

**EA SERIES TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

October 26, 2025

**Defined Duration 5 ETF**

Ticker Symbol: DDV

**Defined Duration 20 ETF**

Ticker Symbol: DDXX

*each of the above listed on CBOE BZX Exchange, Inc.*

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) describes the Defined Duration 5 ETF and Defined Duration 20 ETF (each, a “Fund” and, collectively, the “Funds”), each of which is a series of the EA Series Trust (formerly known as Alpha Architect ETF Trust) (the “Trust”). Shares of each Fund will be listed and traded on the CBOE BZX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange”). Empowered Funds, LLC dba EA Advisers (the “Adviser”) serves as the investment adviser to the Funds, and Orcam Financial Group, LLC (the “Sub-Adviser”), serves as sub-adviser to the Funds. PINE Distributors LLC (the “Distributor”) serves as the Distributor for the Fund.

**Shares of the Funds are neither guaranteed nor insured by the U.S. Government.**

This SAI, dated October 26, 2025, as supplemented from time to time, is not a prospectus. It should be read in conjunction with the Funds’ Prospectus, dated October 26, 2025, as supplemented from time to time, which incorporates this SAI by reference. Capitalized terms used herein that are not defined have the same meaning as in the Prospectus, unless otherwise noted. A copy of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge by writing to the Distributor, calling (215) 330-4476 or visiting <https://disciplinefunds.com>.

When available, a copy of each Fund’s annual and semi-annual reports may be obtained without charge by writing to EA Advisers, Empowered Funds, LLC dba EA Advisers, 3803 West Chester Pike, Suite 150, Newtown Square, PA 19073, calling (215) 330-4476 or visiting <https://disciplinefunds.com>.

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## GLOSSARY

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

“**1933 Act**” means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

“**1934 Act**” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“**Adviser**” means Empowered Funds, LLC dba EA Advisers.

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

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

“**Board**” or “**Trustees**” means the Board of Trustees of the Trust.

“**Business Day**” means any day on which the Trust is open for business.

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

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

“**Code**” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

“**Creation Unit**” means an aggregation of a specified number of Shares that each Fund issues and redeems on a continuous basis at NAV.

“**Distributor**” means PINE Distributors LLC.

“**Dodd-Frank Act**” means the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

“**DTC**” means the Depository Trust Company.

“**Exchange**” means the CBOE BZX Exchange, Inc.

“**ETF**” means an exchange-traded fund.

“**FINRA**” means the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

“**Fund**” means a series of the Trust described in this SAI: the Defined Duration 5 ETF and Defined Duration 20 ETF.

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

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

“**In-Kind Creation Basket**” means the basket of securities to be deposited to purchase Creation Units of a Fund.

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

“**Investment Company Act**” or “**1940 Act**” means the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

“**IRS**” means the Internal Revenue Service.

“**NAV**” means the net asset value of a Fund.

“**NSCC**” means the National Securities Clearing Corporation.

“**NYSE**” means the New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

“**Prospectus**” means the Funds’ Prospectus, dated October 26, 2025, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

“**SAI**” means this Statement of Additional Information, dated October 26, 2025, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

“**SEC**” means the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

“**Shares**” means the shares of a Fund.

“**Sub-Adviser**” means Orcam Financial Group, LLC dba Discipline Funds.

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

“**Trust**” means the EA Series Trust (formerly known as Alpha Architect ETF Trust), a Delaware statutory trust.

“**Underlying Funds**” means the other ETFs in which the Fund invests.

## **TRUST AND FUND OVERVIEW**

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust formed on October 11, 2013. The Trust is an open-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act. The investment objective of each Fund is as stated in the Funds’ Prospectus. The offering of the Shares is registered under the 1933 Act.

This SAI relates only to the following Funds: Defined Duration 5 ETF and Defined Duration 20 ETF.

### **Diversification**

Each Fund is a non-diversified ETF. As a non-diversified fund, each Fund is permitted to invest a larger percentage of its assets in fewer issuers than diversified funds. Thus, a Fund may be more susceptible to adverse developments affecting any single issuer held in its portfolio and may be more susceptible to greater losses because of these developments.

## **EXCHANGE LISTING AND TRADING**

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

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

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

## **DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

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

## **INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RESTRICTIONS**

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

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

Each Fund:

1. May not borrow money, except to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief.
2. May not issue senior securities, except to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief.
3. May not engage in the business of underwriting securities except to the extent that the Fund may be considered an underwriter within the meaning of the 1933 Act in the acquisition, disposition or resale of its portfolio securities or in connection with investments in other investment companies, or to the extent otherwise permitted under the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief.
4. May not purchase or sell real estate, except to the extent permitted under the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief.
5. May not purchase or sell physical commodities, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, and provided that this limitation does not prevent the Fund from (i) purchasing or selling securities of companies that purchase or sell commodities or that invest in commodities; (ii) engaging in any transaction involving currencies, options, forwards, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, swaps, hybrid instruments or other derivatives; or (iii) investing in securities, or transacting in other instruments, that are linked to or secured by physical or other commodities.
6. May not make loans, except to the extent permitted under the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief.
7. Will not concentrate its investments in a particular industry or group of industries, as that term is used in the Investment Company Act.

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

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

With respect to the fundamental investment restriction regarding real estate set forth in (4) above, each Fund will not make direct investments in real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments. Although each Fund may purchase and sell other interests in real estate including securities which are secured by real estate, or securities of companies which make real estate loans or own, or invest or deal in, real estate.

With respect to the fundamental investment limitation relating to lending set forth in (6) above, this means that each Fund may not make loans if, as a result, more than 33 1/3% of its total assets would be lent to other parties. The fundamental investment limitation relating to lending restricts, but does not prevent entirely, each Fund's (i) lending of portfolio securities, (ii) purchase of debt securities, other debt instruments, loan participations and/or engaging in direct corporate loans in accordance with its investment goals and policies, and (iii) use of repurchase agreements to the extent the entry into a repurchase agreement is deemed to be a loan.

With respect to the fundamental investment limitation relating to concentration set forth in (7) above, the Investment Company Act does not define what constitutes "concentration" in an industry. The SEC staff has taken the position that investment of more than 25% of a Fund's total assets in one or more issuers conducting their principal activities in the same industry or group of industries constitutes concentration. It is possible that interpretations of concentration could change in the future.

For purposes of applying the limitation set forth in the concentration policy, each Fund, with respect to its equity holdings, may use the FactSet Revere Business Industry Classification System, Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes, MSCI Global Industry Classification System, FTSE/Dow Jones Industry Classification Benchmark (ICB) system or any other reasonable industry classification system (including systems developed by the Adviser and/or the Sub-Adviser) to identify each industry. Securities of the U.S. government (including its agencies and instrumentalities), tax-exempt securities of state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions (and repurchase agreements collateralized by government securities) are not considered to be issued by members of any industry, except that each Fund will look through a private activity municipal debt security whose principal and interest payments are derived principally from the assets and revenues of a non-governmental entity in order to determine the industry to which the investments should be allocated when determining a Fund's compliance with its concentration policies. Each Fund's method of applying the limitation set forth in its concentration policy may differ from the methods used by the Trust's other series.

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

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

#### **General Investment Risks**

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

The Funds or the underlying funds in which a Fund invests may also engage in the following investment strategies or techniques (except where indicated otherwise).

#### **Fund of Funds Risk**

Because each Fund invests primarily in other exchange-traded funds ("Underlying Funds"), the Fund's investment performance largely depends on the investment performance of those Underlying Funds. An investment in a Fund is subject to the risks associated with the Underlying Funds that then-currently comprise a Fund's portfolio holdings. At times, certain of the segments of the market represented by one or more Underlying Funds may be out of favor and underperform other segments. A Fund will indirectly pay a proportional share of the expenses of the Underlying Funds in which it invests (including operating expenses and management fees), which are identified in the fee schedule above as "Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses." An Underlying Fund may be subject to risks not described in the Prospectus or this SAI. Any losses incurred by an Underlying Fund as a result of such risks would have a negative impact on a Fund's performance.

Each Fund will invest in the securities of other investment companies, subject to applicable limitations under Section 12(d)(1) of the Investment Company Act and Rule 12d1-4 under the Investment Company Act. Generally, each Fund may invest in the securities of another investment company (the "acquired company") provided that a Fund, immediately after such purchase or acquisition, does not own in the aggregate (i) more than 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of the acquired company, (ii) securities issued by the acquired company having an aggregate value in excess of 5% of the value of the total assets of a Fund, or (iii) securities issued by the acquired company and all other investment companies having an aggregate value in excess of 10% of the value of the total assets of a Fund. To the extent allowed by law or regulation, the Fund may invest its assets in securities of investment companies that are money market funds in excess of the limits discussed above.

A Fund may rely on Section 12(d)(1)(F) and Rule 12d1-3 under the Investment Company Act, which provide an exemption from Section 12(d)(1) that allows a Fund to invest all of its assets in other registered funds, including ETFs, if, among other conditions: (a) a Fund, together with its affiliates, acquires no more than three percent of the outstanding voting stock of any acquired fund, and (b) the sales load charged on Shares is no greater than the limits set forth in Rule 2341 of the Conduct Rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). In addition, a Fund may invest beyond the limits of Section 12(d)(1) subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in Rule 12d1-4 under the Investment Company Act, including that a Fund enters into an agreement with the acquired company.

Section 12(d)(1) of the Investment Company Act restricts investments by registered investment companies ("Investing Funds") in the securities of other registered investment companies, including a Fund. The acquisition of Shares by Investing Funds is subject to the restrictions of Section 12(d)(1) of the Investment Company Act, except as may be permitted by Rule 12d1-4 under the Investment Company Act, subject to certain terms and conditions, including that the Investing Fund enter into an agreement with a Fund regarding the terms of the investment.

Investing Funds are not permitted to invest in a Fund beyond the limits set forth in Section 12(d)(1) in reliance on Rule 12d1-4 because the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in other investment companies. Thus, a Fund is unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of Rule 12d1-4. Accordingly, Investing Funds must adhere to the limits set forth in Section 12(d)(1) when investing in a Fund.

### **Derivatives Risks**

The Underlying Funds may invest in certain derivative instruments. A derivative is a financial instrument that has a value based on—or “derived from”—the values of other assets, reference rates, or indexes. Derivatives may relate to a wide variety of underlying references, such as commodities, stocks, bonds, interest rates, currency exchange rates, and related indexes. Derivatives include futures contracts and options on futures contracts, certain forward-commitment transactions, options on securities, caps, floors, collars, swap agreements, and certain other financial instruments. Some derivatives, such as futures contracts and certain options, are traded on U.S. commodity and securities exchanges, while other derivatives, such as swap agreements, may be privately negotiated and entered into in the over-the-counter market or may be cleared through a clearinghouse and traded on an exchange or swap execution facility. The risks associated with the use of derivatives are different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the securities or assets on which the derivatives are based. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying security, commodity, asset, index, or reference rate.

Derivative products are highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analyses different from those associated with stocks, bonds, and other traditional investments. The use of a derivative requires an understanding not only of the underlying instrument but also of the derivative itself, without the benefit of observing the performance of the derivative under all possible market conditions.

Derivatives may be used for a variety of purposes, including—but not limited to—hedging, managing risk, seeking to stay fully invested, seeking to reduce transaction costs, seeking to simulate an investment in equity or debt securities or other investments, and seeking to add value by using derivatives to more efficiently implement portfolio positions when derivatives are favorably priced relative to equity or debt securities or other investments. Derivatives may also be used for leveraging purposes, which may increase a loss, potentially causing an Underlying Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. There is no assurance that any derivatives strategy used by an Underlying Fund’s investment advisor will succeed.

Also, a liquid market may not always exist for an Underlying Fund’s derivative positions at times when the Underlying Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions. In addition, regulators and futures exchanges have established limits, referred to as position limits, on the maximum net long or net short positions that any person may hold or control, in particular derivatives contracts. Some contract positions, such as commodity futures contracts, held by an Underlying Fund may have to be liquidated at disadvantageous times or prices to avoid exceeding such position limits, which may adversely affect the Underlying Fund performance. The use of a derivative subjects the Fund to the risk of nonperformance by the counterparty (i.e., counterparty risk), potentially resulting in delayed or partial payment or even nonpayment of amounts due under the derivative contract.

A Fund may invest in an Underlying Fund whose strategies involve the use of leverage. In that case, an Underlying Fund’s investment program may be considered speculative would be subject to considerable risks. An Underlying Fund could lose money at any time and may underperform the markets in which it invests during any given period, regardless of whether such markets rise or fall. Derivatives that have a leverage component, are subject to adverse changes in the value or level of the underlying asset, reference rate, or index, which can result in a loss substantially greater than the amount invested in the derivative itself. Certain derivatives have the potential for unlimited loss, regardless of the size of the initial investment.

For some derivative transactions, an Underlying Fund will be subject to the risk that a loss may be sustained as a result of the insolvency or bankruptcy of the counterparty or the failure of the counterparty to make required payments or otherwise comply with the terms of the contract. Additionally, the use of credit derivatives can result in losses if an Underlying Fund’s advisor does not correctly evaluate the creditworthiness of the issuer on which the credit derivative is based.

Like most other investments, derivative instruments are subject to the risk that the market value of the instrument will change in a way detrimental to an Underlying Fund’s interest. An Underlying Fund will bear the risk that its advisor will incorrectly forecast future market trends or the values of assets, reference rates, indexes, or other financial or economic factors in establishing derivative positions for the Underlying Fund. If the advisor attempts to use a derivative as a hedge against, or as a substitute for, a portfolio investment, Underlying Fund will be exposed to the risk that the derivative will have or will develop imperfect or no correlation with the portfolio investment. This could cause substantial losses for the Underlying Fund. Although hedging strategies involving derivative instruments can reduce the risk of loss, they can also reduce the opportunity for gain or even result in losses by offsetting favorable price movements in other fund investments.

Many derivatives are complex and often valued subjectively. Improper valuations can result in increased cash payment requirements to counterparties or a loss of value to an Underlying Fund.

### **Preferred Stocks**

Certain Underlying ETFs may invest in exchange-listed preferred stocks. Preferred stocks include convertible and non-convertible preferred and preference stocks that are senior to common stock. Preferred stocks are equity securities that are senior to common stock with respect to the right to receive dividends and a fixed share of the proceeds resulting from the issuer's liquidation. Some preferred stocks also entitle their holders to receive additional liquidation proceeds on the same basis as holders of the issuer's common stock, and thus represent an ownership interest in the issuer. Depending on the features of the particular security, holders of preferred stock may bear the risks disclosed in the Prospectus or this SAI regarding equity or fixed income securities.

### **Securities Lending**

Each of the Funds may make secured loans of its portfolio securities; however, securities loans will not be made if, as a result, the aggregate amount of all outstanding securities loans by a Fund exceeds 33 1/3% of its total assets (including the market value of collateral received). For purposes of complying with a Fund's investment policies and restrictions, collateral received in connection with securities loans is deemed an asset of the Fund to the extent required by law.

To the extent a Fund engages in securities lending, securities loans will be made to broker-dealers that the Adviser believes to be of relatively high credit standing pursuant to agreements requiring that the loans continuously be collateralized by cash, liquid securities, or shares of other investment companies with a value at least equal to the market value of the loaned securities. As with other extensions of credit, a Fund bears the risk of delay in the recovery of the securities and of loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower fail financially. A Fund also bears the risk that the value of investments made with collateral may decline.

For each loan, the borrower usually must maintain with a Fund's custodian collateral with an initial market value at least equal to 102% of the market value of the domestic securities loaned (or 105% of the market value of foreign securities loaned), including any accrued interest thereon. Such collateral will be marked-to-market daily, and if the coverage falls below 100%, the borrower will be required to deliver additional collateral equal to at least 102% of the market value of the domestic securities loaned (or 105% of the foreign securities loaned).

A Fund retains all or a portion of the interest received on investment of the cash collateral or receives a fee from the borrower. A Fund also continues to receive any distributions paid on the loaned securities. A Fund seeks to maintain the ability to obtain the right to vote or consent on proxy proposals involving material events affecting securities loaned. However, a Fund bears the risk of delay in the return of the security, impairing the Fund's ability to vote on such matters. A Fund may terminate a loan at any time and obtain the return of the securities loaned within the normal settlement period for the security involved.

The Adviser will retain lending agents on behalf of the Funds that are compensated based on a percentage of a Fund's return on its securities lending. A Fund may also pay various fees in connection with securities loans, including shipping fees and custodian fees.

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

### **Depository Receipts**

Certain Underlying Funds may invest in foreign securities by purchasing depository receipts, including American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), European Depositary Receipts ("EDRs"), and Global Depositary Receipts ("GDRs"). These securities may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the securities which they represent. Generally, ADRs, in registered form, are denominated in U.S. dollars and are designed for use in the U.S. securities markets, GDRs, in bearer form, are issued and designed for use outside the United States and EDRs (also referred to as Continental Depositary Receipts ("CDRs")), in bearer form, may be denominated in other currencies and are designed for use in European securities markets. ADRs are receipts typically issued by a U.S. bank or trust company evidencing ownership of the underlying securities. EDRs are European receipts evidencing a similar arrangement. GDRs are receipts typically issued by non-United States banks and trust companies that evidence ownership of either foreign or domestic securities. For purposes of a Fund's investment policies, ADRs, GDRs and EDRs are deemed to have the same classification as the



underlying securities they represent. Thus, an ADR, GDR or EDR representing ownership of common stock will be treated as common stock.

### **Repurchase Agreements**

The Funds may enter into repurchase agreements with banks and broker-dealers. A repurchase agreement is an agreement under which securities are acquired by a Fund from a securities dealer or bank subject to resale at an agreed upon price on a later date. The acquiring Fund bears a risk of loss in the event that the other party to a repurchase agreement defaults on its obligations and the Fund is delayed or prevented from exercising its rights to dispose of the collateral securities. Such a default may subject a Fund to expenses, delays, and risks of loss including: (i) possible declines in the value of the underlying security while the Fund seeks to enforce its rights, (ii) possible reduced levels of income and lack of access to income during this period, and (iii) the inability to enforce its rights and the expenses involved in attempted enforcement.

### **Debt and Other Fixed Income Securities Generally**

The Funds and Underlying Funds may invest in debt securities by purchasing the following: obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities; corporate debt securities; zero coupon bonds (bonds that are purchased at a discount from their face values and accrue interest at the applicable coupon rate over a period of time); master-demand notes; bank certificates of deposit; time deposits; bankers' acceptances; commercial paper and other notes; and inflation-indexed securities. Each Fund may invest in debt securities that are investment grade. Investment grade securities include securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities, as well as securities rated in one of the four highest rating categories by at least two Rating Organizations rating that security, such as Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("Standard & Poor's") or Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), or rated in one of the four highest rating categories by one Rating Organization if it is the only Rating Organization rating that security or unrated, if deemed to be of comparable quality by the Adviser and traded publicly on the world market. Securities rated Baa and BBB are the lowest that are considered "investment grade" obligations. Moody's describes securities rated Baa as "subject to moderate credit risk. They are considered medium-grade and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics." Standard & Poor's describes securities rated BBB as "regarded as having adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation." For securities rated BBB, Fitch states that "...expectations of default risk are currently low...capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity." Each Fund, at the discretion of the Adviser, may retain a debt security that has been downgraded below the initial investment criteria.

Debt and other fixed income securities include fixed and floating rate securities of any maturity. Fixed rate securities pay a specified rate of interest or dividends. Floating rate securities pay a rate that is adjusted periodically by reference to a specified index or market rate. Fixed and floating rate securities include securities issued by federal, state and local governments and related agencies, and by a wide range of private issuers, and generally are referred to in this SAI as "fixed income securities." Indexed bonds are a type of fixed income security whose principal value and/or interest rate is adjusted periodically according to a specified instrument, index or other statistic (*e.g.*, another security, inflation index or currency).

Holders of fixed income securities are exposed to both market and credit risk. Market risk (or "interest rate risk") relates to changes in a security's value as a result of changes in interest rates. In general, the values of fixed income securities increase when interest rates fall and decrease when interest rates rise. Credit risk relates to the ability of an issuer to make payments of principal and interest. Obligations of issuers are subject to bankruptcy, insolvency and other laws that affect the rights and remedies of creditors.

Because interest rates vary, to the extent that a Fund invests in fixed income securities, the future income of the Fund cannot be predicted with certainty. To the extent that a Fund invests in indexed securities, the future income of the Fund also will be affected by changes in those securities' indices over time (*e.g.*, changes in inflation rates or currency rates).

### **Money Market Instruments and Cash Items**

A Fund may temporarily invest a portion of its assets in cash or cash items pending other investments or to maintain liquid assets required in connection with some of the Fund's investments. A Fund may invest in money market instruments including U.S. Government obligations or corporate debt obligations (including those subject to repurchase agreements). Money market instruments also may include banker's acceptances and certificates of deposit of domestic branches of U.S. banks, commercial paper, and variable amount demand master notes ("Master Notes"). Banker's acceptances are time drafts drawn on and "accepted" by a bank. When a bank "accepts" such a time draft, it assumes liability for its payment. When the Fund acquires a banker's acceptance, the bank that "accepted" the time draft is liable for payment of interest and principal when due. The banker's acceptance carries the full faith and credit of such bank. A certificate of deposit ("CD") is an unsecured, interest-bearing debt obligation of a bank. Commercial paper is an unsecured, short-term debt obligation of a bank, corporation, or other borrower. Commercial paper maturity generally ranges from two

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

## **U.S. Government Securities**

U.S. government securities include securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its authorities, agencies or instrumentalities. Different kinds of U.S. government securities have different kinds of government support. For example, some U.S. government securities (e.g., U.S. Treasury bonds) are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Other U.S. government securities are issued or guaranteed by federal agencies or government-chartered or - sponsored enterprises but are neither guaranteed nor insured by the U.S. government.

It is possible that the availability and the marketability (that is, liquidity) of the securities discussed in this section could be adversely affected by actions of the U.S. government to tighten the availability of credit.

As with other fixed income securities, U.S. government securities expose their holders to market risk because their values typically change as interest rates fluctuate. For example, the value of U.S. government securities may fall during times of rising interest rates. Yields on U.S. government securities tend to be lower than those of corporate securities of comparable maturities.

In addition to investing directly in U.S. government securities, a Fund may purchase certificates of accrual or similar instruments evidencing undivided ownership interests in interest payments and/or principal payments of U.S. government securities. Certificates of accrual and similar instruments may be more volatile than other government securities.

A Fund may invest in i) U.S. Treasury notes, U.S. Treasury bonds, U.S. Treasury bills, and other U.S. Government obligations; (ii) obligations of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) and other U.S. Government sponsored entities that are guaranteed by the U.S. Government; and (iii) obligations of the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Federal Farm Credit Bank (FFCB), Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), Student Loan Marketing Association (SLMA), The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and other U.S. Government authorities, agencies, and instrumentalities. While obligations of some U.S. Government sponsored entities are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government (e.g., GNMA), others are not.

## **Foreign Investments**

*Foreign Market Risk.* Foreign security investment or exposure involves special risks not present in U.S. investments that can increase the chances that a Fund will lose money. In particular, the Funds are subject to the risk that because there are generally fewer investors on foreign exchanges and a smaller number of shares traded each day, it may be difficult for a Fund to buy and sell securities, or increase or decrease exposures, on those exchanges. In addition, prices of foreign securities may fluctuate more than prices of securities traded in the U.S.

*Foreign Economy Risk.* The economies of certain foreign markets often do not compare favorably with that of the U.S. with respect to such issues as growth of gross domestic product, reinvestment of capital, resources, and balance of payments positions. Certain foreign economies may rely heavily on particular industries or foreign capital and are more vulnerable to diplomatic developments, the imposition of economic sanctions against a particular country or countries, changes in international trading patterns, trade barriers, and other protectionist or retaliatory measures. Investments in foreign markets may also be adversely affected by governmental actions such as the imposition of capital controls, nationalization of companies or industries, expropriation of assets, or the imposition of punitive taxes. In addition, the governments of certain countries may prohibit or impose substantial restrictions on foreign investing in their capital markets or in certain industries. Any of these actions could severely affect security prices, impair a Fund's ability to purchase or sell foreign securities, or obtain exposure to them, or transfer the Fund's assets back into the U.S., or otherwise adversely affect the Fund's operations. Other foreign market risks include foreign exchange controls, difficulties in pricing securities, defaults on foreign government securities, difficulties in enforcing favorable legal judgments in foreign courts, and political and social instability. Legal remedies available to investors in certain foreign countries may be less extensive than those available to investors in the U.S. or other foreign countries. Foreign corporate governance may not be as robust as in the U.S. As a result, protections for minority investors may not be strong, which could affect security prices.

*Currency Risk and Exchange Risk.* Securities in which the Funds invest, or to which they obtain exposure, may be denominated or quoted in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Changes in foreign currency exchange rates will affect the value of these securities. Generally, when the U.S. dollar rises in value against a foreign currency, an investment in a security denominated in that currency loses value because the currency is worth fewer U.S. dollars. Similarly, when the U.S. dollar decreases in value against a foreign currency, an investment in, or exposure to, a security denominated in that currency gains value because the currency is worth more U.S. dollars. This risk is generally known as “currency risk,” which is the possibility that a stronger U.S. dollar will reduce returns for U.S. investors investing overseas. Foreign currencies also involve the risk that they will be devalued or replaced, adversely affecting the Funds’ investments.

*Governmental Supervision and Regulation/Accounting Standards.* Many foreign governments supervise and regulate stock exchanges, brokers and the sale of securities to a lesser extent than the U.S. government. Some countries may not have laws to protect investors the way that the U.S. securities laws do. Accounting standards in other countries are not necessarily the same as in the U.S. If the accounting standards in another country do not require as much disclosure or detail as U.S. accounting standards, it may be harder to completely and accurately determine a company’s financial condition.

*Certain Risks of Holding Fund Assets Outside the U.S.* Foreign securities in which the Funds invest, or to which they obtain exposure, are generally held outside the U.S. in foreign banks and securities depositories. The Funds’ custodian is the Funds’ “foreign custody manager” as provided in Rule 17f-5 under the Investment Company Act. The “foreign custody manager” is responsible for determining that each Fund’s directly-held foreign assets will be subject to reasonable care, based on standards applicable to custodians in relevant foreign markets. However, certain foreign banks and securities depositories may be recently organized or new to the foreign custody business. They may also have operations subject to limited or no regulatory oversight. Also, the laws of certain countries may put limits on a Fund’s ability to recover its assets if a foreign bank or depository or issuer of a security or an agent of any of the foregoing goes bankrupt. In addition, it likely will be more expensive for a Fund to buy, sell and hold securities, or increase or decrease exposures thereto, in certain foreign markets than it is in the U.S. market due to higher brokerage, transaction, custody and/or other costs. The increased expense of investing in foreign markets reduces the amount a Fund can earn on its investments.

Settlement and clearance procedures in certain foreign markets differ significantly from those in the U.S. Foreign settlement and clearance procedures and trade regulations also may involve certain risks (such as delays in payment for or delivery of securities) not typically involved with the settlement of U.S. investments. Settlements in certain foreign countries at times have not kept pace with the number of securities transactions. The problems may make it difficult for the Funds to carry out transactions. If a Fund cannot settle or is delayed in settling a purchase of securities, the Fund may miss attractive investment opportunities and certain of its assets may be uninvested with no return earned thereon for some period. If a Fund cannot settle or is delayed in settling a sale of securities, directly or indirectly, it may lose money if the value of the security then declines or, if it has contracted to sell the security to another party, the Fund could be liable to that party for any losses incurred.

Dividends and interest on, and proceeds from the sale of, foreign securities a Fund holds, or has exposure to, may be subject to foreign withholding or other taxes, and special U.S. federal income tax considerations may apply.

## **Frontier Markets**

The Underlying Funds may invest in frontier market securities and currencies, which entail all of the risks of investing in foreign (non-U.S.) investments and investments in emerging markets, but to a heightened degree. Compared to foreign developed and emerging markets, investing in frontier markets may involve heightened volatility, greater political, regulatory, legal and economic uncertainties, less liquidity, dependence on particular commodities or international aid, high levels of inflation, and greater custody risk. Additional risks of emerging market securities may include: greater political instability (including the risk of war or natural disaster); increased risk of nationalization, expropriation, or other confiscation of assets of issuers to which the Fund is exposed; greater risk of default (by both government and private issuers); more substantial governmental involvement in the economy; less governmental supervision and regulation; differences in, or lack of, auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers; less developed legal systems; inability to purchase and sell investments or otherwise settle security or derivative transactions (*i.e.*, a market freeze); unavailability of currency hedging techniques; slower clearance and settlement; difficulties in obtaining and/or enforcing legal judgments; and significantly smaller market capitalizations of issuers.

Certain Frontier Market countries may impose restrictions on foreign investment and repatriation of investment income and capital. In addition, foreign investors, including an Underlying Fund, may be required to register the proceeds of sales, and future economic or political crises could lead to price controls, forced mergers, nationalization or the creation of government monopolies. The currencies of Frontier Market Countries may experience significant declines against the U.S. dollar, and devaluation may occur subsequent to investments in these currencies by an Underlying Fund. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain Frontier Market Countries. Frontier market securities may trade in more limited volume than comparable securities in foreign developed and emerging markets.

Frontier market securities 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 the 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, all of which would negatively affect an Underlying Fund's performance.

Custody services in many Frontier Market Countries remain undeveloped and, although the Fund's custodian will seek to establish control mechanisms, including the selection of sub-custodians, nominees or agents ("Sub-custodians") to register securities on behalf of an underlying fund and perform regular checks of entries on relevant securities registers to ensure that the Underlying Fund's interests continue to be recorded, there is significant transaction and custody risk in dealing in securities of Frontier Market countries.

### **High Yield/High Risk Securities/Junk Bonds**

Certain Underlying Funds may invest in high yield securities, to varying degrees. High yield, high risk bonds are generally those securities that are rated below investment grade by the primary rating agencies (BB+ or lower by S&P and Bal or lower by Moody's) or unrated or stale-rated but determined by the Underlying Fund's adviser to be of comparable quality. 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.

High yield 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, an Underlying Fund would experience a decrease in income and a decline in the market value of its investments. An Underlying Fund may also incur additional expenses in seeking recovery from the issuer.

The income and market value of lower rated securities may fluctuate more than higher rated 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.

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. 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 often much more dependent on the judgment of the Underlying Fund's investment adviser than is the case with 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, an Underlying Fund that invests in lower rated securities may be required to sell investments at substantial losses or retain them indefinitely even where an issuer's financial condition is deteriorating.

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.

Future legislation may have a possible negative impact on the market for high yield, high risk bonds. New legislation, if enacted, could have a material negative effect on an Underlying Fund's investments in lower rated securities.

### **Brady Bonds**

Certain of the Underlying Funds may invest in Brady bonds. Brady bonds are securities created through the exchange of existing commercial bank loans to public and private entities in certain emerging markets for new bonds in connection with debt restructurings. Brady bonds have been issued since 1989. In light of the history of defaults of countries issuing Brady bonds on their commercial bank loans, investments in Brady bonds may be viewed as speculative and subject to the same risks as emerging market securities. Brady bonds may be fully or partially collateralized or uncollateralized, are issued in various currencies (but primarily the U.S. dollar) and are actively traded in over-the-counter ("OTC") secondary markets. Incomplete collateralization of interest or principal payment obligations results in increased credit risk. U.S. dollar-denominated collateralized Brady bonds, which may be either fixed-rate or floating rate bonds, are generally collateralized by U.S. Treasury securities.

### **Corporate Debt Securities**

The rate of interest on a corporate debt security may be fixed, floating or variable, and may vary inversely with respect to a reference rate. Debt securities may be acquired with warrants attached. A Fund may invest in commercial interests, including commercial paper, master notes and other short-term corporate instruments that are denominated in U.S. dollars. Commercial paper consists of short-term promissory notes issued by corporations. Commercial paper may be traded in the secondary market after its issuance. Master notes are

demand notes that permit the investment of fluctuating amounts of money at varying rates of interest pursuant to arrangements with issuers who meet the quality criteria of a Fund. The interest rate on a master note may fluctuate based upon changes in specified interest rates, be reset periodically according to a prescribed formula or be a set rate. Although there is no secondary market in master demand notes, if such notes have a demand future, the payee may demand payment of the principal amount of the note upon relatively short notice. Master notes are generally illiquid and therefore subject to a Fund's percentage limitations for investments in illiquid securities.

### **Mortgage-Backed Securities**

Mortgage-backed securities represent direct or indirect participation in, or are collateralized by and payable from, mortgage loans secured by real property or instruments derived from such loans and may be based on different types of mortgages, including those on residential properties or commercial real estate. Mortgage-backed securities include various types of securities, such as government stripped mortgage-backed securities, adjustable rate mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations.

Generally, mortgage-backed securities represent partial interests in pools of mortgage loans assembled for sale to investors by various governmental agencies, such as the Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA"); by government-related organizations, such as the Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC"); and by private issuers, such as commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, and mortgage bankers. The average maturity of pass-through pools of mortgage-backed securities in which an Underlying Fund may invest varies with the maturities of the underlying mortgage instruments. In addition, a pool's average maturity may be shortened by unscheduled payments on the underlying mortgages. Factors affecting mortgage prepayments include the level of interest rates, the general economic and social conditions, the location of the mortgaged property, and the age of the mortgage. Because prepayment rates of individual mortgage pools vary widely, the average life of a particular pool cannot be predicted accurately.

Mortgage-backed securities may be classified as private, government, or government-related, depending on the issuer or guarantor. Private mortgage-backed securities represent interest in pass-through pools consisting principally of conventional residential or commercial mortgage loans created by nongovernment issuers, such as commercial banks, savings and loan associations, and private mortgage insurance companies. Private mortgage-backed securities may not be readily marketable. In addition, mortgage-backed securities have been subject to greater liquidity risk because of the deterioration of worldwide economic and liquidity conditions that became especially severe in 2008. U.S. government mortgage-backed securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. GNMA, the principal U.S. guarantor of these securities, is a wholly owned U.S. government corporation within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Government-related mortgage-backed securities are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Issuers include FNMA and FHLMC, which are congressionally chartered corporations. In 2008, the U.S. Treasury placed FNMA and FHLMC under conservatorship and appointed the Federal Housing Finance Agency ("FHFA") to manage their daily operations. In addition, the U.S. Treasury entered into purchase agreements with FNMA and FHLMC to provide them with capital in exchange for senior preferred stock. Pass-through securities issued by FNMA are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by FNMA. Participation certificates representing interests in mortgages from FHLMC's national portfolio are guaranteed as to the timely payment of interest and principal by FHLMC. Private, government, or government-related entities may create mortgage loan pools offering pass-through investments in addition to those described above. The mortgages underlying these securities may be alternative mortgage instruments (that is, mortgage instruments whose principal or interest payments may vary or whose terms to maturity may be shorter than customary).

Mortgage-backed securities are often subject to more rapid repayment than their stated maturity date would indicate as a result of the pass-through of prepayments of principal on the underlying loans. Prepayments of principal by mortgagors or mortgage foreclosures shorten the term of the mortgage pool underlying the mortgage-backed security. An Underlying Fund's ability to maintain positions in mortgage-backed securities is affected by the reductions in the principal amount of such securities resulting from prepayments. An Underlying Fund's ability to reinvest prepayments of principal at comparable yield is subject to generally prevailing interest rates at that time. The values of mortgage-backed securities vary with changes in market interest rates generally and the differentials in yields among various kinds of government securities, mortgage-backed securities, and asset-backed securities. In periods of rising interest rates, the rate of prepayment tends to decrease, thereby lengthening the average life of a pool of mortgages supporting a mortgage-backed security. Conversely, in periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayment tends to increase, thereby shortening the average life of such a pool. Because prepayments of principal generally occur when interest rates are declining, an investor, such as an Underlying Fund, generally has to reinvest the proceeds of such prepayments at lower interest rates than those at which its assets were previously invested. Therefore, mortgage-backed securities have less potential for capital appreciation in periods of falling interest rates than other income-bearing securities of comparable maturity.

Adjustable rate mortgage-backed securities ("ARMBSs") have interest rates that reset at periodic intervals. Acquiring ARMBSs permits an Underlying Fund to participate in increases in prevailing current interest rates through periodic adjustments in the coupons

of mortgages underlying the pool on which ARMBs are based. Such ARMBs generally have higher current yield and lower price fluctuations than is the case with more traditional fixed income debt securities of comparable rating and maturity. However, because the interest rates on ARMBs are reset only periodically, changes in market interest rates or in the issuer's creditworthiness may affect their value. In addition, when prepayments of principal are made on the underlying mortgages during periods of rising interest rates, an Underlying Fund can reinvest the proceeds of such prepayments at rates higher than those at which they were previously invested. Mortgages underlying most ARMBs, however, have limits on the allowable annual or lifetime increases that can be made in the interest rate that the mortgagor pays. Therefore, if current interest rates rise above such limits over the period of the limitation, an Underlying Fund holding an ARMB does not benefit from further increases in interest rates. Moreover, when interest rates are in excess of coupon rates (i.e., the rates being paid by mortgagors) of the mortgages, ARMBs behave more like fixed income securities and less like adjustable rate securities and are thus subject to the risks associated with fixed income securities. In addition, during periods of rising interest rates, increases in the coupon rate of adjustable rate mortgages generally lag current market interest rates slightly, thereby creating the potential for capital depreciation on such securities.

A hybrid adjustable rate mortgage ("hybrid ARM") is a type of mortgage in which the interest rate is fixed for a specified period and then resets periodically, or floats, for the remaining mortgage term. Hybrid ARMs are usually referred to by their fixed and floating periods. For example, a 5/1 ARM refers to a mortgage with a 5-year fixed interest rate period, followed by a 1-year interest rate adjustment period. During the initial interest period (i.e., the initial five years for a 5/1 hybrid ARM), hybrid ARMs behave more like fixed income securities and are thus subject to the risks associated with fixed income securities. All hybrid ARMs have reset dates. A reset date is the date when a hybrid ARM changes from a fixed interest rate to a floating interest rate. At the reset date, a hybrid ARM can adjust by a maximum specified amount based on a margin over an identified index. Like ARMBs, hybrid ARMs have periodic and lifetime limitations on the increases that can be made to the interest rates that mortgagors pay. Therefore, if during a floating rate period interest rates rise above the interest rate limits of the hybrid ARM, an Underlying Fund holding the hybrid ARM does not benefit from further increases in interest rates.

Collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs") are mortgage-backed securities that are collateralized by whole loan mortgages or mortgage pass-through securities. The bonds issued in a CMO transaction are divided into groups, and each group of bonds is referred to as a "tranche." Under the traditional CMO structure, the cash flows generated by the mortgages or mortgage pass-through securities in the collateral pool are used to first pay interest and then pay principal to the CMO bondholders. The bonds issued under a traditional CMO structure are retired sequentially as opposed to the pro-rata return of principal found in traditional pass-through obligations. Subject to the various provisions of individual CMO issues, the cash flow generated by the underlying collateral (to the extent it exceeds the amount required to pay the stated interest) is used to retire the bonds. Under a CMO structure, the repayment of principal among the different tranches is prioritized in accordance with the terms of the particular CMO issuance. The "fastest-pay" tranches of bonds, as specified in the prospectus for the issuance, would initially receive all principal payments. When those tranches of bonds are retired, the next tranche (or tranches) in the sequence, as specified in the prospectus, receives all of the principal payments until that tranche is retired. The sequential retirement of bond groups continues until the last tranche is retired. Accordingly, the CMO structure allows the issuer to use cash flows of long-maturity, monthly pay collateral to formulate securities with short, intermediate, and long final maturities and expected average lives and risk characteristics.

In recent years, new types of CMO tranches have evolved. These include floating rate CMOs, planned amortization classes, accrual bonds, and CMO residuals. These newer structures affect the amount and timing of principal and interest received by each tranche from the underlying collateral. Under certain of these new structures, given classes of CMOs have priority over others with respect to the receipt of prepayments on the mortgages. Therefore, depending on the type of CMOs in which an Underlying Fund invests, the investment may be subject to a greater or lesser risk of prepayment than other types of mortgage-backed securities.

CMOs may include real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs"). REMICs, which were authorized under the Tax Reform Act of 1986, are private entities formed for the purpose of holding a fixed pool of mortgages secured by an interest in real property. A REMIC is a CMO that qualifies for special tax treatment under the IRC and invests in certain mortgages principally secured by interests in real property. Investors may purchase beneficial interests in REMICs, which are known as "regular" interests, or "residual" interests. Guaranteed REMIC pass-through certificates (REMIC Certificates) issued by FNMA or FHLMC represent beneficial ownership interests in a REMIC trust consisting principally of mortgage loans or FNMA, FHLMC, or GNMA-guaranteed mortgage pass-through certificates. For FHLMC REMIC Certificates, FHLMC guarantees the timely payment of interest and also guarantees the payment of principal, as payments are required to be made on the underlying mortgage participation certificates. FNMA REMIC Certificates are issued and guaranteed as to timely distribution of principal and interest by FNMA.

The primary risk of CMOs is the uncertainty of the timing of cash flows that results from the rate of prepayments on the underlying mortgages serving as collateral and from the structure of the particular CMO transaction (that is, the priority of the individual tranches). An increase or decrease in prepayment rates (resulting from a decrease or increase in mortgage interest rates) will affect the

yield, the average life, and the price of CMOs. The prices of certain CMOs, depending on their structure and the rate of prepayments, can be volatile. Some CMOs may also not be as liquid as other securities.

Stripped mortgage-backed securities (“SMBSs”) are derivative multiclass mortgage-backed securities. SMBSs may be issued by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. government or by private originators of, or investors in, mortgage loans, including savings and loan associations, mortgage banks, commercial banks, investment banks, and special purpose entities formed or sponsored by any of the foregoing.

SMBSs are usually structured with two classes that receive different proportions of the interest and principal distributions on a pool of mortgage assets. A common type of SMBS will have one class receiving some of the interest and most of the principal from the mortgage assets, while the other class will receive most of the interest and the remainder of the principal. In the most extreme case, one class will receive all of the interest (the “IO” class), while the other class will receive all of the principal (the principal-only or “PO” class). The price and yield to maturity on an IO class are extremely sensitive to the rate of principal payments (including prepayments) on the related underlying mortgage assets, and a rapid rate of principal payments may have a material adverse effect on an Underlying Fund’s yield to maturity from these securities. If the underlying mortgage assets experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, an Underlying Fund may fail to recoup some or all of its initial investment in these securities, even if the security is in one of the highest rating categories.

Although SMBSs are purchased and sold by institutional investors through several investment banking firms acting as brokers or dealers, these securities were only recently developed. As a result, established trading markets have not yet developed, and accordingly, these securities may be deemed “illiquid” and thus subject to an Underlying Fund’s limitations on investment in illiquid securities.

### **Illiquid Securities**

Each Fund and each of the Underlying Funds in which it invests may invest in illiquid securities (i.e., securities that are not readily marketable). Illiquid securities include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities the disposition of which is restricted under the federal securities laws), securities that may only be resold pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), but that are deemed to be illiquid; and repurchase agreements with maturities in excess of seven days. However, the Fund will not acquire illiquid securities if immediately after the acquisition, such securities would comprise more than 15% of the value of the Fund’s net assets. Determinations of liquidity are made pursuant to guidelines contained in the liquidity risk management program of the Trust applicable to the Fund. The Adviser determines and monitors the liquidity of the portfolio securities and reports periodically on its decisions to the Board. In making such liquidity determinations it primarily takes into account the average daily volume of trades. In addition, it may take into account a number of other factors in reaching liquidity decisions, including but not limited to: (1) the number of dealers willing to purchase or sell the security and the number of other potential buyers; (2) the willingness of dealers to undertake to make a market in the security; and (3) the nature of the marketplace trades, including the time needed to dispose of the security, the method of soliciting offers and the mechanics of the transfer. In connection with the implementation of the SEC’s liquidity risk management rule and the liquidity risk management program of the Trust applicable to the Fund, the term “illiquid security” is defined as a security that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the security.

An institutional market has developed for certain restricted securities. Accordingly, contractual or legal restrictions on the resale of a security may not be indicative of the liquidity of the security. If such securities are eligible for purchase by institutional buyers in accordance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act or other exemptions, the Adviser may determine that the securities are liquid.

Restricted securities may be sold only in privately negotiated transactions or in a public offering with respect to which a registration statement is in effect under the Securities Act. Where registration is required, the Fund may be obligated to pay all or part of the registration expenses and a considerable period may elapse between the time of the decision to sell and the time the Fund may be permitted to sell a security under an effective registration statement. If, during such a period, adverse market conditions were to develop, the Fund might obtain a less favorable price than that which prevailed when it decided to sell.

Illiquid securities will be priced at fair value as determined in good faith under procedures adopted by the Board. If, through the appreciation of illiquid securities or the depreciation of liquid securities, the Fund should be in a position where more than 15% of the value of its net assets are invested in illiquid securities, including restricted securities which are not readily marketable, the Fund will take such steps as are deemed advisable, if any, to protect liquidity.

### **Borrowing**

Each Fund may borrow money for investment purposes, which is a form of leveraging. Leveraging investments, by purchasing securities with borrowed money, is a speculative technique that increases investment risk while increasing investment opportunity.

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

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

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

#### **Temporary Defensive Positions**

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

#### **Portfolio Turnover**

Because the Funds have not yet commenced operations, they do not have a portfolio turnover rate to provide.

#### **Cybersecurity Risk**

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



## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS

### Trustees and Officers

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

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

The Trustees, their age, term of office and length of time served, their principal business occupations during the past five years, the number of portfolios in the Fund Complex overseen and other directorships, if any, held by each Trustee, are shown below. The officers, their age, term of office and length of time served and their principal business occupations during the past five years are shown below.

The address of each Trustee and each Officer is: c/o EA Series Trust, 3803 West Chester Pike, Suite 150, Newtown Square, PA 19073.

Name and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years
<b>Independent Trustees</b>					
Daniel Dorn Born: 1975	Trustee	Indefinite term; Since 2014	Associate Professor of Finance, Drexel University, LeBow College of Business (2003–present).	87	None
Michael S. Pagano, Ph.D., CFA® Born: 1962	Trustee and Audit Committee Chairman	Indefinite term; Since 2014	The Robert J. and Mary Ellen Darretta Endowed Chair in Finance, Villanova University (1999–present); Founder, Michael S. Pagano, LLC (business consulting firm) (2008–present).	87	Citadel Federal Credit Union (pro bono service for non-profit)
Chukwuemeka (Emeka) O. Oguh Born: 1983	Trustee	Indefinite term; Since 2018	Co-founder and CEO, PeopleJoy (2016–present).	87	None
<b>Interested Trustee and Officer*</b>					
Wesley R. Gray, Ph.D. Born: 1980	Trustee, Chairman of the Board, and President	Indefinite term; Trustee and Chairman of the Board (since 2014); President (since 2025)	Founder and Executive Managing Member, EA Advisers (2013–present); Chief Executive Officer, EA Advisers (2024–present); Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer, Alpha Architect, LLC (2014–present); Chief Compliance Officer, Alpha Architect (2023–present).	87	None

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

## Officers

Name and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
Michael D. Barolsky Born: 1981	Vice President and Secretary	Since 2025; President (2024 – 2025)	Chief Legal Officer, EA Advisers (December 2024–present); Chief Executive Officer, EA Advisers (June 2024–December 2024); Senior Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (2019–2024).
Joshua J. Hinderliter Born: 1983	Vice President	Since 2025	General Counsel, EA Advisers (2025-present); Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2024-2025); Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2022-2024); Managing Associate, Thompson Hine LLP (2016–2022).
Sean R. Hegarty, CPA Born: 1993	Treasurer	Since 2023; Assistant Treasurer (2022 – 2023)	Chief Operating Officer, EA Advisers (2022–present); Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (2018–2022).
Jessica D. Leighty Born: 1981	Chief Compliance Officer	Since 2022	Chief Compliance Officer, EA Advisers (2021–present); Chief Compliance Officer, Alpha Architect (2021–2023); Chief Compliance Officer, Snow Capital (2015–2021).
Elizabeth A. Winske Born: 1983	Assistant Treasurer	Since 2024	Senior Fund Operations Officer, EA Advisers (2023–present); Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (2020–2023); Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (2016–2020).
Marie L. Lostocco, CPA Born: 1985	Assistant Treasurer	Since 2025	Senior Fund Operations Officer, EA Advisers (2025–present); Vice President, Blackrock Corporation Inc. (2021–2025); Vice President, Blackrock Financial Management (2018–2021); Senior Audit Manager, Tait, Weller and Baker LLP (2008–2018).
Kyle Martinelli Born: 1993	Assistant Treasurer	Since 2025	Fund Operations Officer, EA Advisers (2025–present); Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (2015–2025).

## Trustee Qualifications

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

## Board Structure

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Committees**

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

Dr. Pagano serves as the Audit Committee Chairman. The purposes of the Audit Committee are to: (1) oversee generally the Fund Complex's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, their internal controls and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers; (2) oversee the quality, integrity and objectivity of the Fund Complex's financial statements and the independent audit thereof; (3) assist the full Board with its oversight of the Trust's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements that relate to the Fund Complex's accounting and financial reporting, internal controls and independent audits; (4) approve, prior to appointment, the engagement of the Trust's independent auditors and, in connection therewith, to review and evaluate the qualifications, independence and performance of the Trust's independent auditors; and (5) act as a liaison between the Trust's independent auditors and the full Board. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2025, the Audit Committee met eight times.

The purposes of the Nominating Committee are, among other things, to: (1) identify and recommend for nomination candidates to serve as Trustees and/or on Board committees who are not "interested persons" as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act ("Interested Persons") of the Trust and who meet any independence requirements of Exchange Rule 5.3(k)(1) or the applicable rule of any other exchange on which shares of the Trust are listed; (2) evaluate and make recommendations to the full Board regarding potential trustee candidates who are Interested Persons of the Trust; and (3) review periodically the workload and capabilities of the Trustees and, as the Committee deems appropriate, to make recommendations to the Board if such a review suggests that changes to the size or composition of the Board and/or its committees are warranted. The Committee will generally not consider potential candidates for nomination identified by shareholders. For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2025, the Nominating Committee did not meet as there were no Board vacancies.

## Compensation of Trustees

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

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

Independent Trustees are paid an annual retainer for their services, including attendance at meetings of the Board. All Trustees are reimbursed for their travel expenses and other reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attending Board meetings. In addition, each Independent Trustee is entitled to reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for educational resources, including attending educational programs to stay informed about industry and regulatory developments. The Trust has no pension or retirement plan.

The table shows the compensation paid to Trustees for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2025 by the Fund Complex.\*

	Compensation	Compensation Deferred	Total Compensation from the Fund Complex Paid to Trustee
<b>Independent Trustees</b>			
Emeka O. Oguh	\$156,375	\$0	\$156,375
Daniel Dorn	\$163,875	\$0	\$163,875
Michael S. Pagano**	\$166,375	\$0	\$166,375
<b>Interested Trustee</b>			
Wesley R. Gray***	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

\*\* Dr. Pagano receives additional compensation in his role as Audit Committee Chair.

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

## Equity Ownership of Trustees

The following table sets forth the name and dollar range of equity securities of the Fund owned by Trustees as of December 31, 2024. (The Funds have not yet commenced operations).

	Dollar Range of Equity Securities Owned		
	Defined Duration 5 ETF	Defined Duration 20 ETF	Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares (All Funds in the Complex)
<b>Independent Trustees</b>			
Emeka O. Oguh	\$0	\$0	\$1-\$10,000
Daniel Dorn	\$0	\$0	Over \$100,000
Michael S. Pagano	\$0	\$0	Over \$100,000
<b>Interested Trustee</b>			
Wesley R. Gray	\$0	\$0	Over \$100,000

As of the date of this SAI, the Funds have not commenced operations. Therefore, none of the Independent Trustees or their immediate family members beneficially owned any securities in the Funds. Further, as of October 26, 2025, none of the Independent Trustees or their immediate family members beneficially owned any securities in any investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, or principal underwriter of the Trust, or in any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with an investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, or principal underwriter of the Trust.

## Codes of Ethics

The Board, on behalf of the Trust, has adopted a Code of Ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the Investment Company Act. In addition, each of the Adviser and Sub-Adviser has adopted a Code of Ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1. These Codes of Ethics (each a “Code of Ethics” and together the “Codes of Ethics”) apply to the personal investing activities of trustees, directors, officers and certain employees (“access persons”). Rule 17j-1 and the Codes of Ethics are designed to prevent unlawful practices in connection with the purchase or sale of securities by access persons. Under each Code of Ethics, access persons are permitted to engage in personal securities transactions, but are required to report their personal securities transactions for monitoring purposes. In addition, certain access persons are required to obtain approval before investing in private placements and are prohibited from investing in initial public offerings (“IPOs”). Copies of the Codes of Ethics are on file with the SEC, and are available to the public. The Adviser’s Code of Ethics prohibits access persons from purchasing or selling a security (with certain exceptions) in which he or she has, or by reason of such transactions acquires, any beneficial ownership if the security to his or her actual knowledge at the time of such purchase or sale: (i) is being considered for purchase or sale by a Fund; (ii) is in the process of being purchased or sold by a Fund (except that an access person may participate in a bunched transaction with the Fund if the price terms are the same in accordance with trading policies and procedures adopted by the Fund Organization); or (iii) is or has been held by a Fund within the most recent 15 day period.

The Sub-Adviser’s Code of ethics permits access persons to engage in personal securities transactions in securities that may be purchased by or held by the Funds.

## Proxy Voting

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

The Trust will annually disclose its complete proxy voting record for the year ended June 30 on Form N-PX. The Trust’s most recent Form N-PX is available without charge, upon request, by calling (215) 330-4476. The Trust’s Form N-PX also is available on the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and on the Funds’ website at <https://disciplinefunds.com>.

## CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

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

## Management ownership

The Funds have not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI.

## INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES

### Investment Advisory Agreement

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

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Advisory Fee</b>
Defined Duration 5 ETF	0.25%
Defined Duration 20 ETF	0.25%

The Adviser, in turn, compensates the Sub-Adviser from the management fee the Adviser receives. The Funds have not commenced operations prior to the date of this SAI and therefore, the Funds have not yet paid management fees to the Adviser.

The Adviser manages the investment and the reinvestment of the assets of each Fund, in accordance with the investment objective, policies and limitations of the Fund, subject to the general supervision and control of the Board. The Adviser is a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Pennsylvania. The address of the Adviser is 3803 West Chester Pike, Suite 150, Newtown Square, PA 19073. The Adviser is wholly-owned by Alpha Architect, LLC. The Adviser was founded in October 2013 and provides investment advisory services to the Funds, other exchange-traded funds, and Alpha Architect, LLC, its parent company.

The following table summarizes the affiliated persons of the Funds who are also affiliated persons of the Adviser.

NAME	FUND AFFILIATION	ADVISER AFFILIATION
Wesley R. Gray, PhD	Trustee, Chairman of the Board, and President	Executive Managing Member and Chief Executive Officer
Michael D. Barolsky	Vice President and Secretary	Chief Legal Officer
Joshua J. Hinderliter	Vice President	General Counsel
Sean R. Hegarty, CPA	Treasurer	Chief Operating Officer
Jessica D. Leighty	Chief Compliance Officer	Chief Compliance Officer
Elizabeth A. Winske	Assistant Treasurer	Senior Fund Operations Officer
Marie L. Lostocco	Assistant Treasurer	Senior Fund Operations Officer
Kyle Martinelli	Assistant Treasurer	Fund Operations Officer

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

The Adviser has contractually agreed to reduce its management fee from 0.25% to 0.23% of the Defined Duration 5 ETF’s average daily net assets and from 0.25% to 0.16% of the Defined Duration 20 ETF’s average daily net assets. This Agreement will remain in place until November 30, 2026 unless terminated sooner by the Trustees. The agreement does not provide for the recoupment of any past fee waivers by the Adviser.

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

#### Investment Sub-Adviser

The Trust, on behalf of the Funds, and the Adviser have retained Orcam Financial Group, LLC dba Discipline Funds, 433 Union Street Encinitas, CA 92024 to serve as sub-adviser for the Fund. Subject to the supervision and oversight of the Adviser and the Board, and pursuant to a Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser (the “Sub-Advisory Agreement”), the Sub-Adviser implements the investment strategies described in the Funds’ Prospectus. Investment recommendations (e.g., buys and sells) are communicated to the Adviser for review and execution.

For the services it provides to the Funds, the Sub-Adviser is entitled to receive a management fee, which is calculated daily and payable monthly, based on its average daily net assets, set forth in the table below:

Fund	Sub-Advisory Fee
Defined Duration 5 ETF	0.13%
Defined Duration 20 ETF	0.13%

The payment of a management fee by the Adviser to the Sub-Adviser is subject to the terms of the Fund sponsorship agreement described below.

The Sub-Advisory Agreement was approved by the Trustees (including all the Independent Trustees) and holders of a majority of the outstanding Shares, in compliance with the 1940 Act. The Sub-Advisory Agreement will continue in force for an initial period of two years. Thereafter, the Sub-Advisory Agreement is renewable from year to year with respect to the Funds, so long as its continuance is approved at least annually (1) by the vote, cast in person (or virtually if then-permitted) at a meeting called for that purpose, of a majority of those Trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Trust; and (2) by the majority vote of either the full Board or the vote of a majority of the outstanding Shares. The Sub-Advisory Agreement will terminate automatically in the event of its assignment, and is terminable at any time without penalty by vote of a majority of the Board or, with respect to the Funds, by a majority of the

outstanding Shares of the Funds, or by the Adviser, upon 60 days' written notice to the Sub-Adviser, or by the Sub-Adviser on 60 days' written notice to the Adviser and the Trust. The Sub-Advisory Agreement provides that the Sub-Adviser shall not be protected against any liability to the Trust or its shareholders by reason of willful misfeasance, fraud, bad faith or gross negligence on its part in the performance of its duties or from reckless disregard of its obligations or duties thereunder.

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

NAME	AFFILIATION WITH FUNDS	AFFILIATION WITH SUB-ADVISED
Cullen Roche	Portfolio Manager	Chief Investment Officer

The Funds are new and therefore the Adviser has not paid management fees to the Sub-Adviser as of the date of this SAI.

#### **Sponsor**

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

#### **Custodian**

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

#### **Administrator, Fund Accountant and Transfer Agent**

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

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

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

#### **Securities Lending Agent**

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

## **PORTFOLIO MANAGER**

The following table shows the number of other accounts managed by the portfolio manager and the reporting information is provided as of July 31, 2025:

<b>Type of Accounts</b>	<b>Total Number of Accounts</b>	<b>Total Assets of Accounts (millions)</b>	<b>Total Number of Accounts with Performance Based Fees</b>	<b>Total Assets of Accounts with Performance Based Fees (millions)</b>
<i>Cullen Roche</i>				
Registered Investment Companies	1	\$53	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Accounts	120	\$173	0	\$0

The following table provides the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the portfolio manager in the Funds as of July 31, 2025.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>ETFs Managed by Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities Owned</b>
Cullen Roche	Defined Duration 5 ETF	\$0
Cullen Roche	Defined Duration 20 ETF	\$0

The Funds have not commenced operation as of the date of this SAI.

### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

The portfolio manager's management of "other accounts" may give rise to potential conflicts of interest in connection with his management of the Fund's investments, on the one hand, and the investments of the other accounts, on the other. The other accounts may have the same investment objective as the Fund. Therefore, a potential conflict of interest may arise as a result of the identical investment objectives, whereby the portfolio manager could favor one account over another. Another potential conflict could include the portfolio manager's knowledge about the size, timing and possible market impact of Fund trades, whereby the portfolio manager could use this information to the advantage of other accounts and to the disadvantage of the Fund.

Mr. Cullen Roche customizes client portfolios in Separately Managed Accounts (SMAs) and manages another ETF using a similar methodology to that used for the Funds. The SMAs and the other ETF are expected to hold some of the same underlying funds that are held by the Funds. The Sub-Adviser has established policies and procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the purchase, sale, and/or recommendation of securities among all client accounts, including the Funds, are fairly and equitably allocated.

### **Compensation**

Mr. Roche is the sole proprietor of the Sub-Adviser and his compensation is based on the profitability of the Sub-Adviser. He currently does not receive a salary.

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE**

### **Brokerage Transactions**

Depending on prevailing market conditions, portfolio changes will generally be implemented through in-kind transactions (including a Cash Component or Cash Redemption Amount as applicable) for Creation Units or, in certain limited situations, through cash-only transactions for Creation Units. In connection with an in-kind component, the Adviser may nonetheless execute brokerage transactions for a Fund and a Fund may incur brokerage commissions, particularly during the early stages of the Funds' development or in the case of transactions involving realized losses. In connection with the cash component (or with an all cash transaction), the Adviser will execute brokerage transactions for a Fund in connection with portfolio changes. Generally, equity securities are bought and sold through brokerage transactions for which commissions are payable. Purchases from underwriters will include the underwriting commission or concession, and purchases from dealers serving as market makers will include a dealer's mark-up or reflect a dealer's mark-down. Money market securities and other debt securities are usually bought and sold directly from the issuer or an underwriter or market maker for the securities. Generally, the Funds will not pay brokerage commissions for such purchases. When a debt security



is bought from an underwriter, the purchase price will usually include an underwriting commission or concession. The purchase price for securities bought from dealers serving as market makers will similarly include the dealer's mark-up or reflect a dealer's mark-down. When a Fund executes transactions in the over-the-counter market, it will generally deal with primary market makers unless prices that are more favorable are otherwise obtainable.

In addition, the Adviser may place a combined order, often referred to as "bunching," for two or more accounts it manages, including the Funds, engaged in the purchase or sale of the same security or other instrument if, in its judgment, joint execution is in the best interest of each participant and will result in best price and execution. Transactions involving commingled orders are allocated in a manner deemed equitable to each account or Fund. Although it is recognized that, in some cases, the joint execution of orders could adversely affect the price or volume of the security that a particular account or a Fund may obtain, it is the opinion of the Adviser and the Board that the advantages of combined orders outweigh the possible disadvantages of separate transactions. In addition, in some instances a Fund effecting the larger portion of a combined order may not benefit to the same extent as participants effecting smaller portions of the combined order. Nonetheless, the Adviser believes that the ability of a Fund to participate in higher volume transactions will generally be beneficial to the Fund.

The Funds have not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI and therefore do not have any information to report regarding brokerage commissions they have paid.

### **Brokerage Selection**

The Trust does not expect to use one particular broker-dealer to effect the Trust's portfolio transactions. When one or more broker-dealers is believed capable of providing the best combination of price and execution, the Adviser may not select a broker-dealer based on the lowest commission rate available for a particular transaction. The Adviser does not currently use soft dollars.

### **Brokerage with Fund Affiliates**

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

The Funds have not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI and therefore have not executed brokerage or other agency transactions through registered broker-dealer affiliates of the Funds, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, or the Distributor.

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

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

The Funds have not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI and therefore do not hold any securities of "regular broker dealers."

## **THE DISTRIBUTOR**

PINE Distributors LLC (the "Distributor"), located at 501 S. Cherry Street, Suite 610, Denver, CO 80246, serves as the Distributor for the Funds.

Shares will be continuously offered for sale by the Trust through the Distributor only in Creation Units, as described below under "Transactions in Creation Units." Shares in less than Creation Units are not distributed by the Distributor. The Distributor also acts as agent for the Trust. The Distributor will deliver a Prospectus to persons purchasing Shares in Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders placed with it and confirmations of acceptance furnished by it. The Distributor is a broker-dealer registered under the

1934 Act and a member of FINRA. The Distributor has no role in determining the investment policies of the Funds or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Funds.

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

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

### **ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS**

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

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

#### **Legal Counsel**

Practus, LLP, 11300 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 310, Leawood, Kansas 66211, serves as legal counsel to the Trust.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING SHARES**

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

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

Under Delaware law, the Trust is not required to hold an annual meeting of shareholders if the Investment Company Act does not require such a meeting, which it does not. Generally, there will not be annual meetings of Trust shareholders, but if requested by shareholders of at least 10% of the outstanding Shares of the Trust, the Trust will call a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing Trustees, provided that the Shareholders requesting such meeting shall have paid the Trust the reasonably estimated cost of preparing and mailing the notice thereof.

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

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

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

### **Book Entry Only System**

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

DTC acts as securities depository for Shares. Shares are represented by securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., and deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC.

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

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

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

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

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

DTC may decide to discontinue providing its service with respect to Shares at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Trust and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law. Under such circumstances, the Trust shall take action to find a replacement for DTC to perform its functions, though there can be no guarantee that such services would be available at a comparable cost.

### **Transactions In Creation Units**

Each Fund sells and redeems Shares in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load, at the NAV next determined after receipt of an order in proper form on any Business Day. As of the date of this SAI, the Exchange observes the following holidays: New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Washington’s Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. No Fund will issue fractional Creation Units, except in conjunction with a merger or reorganization or for the receipt of securities in-kind at the commencement of the Fund’s operations.

The Board may declare a split or a consolidation in the number of Shares outstanding of a Fund or the Trust and make a corresponding change in the number of Shares in a Creation Unit.

To purchase or redeem any Creation Units from a Fund, you must be, or transact through, an Authorized Participant. In order to be an Authorized Participant, you must be a member or participant of a clearing agency registered with the SEC and have a written agreement (a “Participant Agreement”) with the applicable Fund or one of its service providers that allows the Authorized Participant to place orders for the purchase and redemption of creation units.

Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a participant in the Continuous Net Settlement System (“Clearing Process”) of the NSCC using the NSCC system are referred to as transactions “through the Clearing Process.” Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a participant in DTC with access to the DTC system (“DTC Participant”) using the DTC system are referred to as transactions “outside the Clearing Process.”

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

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

#### **Purchasing Creation Units**

Shares may be purchased only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a purchase request in proper form by the applicable Fund through the Distributor and only on a Business Day.

*Fund Deposit.* The consideration for a Creation Unit of a Fund is the “Fund Deposit”. The Fund Deposit will consist of the In-Kind Creation Basket and Cash Component (computed as described below), or an all cash payment (“Cash Value”), as determined by the Adviser to be in the best interest of the applicable Fund. The standard Fund Deposit with respect to each Fund can be found in the table at the end of this section (the “Order Information Table”).

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

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

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

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

*Cash in lieu.* Each Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit or require the substitution of an amount of cash (“cash in lieu”) to be added to the Cash Component to replace any security in the In-Kind Creation Basket. Each Fund may permit or require cash in lieu when, for example, the securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or may not be eligible

for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process. Similarly, each Fund may permit or require cash in lieu when, for example, the Authorized Participant or its underlying investor is restricted under U.S. or local securities law or policies from transacting in one or more securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket. Each Fund will comply with the federal securities laws in accepting securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket, including the securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket that are sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the 1933 Act.

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

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

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

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

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

Orders involving foreign securities are expected to be settled outside the Clearing Process. Thus, upon receipt of an irrevocable purchase order, the Distributor will notify the Adviser and the Custodian of such order. The Custodian, who will have caused the appropriate local sub-custodian(s) of the applicable Fund to maintain an account into which an Authorized Participant may deliver the Fund Deposit (or cash in lieu), with adjustments determined by the applicable Fund, will then provide information of the order to such local sub-custodian(s). The Authorized Participant must also make available on or before the Settlement, by means satisfactory to the applicable Fund, immediately available or same day funds in U.S. dollars estimated by the applicable Fund to be sufficient to pay the Cash Component and Transaction Fee.

While, as stated above, Creation Units are generally delivered the Business Day following the day on which the order is deemed received by the Distributor, except the applicable Fund may settle Creation Unit transactions on a basis other than the one described above to accommodate foreign market holiday schedules, to account for different treatment among foreign and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and ex-dividend dates (that is the last day the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security), and in certain other circumstances.

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

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

Except as provided below, a Creation Unit will not be issued until the applicable Fund obtains good title to the In-Kind Creation Basket securities and the Cash Component, along with any cash in lieu and Transaction Fee .

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

With respect to orders involving foreign securities, when the applicable local sub-custodian(s) has confirmed to the Custodian that the In-Kind Creation Basket (or cash in lieu) has been delivered to the applicable Fund's account at the applicable sub-custodian(s), the Distributor and the Adviser shall be notified of such delivery, and such Fund will issue and cause the delivery of the Creation Unit.

Creation Units may be created in advance of receipt by the Trust of all or a portion of the applicable In-Kind Creation Basket, provided the purchaser tenders an initial deposit consisting of any available securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket and cash equal to the sum of the Cash Component and at least 105% of the market value, as adjusted from time to time by the Adviser, of the In-Kind Creation Basket securities not delivered ("Additional Cash Deposit"). Such initial deposit will have a value greater than the NAV of the Creation Unit on the date the order is placed.

To the extent securities in the In-Kind Creation Basket remain undelivered, pending delivery of such securities additional cash will be required to be deposited with the Trust as necessary to maintain an Additional Cash Deposit equal to at least 105% (as adjusted by the Adviser) of the daily marked-to-market value of the missing securities. To the extent that either (i) such securities are still not received by 1:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the second Business Day following the day on which the purchase order is deemed received by the Distributor or (ii) a marked-to-market payment is not made within one Business Day following notification to the purchaser and/or Authorized Participant that such a payment is required, the Trust may use the cash on deposit to purchase the missing securities, and the Authorized Participant effectuating such transaction will be liable to the applicable Fund for any costs incurred therein or losses resulting therefrom, including any Transaction Fee, any amount by which the actual purchase price of the missing securities exceeds the Additional Cash Deposit or the market value of such securities on the day the purchase order was deemed received by the Distributor, as well as brokerage and related transaction costs. The Trust will return any unused portion of the Additional Cash Deposit once all of the missing securities have been received by the Trust.

*Cash Purchase Method.* When cash purchases of Creation Units are available or specified for a Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind purchases. In the case of a cash purchase, the investor must pay the cash equivalent of the Fund

Deposit. In addition, cash purchases may be subject to Transaction Fees as described below. A cash purchase may cause a Fund to incur certain costs that it would not have had the purchase been in-kind. These costs may include brokerage costs, execution, price movement and other costs and expenses related to the execution of trades by such Fund. To the extent that these costs are not offset by the Transaction Fees the applicable Fund's NAV will be negatively impacted.

### **Redeeming Creation Units**

Shares may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by each Fund through the Distributor and only on a Business Day.

*Fund Redemptions.* The redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit will consist of the In-Kind Redemption Basket and a Cash Redemption Amount (computed as described below), or the Cash Value, in all instances equal to the value of a Creation Unit.

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

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

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

In lieu of an In-Kind Redemption Basket and Cash Redemption Amount, Creation Units may be redeemed consisting solely for the Cash Value if permitted or required by each Fund in its sole discretion. Such redemptions for each Fund may be subject to a variable charge, as explained below. If applicable, information about the Cash Value will be made available by the Adviser or Transfer Agent.

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

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

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

*Placement of Redemption Orders.* Redemptions must be placed to the Transfer Agent through the Distributor. In addition, redemption orders must be processed either through the DTC process or the Clearing Process. To redeem a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable redemption order to the Distributor.

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

verification report, does not provide sufficient verification of the requested representations, the redemption order will not be considered to be in proper form and may be rejected by the applicable Fund.

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

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

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

Orders involving foreign securities are expected to be settled outside the Clearing Process. Thus, upon receipt of an irrevocable redemption order, the Distributor will notify the Adviser and the Custodian. The Custodian will then provide information of the redemption to each Fund's local sub-custodian(s). The redeeming Authorized Participant, or the investor on whose behalf it is acting, will have established appropriate arrangements with a broker-dealer, bank or other custody provider in each jurisdiction in which the securities are customarily traded and to which such securities (and any cash in lieu) can be delivered from the applicable Fund's accounts at the applicable local sub-custodian(s).

The calculation of the value of the In-Kind Redemption Basket and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered/received upon redemption will be made by the Custodian computed on the Business Day on which a redemption order is deemed received by the Trust. Therefore, if a redemption order in proper form is submitted to the Transfer Agent by a DTC Participant or an Authorized Participant with the ability to transact through the Federal Reserve System, as applicable, not later than Closing Time on the Transmittal Date, and the requisite number of Shares of the applicable Fund are delivered to the Custodian prior to the DTC Cut-Off-Time, then the value of the In-Kind Redemption Basket and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered/received will be determined by the Custodian on such Transmittal Date. If, however, either: (i) the requisite number of Shares of the applicable Fund are not delivered by the DTC Cut-Off-Time, as described below, or (ii) the redemption order is not submitted in proper form, then the redemption order will not be deemed received as of the Transmittal Date. In such case, the value of the In-Kind Redemption Basket and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered/received will be computed on the Transmittal Date provided that the Shares of the applicable Fund are delivered through DTC to the Custodian by 11:00 a.m., Eastern time, the following Business Day pursuant to a properly submitted redemption order.

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

The Fund may also, in its sole discretion, upon request of a shareholder, provide such redeemer a portfolio of securities that differs from the exact composition of the In-Kind Redemption Basket, or cash in lieu of some securities added to the Cash Component, but in



no event will the total value of the securities delivered and the cash transmitted differ from the NAV. Redemptions of Fund Shares for the In-Kind Redemption Basket will be subject to compliance with applicable federal and state securities laws and each Fund (whether or not it otherwise permits cash redemptions) reserves the right to redeem Creation Units for cash to the extent that the Trust could not lawfully deliver specific securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket upon redemptions or could not do so without first registering the securities in the In-Kind Redemption Basket under such laws. An Authorized Participant or an investor for which it is acting subject to a legal restriction with respect to a particular security included in the In-Kind Redemption Basket applicable to the redemption of a Creation Unit may be paid an equivalent amount of cash. The Authorized Participant may request the redeeming beneficial owner of the Shares to complete an order form or to enter into agreements with respect to such matters as compensating cash payment, beneficial ownership of shares or delivery instructions.

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

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

#### **Purchase and Redemption Cut-Off Times**

All orders and redemptions involving cash in lieu are considered to be "custom." All other orders and redemptions are considered "standard." Order cut-off times for standard and custom orders are as show in the Order Information Table below. On days when the Exchange or bond markets close earlier than normal (such as the day before a holiday), the Order Cut-Off Time (whether standard or custom) is expected to be similarly earlier than normal.

If indicated in the Order Information Table below, orders to purchase Shares directly from the indicated Fund(s) on the next Business Day must be submitted as a "Future Dated Trade" for one or more Creation Units between 4:30 p.m. Eastern time and 5:30 p.m. Eastern time on the prior Business Day and in the manner set forth in the Participant Agreement and/or applicable order form. Such order window is referred to as a "T-1" order window. For such Future Dated Trades, the Transmittal Date will be the Business Day following the date that the order is submitted. For example, to place an order for such a Fund to receive the NAV of the Fund calculated on a Wednesday, the order would need to be submitted as a Future Dated Trade between 4:30 p.m. Eastern time and 5:30 p.m. Eastern time on the preceding Tuesday.

#### **Transaction Fees**

Authorized Participants may be required to pay a Transaction Fee as set forth in the Order Information Table below to compensate the Trust or its custodian for costs incurred in connection with creation and redemption transactions.

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

The Fund may adjust the Transaction Fee from time to time. The Standard Transaction Fee is based, in part, on the number of holdings in the applicable Fund's portfolio and may be adjusted periodically if the number of holdings change. Investors will also be responsible for the costs associated with transferring the securities in the In-Kind Creation (and Redemption) Baskets to (and from) the account of the Trust. Further, investors who, directly or indirectly, use the services of a broker or other intermediary to compose a

Creation Unit in addition to an Authorized Participant to effect a transaction in Creation Units may be charged an additional fee by such intermediary for such services.

#### Order Information Table

Fund	Ticker	Standard Order Cut-Off Time	Custom Order Cut-Off Time	Standard Transaction Fee	Standard Fund Deposit
Defined Duration 5 ETF	DDV	4:00 p.m. ET	4:00 p.m. ET	\$300	In-kind
Defined Duration 20 ETF	DDXX	4:00 p.m. ET	4:00 p.m. ET	\$300	In-kind

#### DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

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

Each Fund calculates its NAV per Share by:

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

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

Because securities listed on foreign exchanges may trade on weekends or other days when a Fund does not price its Shares, the NAV of the Fund, to the extent it may hold foreign securities, may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell Shares.

Equity securities that are traded on a national securities exchange, except those listed on the NASDAQ Global Market® (“NASDAQ”) are valued at the last reported sale price on the exchange on which the security is principally traded. Securities traded on NASDAQ will be valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price (“NOCP”). If, on a particular day, an exchange-traded or NASDAQ security does not trade, then the most recent quoted bid for exchange traded or the mean between the most recent quoted bid and ask price for NASDAQ securities will be used. Equity securities that are not traded on a listed exchange are generally valued at the last sale price in the over-the-counter market. If a non-exchange traded security does not trade on a particular day, then the mean between the last quoted closing bid and asked price will be used. Prices denominated in foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollar equivalents using current exchange rates deemed appropriate for a Fund, which approximates fair value.

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

Subject to its oversight, the Board has delegated primary responsibility for determining or causing to be determined the value of each Fund’s investments to the Adviser, pursuant to the Trust’s valuation policy and procedures, which have been adopted by the Trust and approved by the Board. In accordance with Rule 2a-5 under the 1940 Act, the Board designated the Adviser as the “valuation designee” of the Funds. If the Adviser, as valuation designee, determines that reliable market quotations are not readily available for an investment, the investment is valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Adviser in accordance with the Trust’s fair valuation policy and procedures. The Adviser will provide the Board with periodic reports, no less frequently than quarterly, that discuss the functioning of the valuation process, if applicable, and that identify issues and valuation problems that have arisen, if any. As appropriate, the Adviser and the Board will review any securities valued by the Adviser in accordance with the Trust’s valuation policies during these periodic reports.

Repurchase agreements are generally valued at par. Pricing services will be used to determine the value of a fixed income investment. In certain circumstances, short-term instruments may be valued on the basis of amortized cost.

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

## TAXES

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

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

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

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

- a citizen or individual resident of the United States (including certain former citizens and former long-term residents);
- a corporation or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust with respect to which a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions or the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

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

***The description below is for general information only and is not tax advice. All investors should consult their own tax advisors as to the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax provisions applicable to them.***

### **Taxation of the Funds**

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

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

To qualify for treatment as a RIC, a Fund must satisfy the following requirements:

- **Distribution Requirement** — a Fund must distribute an amount equal to the sum of at least 90% of its investment company taxable income and 90% of its net tax-exempt income, if any, for the tax year (including, for purposes of satisfying this distribution requirement, certain distributions made by a Fund after the close of its taxable year that are treated as made during such taxable year).
- **Income Requirement** — a Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other

income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived from its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies and net income derived from qualified publicly traded partnerships (“QPTPs”). See “Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions – Investments in Partnerships and QPTPs” below.

- **Asset Diversification Test** — a Fund must satisfy the following asset diversification test at the close of each quarter of the Fund’s tax year: (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund’s assets must consist of cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other RICs, and securities of other issuers (as to which the Fund has not invested more than 5% of the value of the Fund’s total assets in securities of an issuer and as to which the Fund does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer); and (ii) no more than 25% of the value of the Fund’s total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities or securities of other RICs) or of two or more issuers which the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or, in the securities of one or more QPTPs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*U.S. Federal Excise Tax.* To avoid a 4% non-deductible U.S. federal excise tax, a Fund must distribute by December 31 of each year an amount equal to at least: (1) 98% of its ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of capital gain net income (that is, the excess of the gains from sales or exchanges of capital assets over the losses from such sales or exchanges) for the one-year period ended on October 31 of such calendar year, and (3) any prior year undistributed ordinary income and capital gain net income. A Fund

may elect to defer to the following year any net ordinary loss incurred for the portion of the calendar year which is after the beginning of the Fund's taxable year. Also, a Fund will defer any "specified gain" or "specified loss" which would be properly taken into account for the portion of the calendar year after October 31. Any net ordinary loss, specified gain, or specified loss deferred shall be treated as arising on January 1 of the following calendar year. Generally, a Fund intends to make sufficient distributions prior to the end of each calendar year to avoid any material liability for U.S. federal income and excise tax, but can give no assurances that all or a portion of such liability will be avoided. In addition, under certain circumstances, temporary timing or permanent differences in the realization of income and expense for book and tax purposes can result in a Fund having to pay the U.S. federal excise tax.

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

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

### **Taxation of Fund Distributions**

This section applies to U.S. shareholders.

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

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

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

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

*Qualified Dividend Income for Individuals.* Ordinary income dividends reported by a Fund to shareholders as derived from qualified dividend income will be taxed in the hands of individuals and other noncorporate shareholders at the rates applicable to long-term capital gain. "Qualified dividend income" means dividends paid to a Fund (a) by domestic corporations, (b) by foreign corporations that are either (i) incorporated in a possession of the United States, or (ii) are eligible for benefits under certain income tax treaties with the United States that include an exchange of information program, or (c) with respect to stock of a foreign corporation that is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. Both a Fund and the investor must meet certain holding

period requirements to qualify Fund dividends for this treatment. Specifically, a Fund must hold the stock for at least 61 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the stock becomes ex-dividend. Similarly, investors must hold their Shares for at least 61 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before a Fund distribution goes ex-dividend. Income derived from investments in derivatives, fixed-income securities, U.S. REITs, PFICs, and income received “in lieu of” dividends in a securities lending transaction generally is not eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income. If the qualifying dividend income received by a Fund is equal to or greater than 95% of the Fund’s gross income (exclusive of net capital gain) in any taxable year, all of the ordinary income dividends paid by the Fund will be qualifying dividend income.

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

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

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

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

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

*Medicare Tax.* A 3.8% U.S. federal Medicare tax is imposed on net investment income earned by certain individuals, estates and trusts. “Net investment income,” for these purposes, means investment income, including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from a Fund and net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of Shares, reduced by the deductions

properly allocable to such income. In the case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (i) the shareholder's net investment income or (ii) the amount by which the shareholder's modified adjusted gross income exceeds certain thresholds based on filing status. This Medicare tax, if applicable, is reported by you on, and paid with, your U.S. federal income tax return.

***Tax-Exempt Shareholders.*** A tax-exempt U.S. shareholder could recognize unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") by virtue of its investment in a Fund if Shares constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt U.S. shareholder. Furthermore, a tax-exempt U.S. shareholder may recognize UBTI if a Fund recognizes "excess inclusion income" derived from direct or indirect investments in residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs") or equity interests in taxable mortgage pools ("TMPs") if the amount of such income recognized by the Fund exceeds the Fund's investment company taxable income (after taking into account deductions for dividends paid by the Fund).

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

## **Sales and Redemption of Shares**

This section applies to U.S. shareholders.

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

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

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

If a Fund redeems Creation Units in cash, it may recognize more capital gains than it would had it redeemed Creation Units in-kind.

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

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

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



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

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

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

*Reportable Transactions.* Under U.S. Treasury Regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to a Fund's Shares of certain threshold amounts, the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. The fact that a loss is reportable under these Treasury Regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their own tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

*Shares Purchased through Tax-Qualified Plans.* Special tax rules apply to investments through defined contribution plans and other tax-qualified plans. Shareholders should consult their own tax advisors to determine the suitability of Shares as an investment through such plans, and the precise effect of an investment on their particular tax situation.

If you invest in a Fund through an IRA or other retirement plan, you should consult with your own tax advisor on the applicable rules for such IRA or retirement plan with respect to plan qualification requirements, limits on contributions and distributions, and required distributions from IRAs and retirement plans. As an example, there could be tax penalties on distributions from an IRA or retirement plan prior to age 59-1/2. Certain minimum distribution requirements may also apply to IRAs or retirement plans. Failure to follow these requirements and other applicable requirements may result in significant additional taxes and penalties. It is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with these and other requirements.

## **Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Investments in ETFs.* To the extent a Fund invests in ETFs, the Fund generally intends to invest in ETFs that are taxable as RICs under the Code. Accordingly, the income a Fund receives from such ETFs should be qualifying income for purposes of the Fund satisfying the "Income Requirement" (as defined above under the heading "Taxes"). However, a Fund may also invest in one or more ETFs that

are not taxable as RICs under the Code and that may generate non-qualifying income for purposes of satisfying the Income Requirement. Each Fund anticipates monitoring its investments in such ETFs so as to keep such Fund's non-qualifying income within acceptable limits of the Income Requirement, however, it is possible that such non-qualifying income will be more than anticipated which could cause the Fund to inadvertently fail the Income Requirement thereby causing the Fund to fail to qualify as a RIC. In such a case, such Fund would be subject to the rules described above.

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

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

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

As discussed above, a Fund or some of the REITs in which the Fund may invest may be permitted to hold senior or residual interests in REMICs or debt or equity interests in TMPs. Generally, a portion of a Fund's income from a REIT that is attributable to the REIT's residual interest in a REMIC or a TMP (referred to in the Code as an "excess inclusion") will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in all events. Excess inclusion income of a RIC, such as a Fund, will be allocated to shareholders of the RIC in proportion to the dividends received by shareholders, with the same consequences as if shareholders held the related REMIC residual or TMP interest directly.

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

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

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

*Commodity-Linked Derivatives Tax Risk.* The tax treatment of commodity-linked derivative instruments is currently uncertain and may be adversely affected by changes in legislation, regulations, or other legally binding authority. As a RIC, a Fund must satisfy the Income Requirement. On May 1, 2017, the IRS published a series of revocations of private letter rulings that had been issued to RICs. In each of the revocations, at least one of the rulings requested in the original private letter ruling was that the income from a

commodity-linked note was qualified income for the purposes of the Income Requirement. Although the original rulings were favorable, the IRS indicated in the revocations that the rulings were not in accord with the current views of the IRS. If, as a result of any adverse future legislation, Treasury Regulations, and/or guidance issued by the IRS, the income of a Fund from certain commodity-linked derivatives were treated as non-qualifying income, the Fund may fail to qualify as RIC and/or be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the Fund level. The uncertainty surrounding the treatment of certain derivative instruments under the qualification tests for a RIC may limit a Fund's use of such derivative instruments.

### **Backup Withholding**

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

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

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

### **Non-U.S. Investors**

This section applies to Non-U.S. investors.

Non-U.S. investors may be subject to U.S. federal withholding and estate tax and are subject to special U.S. federal tax certification requirements. Non-U.S. investors should consult their own tax advisors about the applicability of U.S. federal tax withholding and the use of the appropriate forms to certify their status.

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

*Capital Gain Dividends.* In general, capital gain dividends reported by a Fund to shareholders as paid from its net long-term capital gains, other than long-term capital gains realized on disposition of U.S. real property interests (see the discussion below), are not subject to U.S. withholding tax.

*Short-Term Capital Gain Dividends and Interest-Related Dividends.* Short-term capital gain dividends reported by a Fund to shareholders as paid from its net short-term capital gains, other than short-term capital gains realized on disposition of U.S. real property interests (see the discussion below), generally are not subject to U.S. federal withholding tax. Similarly, dividends reported by a Fund to shareholders as interest-related dividends and paid from its qualified net interest income from U.S. sources generally are not subject to U.S. federal withholding tax. "Qualified interest income" includes, in general, U.S. source (i) bank deposit interest, (ii) short-term original discount, (iii) interest (including original issue discount, market discount, or acquisition discount) on an obligation that is in registered form, unless it is earned on an obligation issued by a corporation or partnership in which a Fund is a 10-percent shareholder or is contingent interest, and (iv) any interest-related dividend from another RIC. Each Fund reserves the right to not report amounts of short-term capital gain dividends or interest-related dividends. Additionally, a Fund's reporting of short-term capital gain dividends or interest-related dividends may not be passed through to shareholders by intermediaries who have assumed tax reporting responsibilities for this income in managed or omnibus accounts due to systems limitations or operational constraints.

*Net Investment Income from Dividends on Stock and Foreign Source Interest Income Continue to be Subject to Withholding Tax; Foreign Tax Credits.* Ordinary dividends paid by a Fund to Non-U.S. investors on the income earned on portfolio investments in (i) the stock of domestic and foreign corporations and (ii) the debt of foreign issuers continue to be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax. Non-U.S. investors may be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% on the income resulting from an election to pass-through foreign tax credits to shareholders but may not be able to claim a credit or deduction with respect to the withholding tax for the foreign tax treated as having been paid by them.

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

*Investment in U.S. Real Property.* The Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (“FIRPTA”) makes non-U.S. persons subject to U.S. federal tax on disposition of a U.S. real property interest (“USRPI”) as if they were U.S. persons. Such gain is sometimes referred to as FIRPTA gain. A Fund may invest in equity securities of corporations that invest in USRPI, which may trigger FIRPTA gain to the Fund’s Non-U.S. investors.

The Code provides a look-through rule for distributions of FIRPTA gain when a RIC is classified as a qualified investment entity. A RIC will be classified as a qualified investment entity only with respect to any distribution by the RIC which is attributable directly or indirectly to a distribution to the RIC from a U.S. REIT (“FIRPTA distribution”) and if, in general, 50% or more of the RIC’s assets consist of interests in U.S. REITs and other U.S. real property holding corporations (“USRPHCs”). If a RIC is a qualified investment entity and the Non-U.S. investor owns more than 5% of a class of Shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the FIRPTA distribution, the FIRPTA distribution to the Non-U.S. investor is treated as gain from the disposition of a USRPI, causing the distribution to be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 15%, and requiring the Non-U.S. investor to file a nonresident U.S. income tax return. In addition, even if the Non-U.S. investor does not own more than 5% of a class of Shares, but a Fund is a qualified investment entity, the FIRPTA distribution will be taxable as ordinary dividends (rather than as a capital gain or short-term capital gain dividend) subject to withholding at 30% or lower treaty rate.

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

*U.S. Estate Tax.* Transfers by gift of Shares by a Non-U.S. investor who is a nonresident alien individual will not be subject to U.S. federal gift tax. An individual who, at the time of death, is a Non-U.S. investor will nevertheless be subject to U.S. federal estate tax with respect to Shares at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. citizens and residents, unless a treaty exemption applies. If a treaty exemption is available, a decedent’s estate may nonetheless need to file a U.S. federal estate tax return to claim the exemption in order to obtain a U.S. federal transfer certificate.

*U.S. Tax Certification Rules.* Special U.S. tax certification requirements may apply to Non-U.S. investors both to avoid U.S. federal backup withholding imposed at a rate of 24% and to obtain the benefits of any treaty between the United States and the shareholder’s country of residence. In general, if you are a Non-U.S. investor, you must provide an applicable Form W-8BEN (or other applicable Form W-8) to establish that you are not a U.S. person, to claim that you are the beneficial owner of the income and, if applicable, to claim a reduced rate of, or exemption from, U.S. federal withholding as a resident of a country with which the United States has an income tax treaty. Certain payees and payments are exempt from U.S. federal backup withholding.

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

*Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (“FATCA”).* 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: (i) income dividends paid by a Fund and (ii) possibly in the future, certain capital gain distributions and the proceeds arising from the sale of Shares paid by a Fund. FATCA withholding tax generally can be avoided: (i) 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 (ii) by an NFFE, if it: (a) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (b) if it does have such owners, reports information relating to them. A 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 a Fund fails to provide the Fund with appropriate certifications or other documentation concerning its status under FATCA, generally on an applicable IRS Form W-8.

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

The foregoing general discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences is based on the Code and the U.S. Treasury Regulations issued thereunder as in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative or administrative changes, including provisions of current law that sunset and thereafter no longer apply, or court decisions may significantly change the conclusions expressed herein, and any such

changes or decisions may have a retroactive effect with respect to the transactions contemplated herein. Rules of state and local taxation of ordinary income, qualified dividend income and capital gain dividends may differ from the rules for U.S. federal income taxation described above. Distributions may also be subject to additional state, local and foreign taxes depending on each shareholder's particular situation. Non-U.S. investors may be subject to U.S. tax rules that differ significantly from those summarized above. Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors as to the consequences of these and other state and local tax rules affecting investment in a Fund.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Financial Statements and Annual Reports will be available after the Funds have completed a fiscal period/year of operations. When available, you may request a copy of the Annual Report for the Funds at no charge by calling (215) 330-4476, or you may download the report from the Funds' website at <https://disciplinefunds.com>.

## **Appendix A**

### **EA Advisers**

#### **Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**

##### **PROXY VOTING POLICY**

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

##### **VOTING PROCEDURES**

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

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

##### **DISCLOSURE**

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

##### **VOTING GUIDELINES**

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

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

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

##### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

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

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

##### **REPORTING**

The Firm will present to the Board a quarterly report summarizing its proxy voting compliance activities for the preceding quarter. In accordance with its procedures, the Board will review the quarterly report to ensure compliance with the SEC Rules and this Policy, and will determine the steps and procedures, if any, that must be undertaken or adopted by the Firm to ensure further compliance with the relevant laws. Votes cast on behalf of the Funds will be compiled and transmitted to the Administrator, which will assist in preparing the Form N-PX report as required by the SEC.

## **RECORDKEEPING**

The Compliance Officer shall retain the following proxy records in accordance with the SEC's five-year retention requirement:

1. These policies and procedures and any amendments;
2. A copy of each proxy statement that the Firm receives;
3. A record of each vote that the Firm casts;
4. Any document the Firm created that was material to making a decision how to vote proxies, or that memorializes that decision.

A copy of each written request from a Fund for information on how the Firm voted such Fund's proxies, and a copy of any written response.