's investment portfolio, resulting from changes in the value of a Fund's total assets, will not be considered a violation of the restriction; provided, however, that the asset coverage requirement applicable to borrowings shall be maintained in the manner contemplated by applicable law.

## **DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

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The Trust has adopted policies and procedures that govern the disclosure of the Funds' portfolio holdings. These policies and procedures are designed to ensure that such disclosure is in the best interests of Fund shareholders.

It is the Trust's policy to: (1) ensure that any disclosure of portfolio holdings information is in the best interest of Trust shareholders; (2) protect the confidentiality of portfolio holdings information; (3) have procedures in place to guard against personal trading based on the information; and (4) ensure that the disclosure of portfolio holdings information does not create conflicts between the interests of the Trust's shareholders and those of the Trust's affiliates.

Each Fund will disclose its portfolio holdings by mailing its annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders approximately two months after the end of the fiscal year and semi-annual period. The Funds may also disclose portfolio holdings by mailing a quarterly report to its shareholders. In addition, the Funds will disclose portfolio holdings reports on Forms N-CSR and Form N-PORT two months after the end of each quarter/semi-annual period.

The Funds may, from time to time, make available portfolio holdings information on the website at [www.rangerfunds.com](http://www.rangerfunds.com). If month-end or quarter-end portfolio holdings are posted to the website, they are expected to be approximately 15 days old and remain available until new information for the next month is posted.

The Funds may choose to make available portfolio holdings information to rating agencies such as Lipper, Morningstar or Bloomberg more frequently on a confidential basis.

Under limited circumstances, as described below, the Funds' portfolio holdings may be disclosed to, or known by, certain third parties in advance of their filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form N-CSR or Form N-PORT. In each case, a determination has been made that such advance disclosure is supported by a legitimate business purpose and that the recipient is subject to a duty to keep the information confidential.

- **The Adviser.** Personnel, including service providers and agents, of each Fund's adviser, including personnel responsible for managing a Fund's portfolio, may have full daily access to Fund portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in to provide management, administrative, and investment services to the Funds. As required for purposes of analyzing the impact of existing and future market changes on the prices, availability, demand and liquidity of such securities, as well as for the assistance of portfolio manager(s) in the trading of such securities, each adviser's personnel may also release and discuss certain portfolio holdings with various broker-dealers and research providers.
- **Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC** is the transfer agent, fund accountant and administrator for the Funds; therefore, its personnel have full daily access to each Fund's portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for them to provide the agreed-upon services for the Trust.

- **U.S. Bank, N.A.** is the custodian for the Funds; therefore, its personnel have full daily access to each Fund's portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for them to provide the agreed-upon services for the Trust.
- **Cohen & Company, Ltd.** is the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm; therefore, its personnel have access to each Fund's portfolio holdings in connection with auditing of each Fund's annual financial statements and financial highlights.
- **Thompson Hine LLP** is counsel to the Funds; therefore, its personnel have access to each Fund's portfolio holdings in connection with the review of each Fund's annual and semi-annual shareholder reports and SEC filings.

**Additions to List of Approved Recipients.** The Funds' Chief Compliance Officer is the person responsible, and whose prior approval is required, for any disclosure of the Funds' portfolio securities at any time or to any persons other than those described above. In such cases, the recipient must have a legitimate business need for the information and must be subject to a duty to keep the information confidential. There are no ongoing arrangements in place with respect to the disclosure of portfolio holdings. In no event shall the Funds, the adviser or any other party receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Funds' portfolio holdings.

**Compliance with Portfolio Holdings Disclosure Procedures.** The Funds' Chief Compliance Officer will report periodically to the Board with respect to compliance with the Funds' portfolio holdings disclosure procedures, and from time to time will provide the Board any updates to the portfolio holdings disclosure policies and procedures. There is no assurance that the Trust's policies on disclosure of portfolio holdings will protect the Funds from the potential misuse of holdings information by individuals or firms in possession of that information.

## MANAGEMENT

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The business of the Trust is managed under the direction of the Board in accordance with the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and the Trust's By-laws, which have been filed with the SEC and are available upon request. The Board consists of 3 individuals, 2 of whom are not "interested persons" (as defined under the 1940 Act) of the Trust and the adviser ("Independent Trustees"). Pursuant to the governing documents of the Trust, the Board shall elect officers including a President, a Secretary, a Chief Financial Officer and a Chief Compliance Officer. The Board retains the power to conduct, operate and carry on the business of the Trust and has the power to incur and pay any expenses, which, in the opinion of the Board, are necessary or incidental to carry out any of the Trust's purposes. The Trustees, officers, employees and agents of the Trust, when acting in such capacities, shall not be subject to any personal liability except for his or her own bad faith, willful misfeasance, gross negligence or reckless disregard of his or her duties. Following is a list of the Trustees and executive officers of the Trust and their principal occupation over the last five years.

*Board Leadership Structure.* The Trust is led by Jason Elliott, who has served as the Chairman, since the Funds' inception. Mr. Elliott is an interested person by virtue of his indirect interest in the Trust's investment advisers. The Trust does not have a Lead Independent Trustee, but governance guidelines provide that Independent Trustees will meet in executive session at each Board meeting and no less than quarterly. The Trust has an Audit Committee with a separate chair. The Trust does not have a Nominating Committee, but the Audit Committee performs the duties of a nominating committee when and if necessary. Under the Trust's Declaration of Trust, By-Laws and governance guidelines, the Chairman of the Board is generally responsible for (a) chairing board meetings, (b) setting the agendas for these meetings and (c) providing information to board members in advance of each board meeting and between board meetings. Generally, the Trust believes it best to have a single leader who is seen by shareholders, business partners and other stakeholders as providing strong leadership. The Trust believes that its Chairman, together with the Audit Committee and the full Board of Trustees, provide effective leadership that is in the best interests of the Trust, its Funds and each shareholder.

*Board Risk Oversight.* The Board is responsible for overseeing risk management, and the full Board regularly engages in discussions of risk management and receives compliance reports that inform its oversight of risk management from the Chief Compliance Officer at quarterly meetings and on an ad hoc basis, when and if necessary. The Audit Committee considers financial and reporting the risk within its area of responsibilities. Generally, the Board believes that its oversight of material risks is adequately maintained through the compliance-reporting chain where the Chief Compliance Officer is the primary recipient and communicator of such risk-related information.

*Trustee Qualifications.* Generally, the Trust believes that each Trustee is competent to serve because of their individual overall merits including (i) experience, (ii) qualifications, (iii) attributes and (iv) skills.

Mr. Curtis A. Hite has more than 10 years of experience in the technology sector, including experience as the CEO of two different technology consulting firms. Mr. Hite's background in consulting services and his leadership skills as an executive contribute to the Board's effectiveness in overseeing and managing the operations of the Trust.

Mr. Jason Christopher Elliott has more than 10 years of experience in the asset management industry. His experience as the manager of Ranger Capital Group, L.L.C. gives him extensive knowledge about the operations of the Trust's advisers, as well as an in-depth understanding of the Funds' strategies for investing and distribution. Mr. Elliott's background in asset management and his managerial skills contribute to the Board's oversight responsibilities regarding the adviser and other service providers, as well as general discussions regarding Trust operations and growth.

Larrie A. Weil has been Principal at Weil Capital Advisors since 2011. Prior to this, Mr. Weil had a successful career in the investment banking industry, which earned him a reputation for commercial integrity, exceptional interpersonal and mentoring skills, and a

deep understanding of the capital markets. As a problem-solving and strategic-thinking senior executive with major regional investment banking firms, Mr. Weil has been an effective leader in the roles of Chief Operating Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, Head of Corporate Finance, Head of Capital Markets, and Director of Equity Research. Mr. Weil has served as an independent director on corporate boards of public companies, as well as a board member of private companies. He has been a Chartered Financial Analyst since 1979 and is a lifetime member of the CFA Institute. Mr. Weil received his B.A. Degree in History from the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Weil's background in investment banking and experience on boards and in executive roles contribute to the Board's effectiveness.

The Trust does not believe any one factor is determinative in assessing a Trustee's qualifications, but that collective experience of each Trustee makes them highly qualified.

#### Independent Trustees

<b>Name, Address<sup>1</sup> and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position/Term of Office*</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships held by Trustee During Past Five Years</b>
Curtis A. Hite Year of Birth: 1969	Independent Trustee (since September 2011)	CEO, Improving Holdco, Inc. (since July 2018) and CEO, Improving Holdings LLC (2007- July 2018), a technology consulting company.	2	None
Larrie A. Weil Year of Birth: 1944	Independent Trustee, Since November 2020	Principal, Weil Capital Advisors (Since 2011).	2	None

\* The term of office for each Trustee and Officer listed above will continue indefinitely.

\*\* The term "Fund Complex" refers to Ranger Funds Investment Trust.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, the address of each Trustee and Officer is 1845 Woodall Rodgers Fwy, Suite 1000, Dallas, Texas 75201.

#### Interested Trustees and Officers

<b>Name, Address<sup>1</sup> and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position/Term of Office*</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships held by Trustee During Past Five Years</b>
Jason Christopher Elliott Year of Birth: 1970	Trustee, Chairman (since September 2011)	Manager, Ranger Capital Group, L.L.C. (2005-2022).	2	None
Kenneth Scott Canon Year of Birth: 1962	President (since September 2011)	President, Ranger Capital Group Holdings, L.P. (since 2001).	N/A	N/A
Wesley McDowell Year of Birth: 1985	Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer (since September 2021)	General Counsel, Ranger Capital Group Holdings, L.P. (8/2021-present); CCO, Ranger Capital Group Holdings, L.P.	N/A	N/A



		(1/2021-present); Associate Attorney, Ranger Capital Group Holdings, L.P. (4/2017-8/2021).		
Joseph W. Thompson Year of Birth: 1959	Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (2011-2021 and August 2023 – Present)	COO/CFO, Ranger Capital Group Holdings, L.P. (2002 – 8/2021).	N/A	N/A

\* The term of office for each Trustee and Officer listed above will continue indefinitely.

\*\* The term "Fund Complex" refers to Ranger Funds Investment Trust.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, the address of each Trustee and Officer is 1845 Woodall Rodgers Fwy, Suite 1000, Dallas, Texas 75201.

### Board Committees

*Audit Committee.* The Board has an Audit Committee that consists of all the Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust within the meaning of the 1940 Act. Larrie A. Weil has been designated as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined under Item 407 of Regulation S-K of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Audit Committee's responsibilities include: (i) recommending to the Board the selection, retention or termination of the Trust's independent auditors; (ii) reviewing with the independent auditors the scope, performance and anticipated cost of their audit; (iii) discussing with the independent auditors certain matters relating to the Trust's financial statements, including any adjustment to such financial statements recommended by such independent auditors, or any other results of any audit; (iv) reviewing on a periodic basis a formal written statement from the independent auditors with respect to their independence, discussing with the independent auditors any relationships or services disclosed in the statement that may impact the objectivity and independence of the Trust's independent auditors and recommending that the Board take appropriate action in response thereto to satisfy itself of the auditor's independence; and (v) considering the comments of the independent auditors and management's responses thereto with respect to the quality and adequacy of the Trust's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and internal controls. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to an Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee performs the duties of a nominating committee when and if necessary, including to consider nominees recommended by Trust shareholders. Nominations should be forwarded to the attention of the Secretary of the Trust at the address indicated above for officers. Any shareholder nomination must be submitted in compliance with all of the pertinent provisions of the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust and By-Laws. The Audit Committee met twice during the last fiscal year.

### Compensation

Each Trustee who is not affiliated with the Trust or the adviser will receive an annual fee of \$2,500, as well as reimbursement for any reasonable expenses incurred

attending the meetings. The "interested persons" who serve as Trustees of the Trust receive no compensation for their services as Trustees. None of the executive officers receive compensation from the Trust.

The table below details the amount of compensation the Trustees received from the Trust for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2023. The Trust does not have a bonus, profit sharing, pension or retirement plan.

<b>Name and Position</b>	<b>Aggregate Compensation From Trust *</b>	<b>Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses</b>	<b>Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement</b>	<b>Total Compensation From Trust and Fund Complex**</b>
Curtis A. Hite	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Jason C. Elliott	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Larrie A. Weil	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500

\* There are currently multiple series comprising the Trust. Trustees' fees are allocated equally to each Fund in the Trust that has commenced operations.

\*\*The term "Fund Complex" refers to Ranger Funds Investment Trust.

### Trustee Ownership

The following table indicates the dollar range of equity securities that each Trustee beneficially owned in the Funds as of December 31, 2022.

Name of Trustee	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Funds		Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies
	Small Cap	Micro Cap	
Curtis A. Hite	None	None	None
Jason C. Elliott	over \$100,000	over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Larrie A. Weil	None	None	None

### Management Ownership

As of November 5, 2023, the Trustees and officers of the Trust, as a group, directly owned 0.46% of the shares of the Ranger Small Cap Fund and 4.49% of the shares of Ranger Micro Cap Fund.

## CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS

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A control person is one who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of a company or acknowledged the existence of control. As of November 5, 2023, the R.E. Smith Sub S Trust is deemed to control the Ranger Small Cap Fund by virtue of its voting authority over the Fund shares held by it with respect to 32.79% of the value of the outstanding interests in the Fund. As of November 5, 2023, the Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. is deemed to control the Ranger Small Cap Fund by virtue of its voting authority over the Fund shares held by it with respect to 47.67% of the value of the outstanding interests in the Fund.

As of November 5, 2023, the following shareholders of record owned 5% or more of the outstanding shares of a Fund:

### Ranger Small Cap Fund – Institutional Class

<b>Name and Address of Owner</b>	<b>Percent (%) of Class</b>
R.E. Smith Sub S Trust as holder of record for various beneficiaries 1900 West Loop South, Suite 1050 Houston, TX 77027	32.79%
Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. 9601 E. Panorama Circle Englewood, CA 80112	47.6%
US Bank NA FBO Capinco 1555 N. Rivercenter Drive, Suite 302 Milwaukee, WI 53212	13.01%

Ranger Micro Cap Fund – Institutional Class

<b>Name and Address of Owner</b>	<b>Percent (%) of Class</b>
Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. 9601 E. Panorama Circle Englewood, CA 80112	17.06%
US Bank NA FBO Capinco 1555 N. Rivercenter Drive, Suite 302 Milwaukee, WI 53212	18.62%
Robert S. Doenges 1560 East 21 <sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 201 Tulsa, OK 74114	14.42%
State Street Bank and Trust Co. TTEE &/or Cust FBO ADP Access Product 1 Lincoln Street Boston, NJ 02111	17.02%
Jaspersen FLP I. Ltd General Partner BDB Inc. 8111 Preston Road, Suite 850 Dallas, TX 75225	12.83%
Ed McCullough, IRA 3827 Inwood Drive Houston, TX 77019	13.26%

## INVESTMENT ADVISERS

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### Ranger Small Cap Fund and Ranger Micro Cap Fund: Adviser

Ranger Investment Management, L.P., 8115 Preston Road, Suite 590, Dallas, Texas 75225, serves as investment adviser to the Ranger Small Cap Fund and Ranger Micro Cap Fund. The adviser provides investment management services to individuals and institutional investors such as pooled investment vehicles and governmental entities. As of July 31, 2023, the adviser had approximately \$1.74 billion in assets under management. Pursuant to an advisory agreement the adviser is entitled to receive, on a monthly basis, an annual advisory fee equal to 1.00% of the Ranger Small Cap Fund's average daily net assets and 1.25% of the Ranger Micro Cap Fund's average daily net assets. Pursuant to a purchase agreement dated November 17, 2020 Ranger Investment GP LLC ("Ranger GP") became the general partner of Ranger Investment Management, L.P. and members of its management team acquired a portion of the limited partnership interests in Ranger Investment Management, L.P. Ranger GP is controlled by its sole managing member, Mr. Doenges, with additional membership interests held by Joseph T. LaBate, Andrew F. Hill and Brown McCullough.

The adviser has entered into an expense limitation agreement with the Funds to reduce their fees and to reimburse expenses, at least until November 30, 2024, such that total annual Fund operating expenses after fee waiver and/or reimbursement (exclusive of any Rule 12b-1 distribution or shareholder servicing fees, taxes, interest, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses, or extraordinary expenses such as litigation) will not exceed 1.10% of the Ranger Small Cap Fund's average daily net assets and will not exceed 1.50% of the Ranger Micro Cap Fund's average daily net assets, subject to possible recoupment from the Fund in future years on a rolling three year basis (within the three years after the fees have been waived or reimbursed) if such recoupment can be achieved within the foregoing expense limits.

Under the advisory agreement, the adviser, under the supervision of the Board, agrees to invest the assets of each Fund in accordance with applicable law and the investment objective, policies and restrictions set forth in each Fund's current Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, and subject to such further limitations as the Trust may from time to time impose by written notice to the adviser. The adviser shall act as the investment adviser to the Fund and, as such shall (i) obtain and evaluate such information relating to the economy, industries, business, securities markets and securities as it may deem necessary or useful in discharging its responsibilities here under, (ii) formulate a continuing program for the investment of the assets of the Fund in a manner consistent with its investment objective, policies and restrictions, and (iii) determine from time to time securities to be purchased, sold, retained or lent by each Fund, and implement those decisions, including the selection of entities with or through which such purchases, sales or loans are to be effected; provided, that the adviser will place orders pursuant to its investment determinations either directly with the issuer or with a broker or dealer, and if with a broker or dealer, (a) will attempt to obtain the best price and execution of its orders, and (b) may nevertheless in its discretion purchase and

sell portfolio securities from and to brokers who provide the adviser with research, analysis, advice and similar services and pay such brokers in return a higher commission or spread than may be charged by other brokers. The adviser also provides the Fund with all necessary office facilities and all personnel of each Fund or the adviser performing services relating to research, statistical and investment activities. The advisory agreements for the Small Cap Fund and the Macro Cap Fund were approved by the Board, including by a majority of the Independent Trustees, at a meeting held on November 6, 2020 and were last renewed by the Board, including by a majority of the Independent Trustees, at a meeting held on September 25, 2023.

Expenses not expressly assumed by the adviser under the advisory agreement are paid by the Fund. Under the terms of the advisory agreement, the Fund, respectively, is responsible for the payment of the following expenses among others: (a) the fees payable to the adviser, (b) the fees and expenses of Trustees who are not affiliated persons of the adviser (c) the fees and certain expenses of the Custodian and Transfer and Dividend Disbursing Agent (as defined under the section entitled "Transfer Agent"), including the cost of maintaining certain required records of the Fund and of pricing the Fund's shares, (d) the charges and expenses of legal counsel and independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund, (e) brokerage commissions and any issue or transfer taxes chargeable to the Fund in connection with its securities transactions, (f) all taxes and corporate fees payable by the Fund to governmental agencies, (g) the fees of any trade association of which the Fund may be a member, (h) the cost of share certificates representing shares of the Fund, (i) the cost of fidelity and liability insurance, (j) the fees and expenses involved in registering and maintaining registration of the Fund and of its shares with the SEC, qualifying its shares under state securities laws, including the preparation and printing of the Fund's registration statements and prospectuses for such purposes, (k) all expenses of shareholders and Trustees' meetings (including travel expenses of Trustees and officers of the Fund who are directors, officers or employees of the adviser) and of preparing, printing and mailing reports, proxy statements and prospectuses to shareholders in the amount necessary for distribution to the shareholders and (l) litigation and indemnification expenses and other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business.

The advisory agreement was in effect for two (2) years initially and thereafter shall continue from year to year provided such continuance is approved at least annually by (a) a vote of the majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting specifically called for the purpose of voting on such approval and by (b) the majority vote of either all of the Trustees or the vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund. The advisory agreement may be terminated without penalty on 60 days' written notice by a vote of a majority of the Trustees or by the adviser, or by holders of a majority of that Trust's outstanding shares. The advisory agreement shall terminate automatically in the event of its assignment.

For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2020, the Small Cap Fund paid \$240,392 in advisory fees, of which \$77,216 were waived by the adviser. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2021, the Small Cap Fund paid \$337,266 in advisory fees, of which \$95,946 were waived by the adviser. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2022, the Small Cap Fund paid

\$378,019 in advisory fees, of which \$98,094 were waived by the adviser. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2023, the Small Cap Fund paid \$352,257 in advisory fees, of which \$119,206 were waived by the adviser.

For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2020, the Micro Cap Fund paid \$205,191 in advisory fees, \$39,526 of which was waived by the adviser. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2021, the Micro Cap Fund paid \$211,645 in advisory fees, \$51,302 of which was waived by the adviser. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2022, the Micro Cap Fund paid \$179,397 in advisory fees, of which \$52,962 were waived by the adviser. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2023, the Micro Cap Fund paid \$85,842 in advisory fees, of which \$52,870 were waived by the adviser.

### Codes of Ethics

The Trust, the adviser and the Distributor have adopted respective codes of ethics under Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act that govern the personal securities transactions of their board members, officers and employees who may have access to current trading information of the Trust. Under these codes of ethics, the Trustees are permitted to invest in securities that may also be purchased by the Funds. In addition, the Trust has adopted a separate code of ethics that applies only to the Trust's executive officers to ensure that these officers promote professional conduct in the practice of corporate governance and management. The purpose behind these guidelines is to promote (i) honest and ethical conduct, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional relationships; (ii) full, fair, accurate, timely, and understandable disclosure in reports and documents that a registrant files with, or submits to, the SEC and in other public communications made by the Fund; (iii) compliance with applicable governmental laws, rule and regulations; (iv) the prompt internal reporting of violations of this Code to an appropriate person or persons identified in the Code; and (v) accountability for adherence to the Code.

### Proxy Voting Policies

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

*More information.* Information regarding how a Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Fund during the most recent 12-month period ending June 30 will be available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund at 1-866-458-4744;

and (2) on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures are also available by calling 1-866-458-4744 and will be sent within three business days of receipt of a request.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES**

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### Rule 12b-1 Plan

The Trust has adopted a plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act (the "Plan"). The Plan permits Investor Class shares of a Fund to pay its distributor for certain distribution and promotion expenses related to marketing shares of the Fund. The amount payable annually by a Fund's Investor Class is 0.25% of its respective average daily net assets. The distributor uses all of the 12b-1 fees received for distribution expenses and does not retain any amounts for profit.

Under the Plan, the Trust may engage in any activities related to the distribution of each Fund's shares, including without limitation the following: (a) payments, including incentive compensation, to securities dealers or other financial intermediaries, financial institutions, investment advisers and others that are engaged in the sale of shares of the Fund, or that may be advising shareholders of the Trust regarding the purchase, sale or retention of shares of the Fund; (b) expenses of maintaining personnel (including personnel of organizations with which the Trust has entered into agreements related to this Plan) who engage in or support distribution of shares of the Fund; (c) costs of preparing, printing and distributing prospectuses and statements of additional information and reports of the Fund for recipients other than existing shareholders of the Fund; (d) costs of formulating and implementing marketing and promotional activities, including, but not limited to, sales seminars, direct mail promotions and television, radio, newspaper, magazine and other mass media advertising; (e) costs of preparing, printing and distributing sales literature; (f) costs of obtaining such information, analyses and reports with respect to marketing and promotional activities as the Trust may, from time to time, deem advisable; and (g) costs of implementing and operating this Plan.

The Trustees expect that the Plan could significantly enhance each Fund's ability to expand distribution of Investor Class shares of the Fund. It is also anticipated that an increase in the size of the Quest for Income and Growth Fund's Investor Class would produce economies of scale that benefit the shareholders, facilitate more efficient portfolio management, and assist the Fund in seeking to achieve its investment objective.

The Plan has been approved by the Trust's Board of Trustees, including a majority of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust and who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the Plan or any related agreement, by a vote cast in person. Continuation of the Plan and the related agreements must be approved by the Trustees annually, in the same manner, and the Plan or any related agreement may be terminated at any time without penalty by a majority of such independent Trustees or by a majority of the outstanding shares of a Fund. Any amendment increasing the maximum percentage payable under the Plan or other material change must be approved by a



majority of the outstanding Investor Class shares of a Fund, and all other material amendments to the Plan or any related agreement must be approved by a majority of the independent Trustees.

None of the Funds paid distribution fees pursuant to the Plan during the fiscal year ended July 31, 2023.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

The following table lists the number and types of accounts managed by the Portfolio Managers in addition to those of the Funds and assets under management in those accounts as of July 31, 2023:

Total Other Accounts Managed

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Company Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)	Pooled Investment Vehicle Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)	Other Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)
Conrad Doenges	2	\$172.61		143.80	18	\$1,359.28
Andrew Hill	2	\$172.61		\$143.80	18	\$1,359.28
Joseph LaBate	2	\$172.61		143.80	18	\$1,359.28
Brown McCullough	2	\$172.61	4	\$143.80	18	\$1,359.28

Other Accounts Managed Subject to Performance-Based Fees\*

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Company Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)	Pooled Investment Vehicle Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)	Other Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)
Conrad Doenges	0	\$0.00	1	\$124.39	0	\$0.00
Andrew Hill	0	\$0.00	1	\$124.39	0	\$0.00
Joseph LaBate	0	\$0.00	1	\$124.39	0	\$0.00
Brown McCullough	0	\$0.00	1	\$124.39	0	\$0.00

\*Assets included in this table are also included in the Total Other Accounts Managed table above.

### Conflicts of Interest.

As indicated in the table above, the portfolio managers may manage numerous accounts for multiple clients. These accounts may include registered investment companies, other types of pooled accounts (e.g., collective investment funds), and separate accounts (i.e., accounts managed on behalf of individuals or public or private institutions). The portfolio managers make investment decisions for each account based on the investment objectives and policies and other relevant investment considerations applicable to that portfolio.

When the portfolio managers have responsibility for managing more than one account, potential conflicts of interest may arise. Those conflicts could include preferential treatment of one account over others in terms of allocation of resources or of investment opportunities. For instance, the adviser may receive fees from certain accounts that are higher than the fee it receives from a Fund, or it may receive a performance-based fee on certain accounts. In those instances, the portfolio managers may have an incentive to favor the higher and/or performance-based fee accounts over the Fund. The adviser has adopted policies and procedures designed to address these potential material conflicts. For instance, the adviser utilizes a system for allocating investment opportunities among portfolios that is designed to provide a fair and equitable allocation.

As compensation, Mr. Doenges, Mr. Hill, Mr. LaBate, and Mr. McCullough receive a (i) salary, (ii) bonus based on assets under management, and (iii) limited partnership interest in Ranger Investment Management, L.P.

### Ownership.

Dollar Range of Equity Securities of the respective Funds held by the Fund's the portfolio manager(s) as of July 31, 2023.

Portfolio Manager	Small Cap	Micro Cap
Conrad Doenges	over \$100,000	over \$100,000
Andrew Hill	over \$100,000	\$0
Joseph LaBate	over \$100,000	over \$100,000
Brown McCullough	over \$100,000	over \$100,000

## **THE DISTRIBUTOR**

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Arbor Court Capital, LLC 8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite 400, Broadview Heights, OH 44147, (the "Distributor") serves as the principal underwriter and national distributor

for the shares of the Trust pursuant to a distribution agreement with the Trust (the "Distribution Agreement"). The Distributor is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and each state's securities laws and is a member of FINRA. The offering of the Funds' shares is continuous. The Distribution Agreement provides that the Distributor, as agent in connection with the distribution of Fund shares, will use commercially reasonable efforts to distribute the Funds' shares. Neither the Trust, nor its advisers are affiliated with the Distributor.

The Distribution Agreement provides that, unless sooner terminated, it will continue in effect for two years initially and thereafter shall continue from year to year, subject to annual approval by (a) the Board or a vote of a majority of the outstanding shares, and (b) by a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Trust or of the Distributor by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

The Distribution Agreement may be terminated by the Trust at any time, without the payment of any penalty, by vote of a majority of the entire Board of the Trust or by vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Funds on 60 days' written notice to the Distributor, or by the Distributor at any time, without the payment of any penalty, on 60 days' written notice to the Trust. The Distribution Agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment.

For its services under the Distribution Agreement the Distributor is entitled to receive compensation as set forth in the Distribution Agreement. The Distributor also receives reimbursement for certain third-party fees paid on behalf of the Funds.

Prior to November 10, 2019, Foreside Fund Services, LLC served as the principal underwriter and national distributor for the shares of the Trust pursuant to a distribution agreement with the Trust (the "Foreside Distribution Agreement"). For its services under the Foreside Distribution Agreement to the first Fund covered by the Foreside Distribution Agreement, Foreside received compensation of 0.25% of its average net assets.

Prior to November 10, 2017, Rafferty Capital Markets, LLC served as the principal underwriter and national distributor for the shares of the Trust pursuant to a distribution agreement with the Trust (the "Rafferty Distribution Agreement"). For its services under the Rafferty Distribution Agreement to the first Fund covered by the Rafferty Distribution Agreement, Rafferty received compensation of \$10,000 per annum until the first anniversary of the Agreement; \$12,000 per annum until the second anniversary of this Agreement and \$15,000 per annum until the third anniversary of the Rafferty Distribution Agreement. Rafferty received \$3,000 per annum for each additional Fund covered by the Rafferty Distribution Agreement. Rafferty also received reimbursement for certain third-party fees paid on behalf of the Funds.

## **ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIO BROKERAGE**

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Specific decisions to purchase or sell securities for the Funds are made by the portfolio managers, who are employees of a Fund's adviser. The adviser is authorized

by the Trustees to allocate the orders placed on behalf of the Funds to brokers or dealers who may, but need not, provide research or statistical material or other services to the Funds or the adviser for a Fund's use. Such allocation is to be in such amounts and proportions as the adviser may determine.

In selecting a broker or dealer to execute each particular transaction, the adviser will take into consideration execution capability and available liquidity; timing and size of particular orders; commission rates; responsiveness; trading experience; reputation, and integrity and fairness in resolving disputes. "Best execution" means the best overall qualitative execution, not necessarily the lowest possible commission cost. The adviser will obtain information as to the general level of commission rates being charged by the brokerage community from time to time and will periodically evaluate the overall reasonableness of brokerage commissions paid on client transactions by reference to such data. The adviser periodically reviews the past performance of the exchange members, brokers or dealers with whom it has been placing orders to execute Fund transactions in light of the factors discussed above.

Brokers or dealers executing a portfolio transaction on behalf of the Funds may receive a commission in excess of the amount of commission another broker or dealer would have charged for executing the transaction if the adviser determine in good faith that such commission is reasonable in relation to the value of brokerage, research and other services provided to the Funds. In allocating portfolio brokerage, the adviser may select brokers or dealers who also provide brokerage, research and other services to other accounts over which the adviser exercises investment discretion. Some of the services received as the result of Fund transactions may primarily benefit accounts other than the Funds, while services received as the result of portfolio transactions effected on behalf of those other accounts may primarily benefit the Funds.

For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2021, the Small Cap Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$23,491, of which \$8,437 were soft dollar costs, the Micro Cap Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$33,053, of which \$10,739 were soft dollar costs. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2022, the Small Cap Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$20,811, of which \$16,587 were soft dollar costs, the Micro Cap Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$14,208, of which \$9,780 were soft dollar costs. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2023, the Small Cap Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$34,167, of which \$15,820 were soft dollar costs, the Micro Cap Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$10,336, of which \$2,424 were soft dollar costs.

## **PORTFOLIO TURNOVER**

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Each Fund's portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by the monthly average of the value of the portfolio securities owned by the Fund during the fiscal year. The calculation excludes from both the numerator and the denominator securities with maturities at the time of acquisition of one year or less. High portfolio turnover involves correspondingly greater

brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, which will be borne directly by the Fund. A high rate of portfolio turnover (over 100%) may involve correspondingly greater transaction costs, which must be borne directly by the Fund and ultimately by its shareholders. High portfolio turnover may result in the realization of substantial net capital gains. To the extent short-term capital gains are realized, distributions attributable to such gains will be ordinary income for federal income tax purposes. Each Fund's portfolio turnover rate may vary, and certain of the Funds' turnover rates may exceed 100%.

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended 7-31-22</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended 7-31-23</b>
Ranger Micro Cap Fund	26.88%	35.70%
Ranger Small Cap Fund	31.38%	59.29%

## **OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS**

### Fund Services

Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC ("MSS"), 8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite 400, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147, acts as each Fund's transfer agent. MSS maintains the records of each shareholder's account, answers shareholders' inquiries concerning their accounts, processes purchases and redemptions of each Fund's shares, acts as dividend and distribution disbursing agent and performs other transfer agent and shareholder service functions. In addition, MSS provides each Fund with fund accounting services, which includes certain monthly reports, record-keeping and other management-related services.

For the services rendered to the Funds, each Fund pays MSS, during its first year of operations, an annual fee based on the average value of the Fund. These fees are:

from \$0 to \$25 million in average assets the annual fee is \$22,200;  
 from \$25 million to \$50 million in assets the annual fee is \$31,700;  
 from \$50 million to \$75 million in assets the annual fee is \$37,450;  
 from \$75 million to \$100 million in assets the annual fee is \$43,200;  
 from \$100 million to \$125 million in assets the annual fee is \$48,950;  
 from \$125 million to \$150 million in assets the annual fee is \$54,700;  
 from \$150 million to \$200 million in assets the annual fee is \$60,450;  
 from \$200 million up to \$300 million the annual fee is \$60,450 plus 0.01% of assets over \$200 million; and  
 over \$300 million in assets the annual fee is \$70,450 plus 0.005% of assets over \$300 million.

Each Fund will receive a discount ranging from 10-50% depending on the net assets of the Fund until the Fund reaches \$10 million in assets. For shareholder services, each Fund pays MSS an annual charge of \$11.50 per account with a minimum monthly charge of \$775. Each Fund also pays MSS a \$100 fee per state for registering the Fund's shares with the states' securities commissions. The Funds also pay MSS for any out-of-

pocket expenses. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2021, the Small Cap Fund paid \$41,371, the Micro Cap Fund paid \$31,861 for transfer agency and accounting fees. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2022, the Small Cap Fund paid \$41,628, the Micro Cap Fund paid \$31,955 for transfer agency and accounting fees. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2023, the Small Cap Fund paid \$41,304, the Micro Cap Fund paid \$21,383 for transfer agency and accounting fees.

### Custodian

U.S. Bank, N.A., 425 Walnut Street, 6th Floor, Cincinnati, OH 45202, (the "Custodian") serves as the custodian of each Fund's assets pursuant to a custody agreement by and between the Custodian and the Trust on behalf of the Funds. The Custodian's responsibilities include safeguarding and controlling the Funds' cash and securities, handling the receipt and delivery of securities, and collecting interest and dividends on the Funds' investments. Pursuant to the custody agreement, the Custodian also maintains original entry documents and books of record and general ledgers; posts cash receipts and disbursements; and records purchases and sales based upon communications from the adviser. The Funds may employ foreign sub-custodians that are approved by the Board to hold foreign assets.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SHARES**

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Each share of beneficial interest of the Trust has one vote in the election of Trustees. Cumulative voting is not authorized for the Trust. This means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting for the election of Trustees can elect 100% of the Trustees if they choose to do so, and, in that event, the holders of the remaining shares will be unable to elect any Trustees.

Shareholders of the Trust and any other future series of the Trust will vote in the aggregate and not by series except as otherwise required by law or when the Board determines that the matter to be voted upon affects only the interest of the shareholders of a particular series. Matters such as ratification of the independent registered public accounting firm and election of Trustees are not subject to separate voting requirements and may be acted upon by shareholders of the Trust voting without regard to series.

## **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROGRAM**

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The Trust 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 Trust's Program provides for the development of internal practices, procedures and controls, designation of anti-money laundering compliance officers, an ongoing training program and an independent audit function to determine the effectiveness of the Program.

Procedures to implement the Program include, but are not limited to, determining that the Funds' Transfer Agent has established proper anti-money laundering procedures, reported suspicious and/or fraudulent activity and a complete and thorough review of all new opening account applications. The Trust will not transact business with any person or entity whose identity cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

As a result of the Program, the Trust may be required to "freeze" the account of a shareholder if the shareholder appears to be involved in suspicious activity or if certain account information matches information on government lists of known terrorists or other suspicious persons, or the Trust may be required to transfer the account or proceeds of the account to a governmental agency.

## **PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES**

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### Purchase of Shares

Investors may only purchase Fund shares after receipt of a current prospectus and by filling out and submitting an application supplied by the Funds.

### Pricing of Shares

The price (net asset value) of the shares of each Fund is determined at the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open for business. For a description of the methods used to determine the net asset value, see "How Shares Are Priced" in the Prospectus.

Equity securities generally are valued by using market quotations but may be valued on the basis of prices furnished by a pricing service when the adviser believes such prices accurately reflect the fair market value of such securities. Securities that are traded on any stock exchange or on the NASDAQ over-the-counter market are generally valued by the pricing service at the last quoted sale price. Lacking a last sale price, an equity security is generally valued by the pricing service at its last bid price. When market quotations are not readily available, when the adviser determines that the market quotation or the price provided by the pricing service does not accurately reflect the current market value, or when restricted or illiquid securities are being valued, such securities are valued as determined in good faith by the adviser, in conformity with guidelines adopted by and subject to review of the Board of Trustees of the Trust.

The Trust expects that the holidays upon which the NYSE will be closed are as follows: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Juneteenth, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

### Purchase of Shares

Orders for shares received by a Fund in good order prior to the close of business on the NYSE on each day during such periods that the NYSE is open for trading are priced at NAV per share or offering price (NAV plus a sales charge, if applicable) computed as of the close of the regular session of trading on the NYSE. Orders received in good order after the close of the NYSE, or on a day it is not open for trading, are priced at the close of such NYSE on the next day on which it is open for trading at the next determined NAV or offering price per share.

### Redemption of Shares

Each Fund will redeem all or any portion of a shareholder's shares in the Fund when requested in accordance with the procedures set forth in the "Redemptions" section of the Prospectus. Under the 1940 Act, a shareholder's right to redeem shares and to receive payment therefore may be suspended at times:

- (a) when the NYSE is closed, other than customary weekend and holiday closings;
- (b) when trading on that exchange is restricted for any reason;
- (c) when an emergency exists as a result of which disposal by a Fund of securities owned by it is not reasonably practicable or it is not reasonably practicable for the Fund to fairly determine the value of its net assets, provided that applicable rules and regulations of the SEC (or any succeeding governmental authority) will govern as to whether the conditions prescribed in (b) or (c) exist; or
- (d) when the SEC by order permits a suspension of the right to redemption or a postponement of the date of payment on redemption.

In case of suspension of the right of redemption, payment of a redemption request will be made based on the NAV next determined after the termination of the suspension.

The redemption price is the NAV next determined after notice is received by a Fund for redemption of shares, minus the amount of any applicable redemption fee, if any. The proceeds received by the shareholder may be more or less than his/her cost of such shares, depending upon the NAV at the time of redemption and the difference should be treated by the shareholder as a capital gain or loss for federal and state income tax purposes.

The Funds may purchase shares of Underlying Funds which charge a redemption fee to shareholders (such as a Fund) that redeem shares of the Underlying Fund within a certain period of time (such as one year). The fee is payable to the Underlying Fund. Accordingly, if a Fund were to invest in an Underlying Fund and incur a redemption fee as a result of redeeming shares in such Underlying Fund, the Fund would bear such redemption fee. The Funds will not, however, invest in shares of an Underlying Fund that is sold with a contingent deferred sales load.

Supporting documents in addition to those listed under "Redemptions" in the Prospectus will be required from executors, administrators, Trustees, or if redemption is



requested by someone other than the shareholder of record. Such documents include, but are not restricted to, stock powers, Trust instruments, certificates of death, appointments as executor, certificates of corporate authority and waiver of tax required in some states when settling estates.

### Redemption Fee/Market Timing

The Funds discourage and does not accommodate market timing. Market timing is an investment strategy using frequent purchases and redemptions and/or exchanges in an attempt to profit from short term market movements. Market timing may result in dilution of the value of Fund shares held by long term shareholders, disrupt portfolio management, and increase Fund expenses for all shareholders. The Board of Trustees has adopted a policy requiring the Funds' transfer agent to monitor shareholder activity for purchases and redemptions and/or exchanges that reasonably indicate market timing activity. The transfer agent does not employ an objective standard and may not be able to identify all market timing activity or may misidentify certain trading activity as market timing activity.

While the Funds attempt to deter market timing, there is no assurance that they will be able to identify and eliminate all market timers. For example, certain accounts called "omnibus accounts" include multiple shareholders. Omnibus accounts typically provide a Fund with a net purchase or redemption request on any given day where purchasers of Fund shares and redeemers of Fund shares are netted against one another and the identity of individual purchasers and redeemers whose orders are aggregated is not known by the Fund. Brokers maintaining omnibus accounts with the Funds have agreed to provide shareholder transaction information, to the extent known to the broker, to the Funds upon request. If a Fund becomes aware of market timing in an omnibus account, it will work with the broker maintaining the omnibus account to identify the shareholder engaging in the market timing activity. Each Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order for any reason, including purchase orders that it does not think are in the best interest of the Fund or its shareholders or if the Fund thinks that trading is abusive.

## **TAX STATUS**

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The following discussion is general in nature and should not be regarded as an exhaustive presentation of all possible tax ramifications. All shareholders should consult a qualified tax advisor regarding their investment in the Funds.

The Funds have and intend to continue to qualify, and have elected to be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), which requires compliance with certain requirements concerning the sources of its income, diversification of its assets, and the amount and timing of its distributions to shareholders. Such qualification does not involve supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency or bureau. By so qualifying, each Fund should not be subject to federal income or excise tax on its net investment income or net capital gain, which are distributed to shareholders in

accordance with the applicable timing requirements. Net investment income and net capital gain of the Funds will be computed in accordance with Section 852 of the Code.

Net investment income is made up of dividends and interest less expenses. Net capital gain for a fiscal year is computed by taking into account any capital loss carryforward of each Fund. Capital losses incurred after January 31, 2011 may now be carried forward indefinitely and retain the character of the original loss. Under pre-enacted laws, capital losses could be carried forward to offset any capital gains for eight years, and carried forward as short-term capital, irrespective of the character of the original loss. Capital loss carry forwards are available to offset future realized capital gains. To the extent that these carry forwards are used to offset future capital gains it is probable that the amount offset will not be distributed to shareholders.

Each Fund intends to distribute all of its net investment income, any excess of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses, and any excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses in accordance with the timing requirements imposed by the Code and therefore should not be required to pay any federal income or excise taxes. Distributions of net investment income and net capital gain will be made after the end of each fiscal year, and no later than December 31 of each year. Both types of distributions will be in shares of a Fund unless a shareholder elects to receive cash.

To be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code, the Funds must also (a) derive at least 90% of gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, net income from certain publicly traded partnerships and gains from the sale or other disposition of securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to the business of investing in such securities or currencies, and (b) diversify its holding so that, at the end of each fiscal quarter, (i) at least 50% of the market value of each Fund's assets is represented by cash, U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities (for purposes of this calculation, generally limited in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the market value of a Fund's assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer) and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its assets is invested in the securities of (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies) any one issuer, two or more issuers which a Fund controls and which are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or the securities of certain publicly traded partnerships.

If a Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M in any fiscal year, it will be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes. As such the Fund would be required to pay income taxes on its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, at the rates generally applicable to corporations. Shareholders of a Fund generally would not be liable for income tax on the Fund's net investment income or net realized capital gains in their individual capacities. Distributions to shareholders, whether from a Fund's net investment income or net realized capital

gains, would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of current or accumulated earnings and profits of the Fund.

Each Fund is subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on certain undistributed amounts of ordinary income and capital gain under a prescribed formula contained in Section 4982 of the Code. The formula requires payment to shareholders during a calendar year of distributions representing at least 98% of a Fund's ordinary income for the calendar year and at least 98.2% of its capital gain net income (i.e., the excess of its capital gains over capital losses) realized during the one-year period ending October 31 during such year plus 100% of any income that was neither distributed nor taxed to a Fund during the preceding calendar year. Under ordinary circumstances, each Fund expects to time its distributions so as to avoid liability for this tax.

The following discussion of tax consequences is for the general information of shareholders that are subject to tax. Shareholders that are IRAs or other qualified retirement plans are exempt from income taxation under the Code.

Distributions of taxable net investment income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. In most cases the Funds will hold shares in Underlying Funds for less than 12 months, such that its sales of such shares from time to time will not qualify as long-term capital gains for those investors who hold shares of the Funds in taxable accounts.

Distributions of net capital gain ("capital gain dividends") generally are taxable to shareholders as short-term capital gain; regardless of the length of time the shares of the Trust have been held by such shareholders.

Redemption of Fund shares by a shareholder will result in the recognition of taxable gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the shareholder's tax basis in his or her Fund shares. Such gain or loss is treated as a capital gain or loss if the shares are held as capital assets. However, any loss realized upon the redemption of shares within six months from the date of their purchase will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as capital gain dividends during such six-month period. All or a portion of any loss realized upon the redemption of shares may be disallowed to the extent shares are purchased (including shares acquired by means of reinvested dividends) within 30 days before or after such redemption.

Distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain will be taxable as described above, whether received in additional cash or shares. Shareholders electing to reinvest distributions in the form of additional shares will have a cost basis for federal income tax purposes in each share so received equal to the net asset value of a share on the reinvestment date.

All distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain, whether received in shares or in cash, must be reported by each taxable shareholder on his or her federal income tax return. Dividends or distributions declared in October, November or

December as of a record date in such a month, if any, will be deemed to have been received by shareholders on December 31, if paid during January of the following year. Redemptions of shares may result in tax consequences (gain or loss) to the shareholder and are also subject to these reporting requirements.

Under the Code, the Funds will be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service all distributions of taxable income and capital gains as well as gross proceeds from the redemption or exchange of Fund shares, except in the case of certain exempt shareholders. Under the backup withholding provisions of Section 3406 of the Code, distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain and proceeds from the redemption or exchange of the shares of a regulated investment company may be subject to withholding of federal income tax in the case of non-exempt shareholders who fail to furnish the investment company with their taxpayer identification numbers and with required certifications regarding their status under the federal income tax law, or if a Fund is notified by the IRS or a broker that withholding is required due to an incorrect TIN or a previous failure to report taxable interest or dividends. If the withholding provisions are applicable, any such distributions and proceeds, whether taken in cash or reinvested in additional shares, will be reduced by the amounts required to be withheld.

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, an additional 3.8% Medicare tax generally will be imposed on certain net investment income (including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from the Fund and net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of Fund shares) of U.S. individuals, estates and trusts to the extent that any such person's "modified adjusted gross income" (in the case of an individual) or "adjusted gross income" (in the case of an estate or trust) exceeds certain threshold amounts. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors about the application of federal, state, local and foreign tax law in light of their particular situation. Should additional series, or funds, be created by the Trustees, the Fund would be treated as a separate tax entity for federal tax purposes.

Payments to a shareholder that is either a foreign financial institution ("FFI") or a non-financial foreign entity ("NFFE") within the meaning of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") may be subject to a generally nonrefundable 30% withholding tax on: (a) income dividends paid by the Fund after June 30, 2014 and (b) certain capital gain distributions and the proceeds arising from the sale of Fund shares paid by the Fund after December 31, 2017. FATCA withholding tax generally can be avoided: (a) by an FFI, subject to any applicable intergovernmental agreement or other exemption, if it enters into a valid agreement with the IRS to, among other requirements, report required information about certain direct and indirect ownership of foreign financial accounts held by U.S. persons with the FFI and (b) by an NFFE, if it: (i) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (ii) if it does have such owners, reports information relating to them. The Fund may disclose the information that it receives from its shareholders to the IRS, non-U.S. taxing authorities or other parties as necessary to comply with FATCA. Withholding also may be required if a foreign entity that is a shareholder of the Fund fails to provide the Fund with appropriate certifications or other documentation concerning its status under FATCA.

## Options, Futures, Forward Contracts and Swap Agreements

To the extent such investments are permissible for the Funds, the Funds' transactions in options, futures contracts, hedging transactions, forward contracts, straddles and foreign currencies will be subject to special tax rules (including mark-to-market, constructive sale, straddle, wash sale and short sale rules), the effect of which may be to accelerate income to the Funds, defer losses to the Funds, cause adjustments in the holding periods of the Funds' securities, convert long-term capital gains into short-term capital gains and convert short-term capital losses into long-term capital losses. These rules could therefore affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders.

To the extent such investments are permissible, certain of the Funds' hedging activities (including its transactions, if any, in foreign currencies or foreign currency-denominated instruments) are likely to produce a difference between its book income and its taxable income. If a Fund's book income exceeds its taxable income, the distribution (if any) of such excess book income will be treated as (i) a dividend to the extent of the Fund's remaining earnings and profits (including earnings and profits arising from tax-exempt income), (ii) thereafter, as a return of capital to the extent of the recipient's basis in the shares, and (iii) thereafter, as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset. If a Fund's book income is less than taxable income, the Fund could be required to make distributions exceeding book income to qualify as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment.

## Passive Foreign Investment Companies

Investment by the Funds in certain "passive foreign investment companies" ("PFICs") could subject the Funds to a U.S. federal income tax (including interest charges) on distributions received from the company or on proceeds received from the disposition of shares in the company, which tax cannot be eliminated by making distributions to Fund shareholders. However, the Funds may elect to treat a PFIC as a "qualified electing fund" ("QEF"), in which case the Funds will be required to include its share of the company's income and net capital gains annually, regardless of whether it receives any distribution from the company.

The Funds also may make an election to mark the gains (and to a limited extent losses) in such holdings "to the market" as though it had sold and repurchased holdings in those PFICs on the last day of the Funds' taxable year. Such gains and losses are treated as ordinary income and loss. The QEF and mark-to-market elections may accelerate the recognition of income (without the receipt of cash) and increase the amount required to be distributed for the Funds to avoid taxation. Making either of these elections therefore may require a Fund to liquidate other investments (including when it is not advantageous to do so) to meet its distribution requirement, which also may accelerate the recognition of gain and affect the Funds' total return.

## Foreign Currency Transactions

The Funds may enter into foreign currency futures contracts and forward currency contracts to hedge or seek returns. A foreign currency futures contract is a standardized contract for the future delivery of a specified amount of a foreign currency, at a future date at a price set at the time of the contract. A forward currency contract is an obligation to purchase or sell a currency against another currency at a future date at a price agreed upon by the parties. The Funds may either accept or make delivery of the currency at the maturity of the contract or, prior to maturity, enter into a closing transaction involving the purchase or sale of an offsetting contract. The Funds will engage in foreign currency futures contracts and forward currency transactions in anticipation of or to protect itself against fluctuations in currency exchange rates or as an investment strategy. Forward currency contracts are not traded on regulated commodities exchanges. Any Fund entering into a forward currency contract incurs the risk of default by the counter party to the transaction.

There can be no assurance that a liquid market will exist when a Fund seeks to close out a foreign currency futures or forward currency position, in which case a Fund might not be able to effect a closing purchase transaction at any particular time. While these contracts tend to minimize the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, at the same time, they tend to limit any potential gain which might result should the value of such currency increase.

Although the Funds value assets daily in U.S. dollars, it does not intend to physically convert its holdings of foreign currencies into U.S. dollars on a daily basis. The Funds will do so from time to time and investors should be aware of the costs of currency conversion. Although foreign exchange dealers do not charge a fee for conversion, they do realize a profit based on the difference (the "spread") between the prices at which they are buying and selling various currencies. Thus, a dealer may offer to sell a foreign currency to a Fund at one rate, while offering a lesser rate of exchange should the Fund desire to resell that currency to the dealer.

### Options on Foreign Currencies

A Fund may invest in call and put options on domestic and foreign securities and foreign currencies. A Fund may purchase and write call and put options on foreign currencies as a hedge against changes in the value of the U.S. dollar (or another currency) in relation to a foreign currency in which portfolio securities of a Fund may be denominated, or as an investment strategy. A call option on a foreign currency gives the purchaser the right to buy, and a put option the right to sell, a certain amount of foreign currency at a specified price during a fixed period of time. A Fund may enter into closing sale transactions with respect to such options, exercise them, or permit them to expire.

A Fund may employ hedging strategies with options on currencies before the Fund purchases a foreign security denominated in the hedged currency, during the period the Fund holds the foreign security, or between the day the foreign security is purchased or sold and the date on which payment therefore is made or received. Hedging against a

change in the value of a foreign currency in the foregoing manner does not eliminate fluctuations in the prices of portfolio securities or prevent losses if the prices of such securities decline. Furthermore, such hedging transactions reduce or preclude the opportunity for gain if the value of the hedged currency should increase relative to the U.S. dollar. The Funds will purchase options on foreign currencies for hedging purposes and may also speculate in options on foreign currencies. The Funds may invest in options on foreign currencies which are either listed on a domestic securities exchange or traded on a recognized foreign exchange.

An option position on a foreign currency may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for an option of the same series. Although the Funds will typically purchase exchange-traded options, there is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an exchange will exist for any particular option, or at any particular time. In the event no liquid secondary market exists, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options. If a Fund cannot close out an exchange-traded option which it holds, it would have to exercise its option in order to realize any profit and would incur transactional costs on the sale of the underlying assets.

### Foreign Taxation

Income received by the Funds from sources within foreign countries may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries. Tax treaties and conventions between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes. If more than 50% of the value of a Fund's total assets at the close of its taxable year consists of securities of foreign corporations, the Fund may be able to elect to "pass through" to its shareholders the amount of eligible foreign income and similar taxes paid by the Fund. If this election is made, a shareholder generally subject to tax will be required to include in gross income (in addition to taxable dividends actually received) his or her pro rata share of the foreign taxes paid by the Fund, and may be entitled either to deduct (as an itemized deduction) his or her pro rata share of foreign taxes in computing his or her taxable income or to use it as a foreign tax credit against his or her U.S. federal income tax liability, subject to certain limitations. In particular, a shareholder must hold his or her shares (without protection from risk of loss) on the ex-dividend date and for at least 15 more days during the 30-day period surrounding the ex-dividend date to be eligible to claim a foreign tax credit with respect to a gain dividend. No deduction for foreign taxes may be claimed by a shareholder who does not itemize deductions. Each shareholder will be notified within 60 days after the close of a Fund's taxable year whether the foreign taxes paid by the Fund will "pass through" for that year.

Generally, a credit for foreign taxes is subject to the limitation that it may not exceed the shareholder's U.S. tax attributable to his or her total foreign source taxable income. For this purpose, if the pass-through election is made, the source of a Fund's income will flow through to shareholders of the Fund. With respect to the Funds, gains from the sale of securities will be treated as derived from U.S. sources and certain currency fluctuation gains, including fluctuation gains from foreign currency-denominated debt securities, receivables and payables will be treated as ordinary income derived from U.S. sources. The limitation on the foreign tax credit is applied separately to foreign

source passive income, and to certain other types of income. A shareholder may be unable to claim a credit for the full amount of his or her proportionate share of the foreign taxes paid by the Funds. The foreign tax credit can be used to offset only 90% of the revised alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations and individuals and foreign taxes generally are not deductible in computing alternative minimum taxable income.

#### Original Issue Discount and Pay-In-Kind Securities

Current federal tax law requires the holder of a U.S. Treasury or other fixed income zero coupon security to accrue as income each year a portion of the discount at which the security was purchased, even though the holder receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year. In addition, pay-in-kind securities will give rise to income, which is required to be distributed and is taxable even though a Fund holding the security receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year.

Some of the debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Funds may be treated as debt securities that are issued originally at a discount. Generally, the amount of the original issue discount ("OID") is treated as interest income and is included in income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. A portion of the OID includable in income with respect to certain high-yield corporate debt securities (including certain pay-in-kind securities) may be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Some of the debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Funds in the secondary market may be treated as having market discount. Generally, any gain recognized on the disposition of, and any partial payment of principal on, a debt security having market discount is treated as ordinary income to the extent the gain, or principal payment, does not exceed the "accrued market discount" on such debt security. Market discount generally accrues in equal daily installments. The Funds may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt securities having market discount, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

Some debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of one year or less from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by a Fund may be treated as having acquisition discount, or OID in the case of certain types of debt securities. Generally, the Funds will be required to include the acquisition discount, or OID, in income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. The Funds may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt securities having acquisition discount, or OID, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

If a Fund holds the foregoing kinds of securities, it may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount that is greater than the total amount of cash interest the Fund actually received. Such distributions may be made from the cash assets of a Fund or by liquidation of portfolio securities, if necessary (including when it is not



advantageous to do so). A Fund may realize gains or losses from such liquidations. In the event a Fund realizes net capital gains from such transactions, its shareholders may receive a larger capital gain distribution, if any, than they would in the absence of such transactions.

Shareholders of a Fund may be subject to state and local taxes on distributions received from a Fund and on redemptions of the Fund's shares. A brief explanation of the form and character of the distribution accompany each distribution. In January of each year, each Fund issues to each shareholder a statement of the federal income tax status of all distributions. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors about the application of federal, state and local and foreign tax law in light of their particular situation.

### Commodity-Related Investments and Risk Considerations

The Funds may engage in commodity-related investment strategies through commodity futures, options on commodity futures, options on commodities, commodity-linked swaps, commodity-linked structured notes, commodity-linked ETFs and ETNs. Market prices of commodities tend to be highly volatile and may fluctuate rapidly based on numerous factors, including: changes in supply and demand relationships, governmental programs and policies, national and international monetary, trade, political and economic events, wars and acts of terror, changes in interest and exchange rates, speculation and trading activities in commodities and related contracts, weather, and agricultural, trade, fiscal and exchange control policies. The price volatility of each commodity also affects the value of the futures and forward contracts related to that commodity and therefore its price at any such time. The price of any one commodity may be correlated to a greater or lesser degree with any other commodity and factors affecting the general supply and demand as well as the prices of other commodities may affect the particular commodity in question. The commodities markets are subject to temporary distortions or other disruptions due to various factors, including the lack of liquidity in the markets, the participation of speculators and government regulation and intervention. Many commodities are also highly cyclical. These factors, some of which are specific to the nature of each such commodity, may affect the value of an underlying commodity in varying ways, and different factors may cause the values of different commodities or commodity futures contracts referenced by one or more underlying commodity to move in inconsistent directions at inconsistent rates. It is not possible to predict the aggregate effect of all or any combination of these factors.

## **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

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Cohen & Company, Ltd., located at 342 N. Water St., Suite 830, Milwaukee, WI 53202, serves as the Funds' Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm providing services including audit of annual financial statements and financial highlights. Prior to the fiscal year ending July 31, 2023, the Fund was audited by another independent registered public accounting firm.

## **LEGAL COUNSEL**

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Thompson Hine LLP, 41 South High Street, Suite 1700, Columbus, Ohio 43215 serves as the Trust's legal counsel.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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The Funds' audited Financial Statements and financial highlights, included in the Funds' [Annual Report](#) dated July 31, 2023, including the notes thereto and the report of Cohen & Company Ltd., the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm thereon, are incorporated by reference into this Statement of Additional Information. You can obtain the Annual Report and Semi-Annual Report without charge at [www.rangerfunds.com](http://www.rangerfunds.com) or by calling the Funds at 1-866-458-4744.

## APPENDIX A

### PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES FOR

#### Ranger Investment Management, L.P.

## PROXY VOTING

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### Introduction

Rule 206(4)-6 under the Advisers Act requires every investment adviser to adopt and implement written policies and procedures, reasonably designed to ensure that the adviser votes proxies in the best interest of its investors. The Rule further requires the adviser to provide a concise summary of the adviser's proxy voting process and offer to provide copies of the complete proxy voting policy and procedures to investors upon request. Lastly, the Rule requires that the adviser disclose to investors how they may obtain information on how the adviser voted their proxies.

The Firm votes proxies for many of its investors, and therefore has adopted and implemented this Proxy Voting Policy and Procedures. Any questions about this document should be directed to the CCO.

The Firm views seriously its responsibility to exercise voting authority over securities which form part of its investors' portfolios. Proxy statements increasingly contain controversial issues involving shareholder rights and corporate governance, among others, which deserve careful review and consideration.

It is the Firm's policy to review each proxy statement on an individual basis and to base its voting decision exclusively on its judgment of what will best serve the financial interests of the beneficial owners of the security. These beneficial owners include members of pooled investment funds for which the Firm acts as investment manager or general partner, and investor accounts for which the Firm acts as investment manager.

The Firm has engaged the services of MSCI and ISS Governance Services ("ISS") to assist it with administration of the proxy voting process. In addition to general administration assistance, ISS services also include proxy voting recommendations based upon research and guidelines published by ISS. However, the Firm's proxy voting policies and case-by-case evaluation of each issue may result in proxy votes on certain issues that differ from ISS recommendations.

A number of recurring issues can be identified with respect to the governance of a company and actions proposed by that company's board. The Firm follows internal Proxy Voting procedures (described below) that allow the Firm to vote on these issues in a uniform manner. Proxies are generally considered by the investment team members responsible for monitoring the security being voted. That person will cast his votes in accordance with this Proxy Voting Policy and procedures. Any non-routine matters are referred to the Portfolio Manager.

The Firm, in exercising its voting powers, also has regard to the statutes and rules applicable to registered investment advisors. The manner in which votes are cast by the Firm is reported to investors by delivery of this Proxy Voting Policy. In addition, the Firm will provide, upon request, a list of how each proxy was voted for an investor.

### Key Proxy Voting Issues:

- **Election of Directors and Appointment of Accountants**

The Firm will vote for management's proposed directors in uncontested elections. For contested elections, the Firm votes for candidates it believes best serve shareholders' interests. The Firm votes to ratify management's appointment of independent auditors.

- **Increase Authorized Capital**

The Firm votes for these proposals in the absence of unusual circumstances. There are many business reasons for companies to increase their authorized capital. The additional shares often are intended to be used for general corporate purposes, to raise new investment capital for acquisitions, stock splits, recapitalizations or debt restructurings.

- **Preference Shares**

The Firm will carefully review proposals to authorize new issues of preference shares or increase the shares authorized for existing issues. The Firm recognizes that new issues of authorized preference shares can provide flexibility to corporate issuers as the shares can be issued quickly without further shareholder approval in connection with financings or acquisitions. Therefore, generally the Firm will not oppose proposals to authorize the issuance of preferred shares. The Firm will, however, scrutinize any such proposals which give the Board the authority to assign disproportionate voting rights at the time the shares are issued.

- **Dual Capitalization, Other Preferential Voting Rights**

The Firm will generally vote against proposals to divide share capital into two or more classes or to otherwise create classes of shares with unequal voting and dividend rights. The Firm is concerned that the effect of these proposals, over time, is to consolidate voting power in the hands of relatively few insiders, disproportionate to their percentage ownership of the company's share capital as a whole. This concentration of voting power can effectively block any takeover which management opposes and dilute accountability to shareholders.

- **Merger/Acquisition**

All proposals are reviewed on a case by case basis by taking the following into consideration:

- whether the proposed acquisition price represents fair value;
- whether shareholders could realize greater value through other means; and
- whether all shareholders receive equal/fair treatment under the merger acquisition terms.

- **Restructuring/Recapitalization**

All proposals are reviewed on a case by case basis taking the following into consideration:

- whether the proposed restructuring/recapitalization is the best means of enhancing shareholder value; and
- whether the company's longer-term prospects will be positively affected by the proposal.

- **Provide Director Indemnification**

The Firm will vote for proposals to provide corporate indemnification for directors if consistent with all relevant laws. Corporations face great obstacles in attracting and retaining capable directors. The Firm believes such proposals will contribute to corporations' ability to attract qualified individuals and will enhance the stability of corporate management.

- **Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”)**

Ranger Investment Management, LP reviews each proxy statement on an individual basis and recognize that ESG factors could present material risk to portfolio investments. The designated Investment Team member bases voting decisions exclusively on his or her judgment of what will best serve the financial interests of the beneficial owners of the security.

ISS provides logistical support as well as advisory services. We utilize two ISS policies as a reference tool in proxy voting research: the ISS Benchmark Policy and the ISS Sustainability Policy. On most matters of corporate governance, such as board independence, director tenure, or CEO/Chairman structure, the two policies are in alignment. Both policies offer guidance based on a commitment to create and preserve economic value and to advance principles of good corporate governance.

On matters of environmental or social import, ISS' Proxy Voting Sustainability Policy seeks to promote support for recognized global governing bodies promoting sustainable business practices advocating for stewardship of the environment, fair labor practices, non- discrimination, and the protection of human rights.

Shareholder Proposals - Corporate Governance Issues:

- **Majority Independent Board**

The Firm will generally vote for proposals calling for a majority outside board. The Firm believes that a majority of independent directors can be an important factor in facilitating objective decision making and enhancing accountability to shareholders.

- **Executive Compensation**

The Firm will generally vote against proposals to restrict Employee compensation. The Firm feels that the specific amounts and types of Employee compensation are within the ordinary business responsibilities of the Board of Directors and company management; provided, however, that share option plans meet our guidelines for such plans as set forth herein. On a case-by-case basis, the Firm will vote for proposals requesting more detailed disclosure of Employee compensation, especially if the company does not have a majority outside board.

Potential Conflicts of Interest:

In connection with any security which is the subject of a proxy vote, the Firm will determine whether any conflict of interest exists between the Firm or its Affiliates, on the one hand, and the beneficial owners of the securities, on the other hand. If a conflict of interest is identified, the Firm will first seek to apply the general guidelines discussed above without regard to the conflict. If the guidelines discussed above do not apply, the Firm will evaluate the situation and document the issue and resolution on the Proxy Voting Exception Report. The resolution may very well include notifying the beneficial owners of such conflict, describe how the Firm proposes to vote and the reasons therefore, and request the investor to provide written instructions if the investor desires the voting rights to be exercised in a different manner (which may include not voting the proxy). If an investor does not deliver contrary written instructions, the Firm will vote as indicated in its notice to investors.

Recordkeeping and Reports:

In order to comply with all applicable recordkeeping and reporting requirements, the Firm will do the following:

- The Firm will keep a copy of this Proxy Voting Policy and provide the same to investors upon request.
- The Firm will retain copies of the proxy statements and a record of each vote cast by the Firm on behalf of an investor for periods prior to October 2008. For the periods thereafter, the Firm has authorized ISS to make and retain, on the Firm's behalf, copies of proxy statements and records of the votes cast. The Firm may also rely on obtaining a copy of a proxy statement from the Commission's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval (EDGAR) system.
- The Firm will retain a copy of any document created by the Firm that was material to making a decision how to vote proxies on behalf of an investor or that memorializes the basis for that decision.