

## **RMB FUNDS**

**RMB Fund  
RMB Mendon Financial Services Fund  
RMB International Fund  
RMB Japan Fund  
RMB Small Cap Fund  
RMB SMID Cap Fund**

series of RMB Investors Trust (the “Trust”)  
(each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”)

**Supplement Dated January 2, 2024 to the Funds’ Prospectus and Statement of Additional  
Information (“SAI”) dated May 1, 2023**

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### *Notification of Adviser Merger*

RMB Capital Management, LLC, the Funds’ investment adviser (“RMB”), has merged with Curi Wealth Management, LLC, effective January 1, 2024. RMB is the surviving entity of the merger with a new name, “Curi RMB Capital, LLC” (“Curi RMB” or the “Adviser”). Curi Capital, LLC owns a majority interest in the Adviser, and RMB Capital Holdings LLC, in which RMB’s partners hold equity, holds a minority stake in the Adviser. The merger has not and is not anticipated to result in any material change in the day-to-day management of the Funds.

The merger resulted in a change of control of RMB. Consistent with the requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”) and the terms of (i) the investment advisory agreement between RMB and the Trust, on behalf of the Funds (the “Advisory Agreement”), and (ii) the sub-advisory agreement between RMB and Mendon Capital Advisors Corp. (the “Sub-Adviser”) with respect to the RMB Mendon Financial Services Fund (the “Sub-Advisory Agreement”), the change of control of RMB constituted an assignment of the Advisory Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Agreement resulting in the automatic termination of those agreements.

The Board of Trustees of the Trust (the “Board”), at an in-person meeting held on December 13, 2023, approved an interim investment advisory agreement and interim sub-advisory agreement, each with substantially the same terms and conditions as its corresponding Advisory Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement, respectively, in order to allow Curi RMB and the Sub-Adviser to continue managing the Funds. In accordance with Rule 15a-4 under the 1940 Act, the interim agreements provide for, among other matters: (i) a duration no greater than 150 days beginning January 1, 2024; (ii) the same compensation as the corresponding Advisory Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement; (iii) termination of an interim agreement at any time with respect to a Fund by the Board or a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities, without the payment of any penalty, on not more than 10 calendar days’ written notice to the Adviser or Sub-Adviser, as applicable; and (iv) that the compensation earned under the interim agreements be held in an interest-bearing escrow account with the Funds’ custodian or a bank, pending approval of a new investment advisory agreement and sub-advisory agreement by the Funds’ shareholders. Approval of the interim agreements by Fund shareholders is not required and was not sought.

At the December 13, 2023 in-person Board meeting, the Board also approved a new investment advisory agreement between Curi RMB and the Trust, on behalf of the Funds (the “New Advisory Agreement”), and a new sub-advisory agreement between Curi RMB and the Sub-Adviser with respect to the RMB Mendon Financial Services Fund (the “New Sub-Advisory Agreement”). The Board has called a special meeting of the Funds’ shareholders to be held on or about March 20, 2024 at which shareholders will be asked to approve the New Advisory Agreement and New Sub-Advisory Agreement. The New Advisory

Agreement and the New Sub-Advisory Agreement each reflect the same fee level as the corresponding Advisory Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement. The New Advisory Agreement and the New Sub-Advisory Agreement will each take effect, and the corresponding interim investment advisory agreement and interim sub-advisory agreement will terminate, upon receiving the requisite approval of Fund shareholders at the special meeting.

*In accordance with the foregoing, all references (including through the use of defined terms) in the Funds' Prospectus and SAI to RMB Capital Management, LLC (defined therein as the "Adviser" or "RMB") are replaced with Curi RMB Capital, LLC (hereafter defined as the "Adviser" or "Curi RMB"), and all references (including through the use of defined terms) in the Funds' Prospectus and SAI to investment advisory agreement and sub-advisory agreement are replaced with interim investment advisory agreement and interim sub-advisory agreement, respectively.*

*In addition, the first five paragraphs of the section of the Prospectus titled "The Investment Adviser" are replaced with the following:*

### **The Investment Adviser**

Curi RMB, located at 115 South LaSalle Street, 34th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603, is the investment adviser to each Fund since January 1, 2024. Prior to January 1, 2024, RMB Capital Management, LLC ("RMB Capital"), which was founded in 2005, served as each Fund's (including any predecessor funds') investment adviser since the dates set forth below.

<b>Fund:</b>	<b>Advised by RMB Capital until January 1, 2024, and since:</b>
RMB Fund	July 2016
Financial Services Fund	July 2016
International Fund	December 2017
Japan Fund	December 2017
Small Cap Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	June 2017
SMID Cap Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	June 2017

<sup>(1)</sup> The Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund commenced operations as series of the Trust upon completion of the IronBridge Reorganizations on June 21, 2019. Previously, RMB Capital served as investment adviser to the IronBridge Small Cap Fund (predecessor to the Small Cap Fund) and the IronBridge SMID Cap Fund (predecessor to the SMID Cap Fund) (collectively, the "IronBridge Predecessor Funds") since June 24, 2017.

On January 1, 2024, RMB Capital merged with Curi Wealth Management, LLC and became Curi RMB. Curi RMB is an independent diversified financial services firm that provides advisory and investment services to individuals, families, employers, trusts, family offices, endowments, and other institutions.

Pursuant to an interim investment advisory agreement, the Adviser is responsible for managing the investment and reinvestment of each Fund's assets in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies, including economic research, industry and company analysis, the purchase and sale of portfolio securities, and maintaining books and records of the Fund. The Adviser also has overall responsibility for the general management of the Funds' operations, including arranging for and assisting the Board with oversight of the services provided by third-party service providers. In return for its services, the Adviser receives a fee from each Fund as set forth below under the heading "Management Fees and Expense Limitation Agreement." The compensation earned under the interim investment advisory agreement is held in an interest-bearing escrow account with the Funds' custodian or a bank, pending approval of a new investment advisory agreement by the Funds' shareholders.

With respect to the Financial Services Fund, the Adviser has entered into an interim sub-advisory agreement with Mendon pursuant to which Mendon provides the Fund with investment advice,

consistent with the Fund’s investment objective and policies, subject to the oversight of the Adviser. The Adviser pays a sub-advisory fee to Mendon out of the Adviser’s own assets. Mendon’s sub-advisory fee earned under the interim sub-advisory agreement is held in an interest-bearing escrow account with the Financial Services Fund’s custodian or a bank, pending approval of a new sub-advisory agreement by the Fund’s shareholders. The Fund is not responsible for paying any portion of the sub-advisory fee to Mendon.

### **Advisory and Sub-Advisory Agreement Approval**

A discussion regarding the Board of Trustees’ basis for approving (1) the interim investment advisory agreement between the Trust, on behalf of each Fund, and the Adviser and (2) the interim sub-advisory agreement between the Adviser and Mendon with respect to the Financial Services Fund, will be included in the annual report for these Funds for the period ended December 31, 2023.

*The first three paragraphs of the section of the SAI titled “Investment Management and Other Services – Investment Adviser” are replaced with the following:*

Curi RMB, located at 115 South LaSalle Street, 34th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603, is the investment adviser to each Fund. Curi RMB is an independent diversified financial services firm that provides advisory and investment services to individuals, families, employers, trusts, family offices, endowments, and other institutions. Curi RMB is majority-owned by Curi Capital, LLC (“Curi Capital”), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MMIC Investment Holdings, Inc., which is wholly-owned by Curi Holdings, Inc. (“Curi”). Curi is a mutual insurance company, which is an insurance company owned by policyholders. Curi has three primary lines of business: (i) Curi Advisory helps medical practices with data-driven solutions to help protect, optimize and grow their practice; (ii) Curi Capital, which is majority owner of Curi RMB, provides financial advice and solutions to a wide array of clients; and (iii) Curi Insurance provides proactive solutions that protect medical practices and their owners and employees. Curi Capital was established in 2019 to offer wealth management and retirement plan services to Curi’s member physicians.

### **Compensation Information**

Each Fund has entered into an interim investment advisory agreement (the “Interim Advisory Agreement”) with the Adviser, pursuant to which the Adviser will: (a) furnish continuously an investment program for the Fund and determine, subject to the overall supervision and review of the Trustees, which investments should be purchased, held, sold or exchanged, or select a sub-adviser to carry out this responsibility, and (b) supervise all aspects of the Fund’s investment operations except those which are delegated to an administrator, custodian, transfer agent or other agent. The Funds bear all costs of their organization and operation that are not specifically required to be borne by another service provider.

As compensation for its services under the Interim Advisory Agreement, each Fund pays the Adviser monthly a fee based on a stated percentage of the average daily net assets of the Fund as set forth below. The compensation earned under the Interim Advisory Agreement is held in an interest-bearing escrow account with the Funds’ custodian or a bank, pending approval of a new investment advisory agreement by the Funds’ shareholders.

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**RMB Investors Trust**  
115 South LaSalle Street, 34th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

**Please retain this supplement with your Prospectus and SAI for future reference.**

## **RMB FUNDS**

**RMB Fund  
RMB Mendon Financial Services Fund  
RMB International Fund  
RMB Japan Fund  
RMB Small Cap Fund  
RMB SMID Cap Fund**

series of RMB Investors Trust (the “Trust”)  
(each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”)

**Supplement Dated November 20, 2023 to the Prospectus and Statement of Additional  
Information (“SAI”) dated May 1, 2023**

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### ***Notification of Anticipated Adviser Merger***

RMB Capital Management, LLC, the Funds’ investment adviser (“RMB” or the “Adviser”), is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RMB Capital Holdings LLC. Pursuant to a merger agreement among RMB Capital Holdings LLC, RMB, Curi Wealth Management, LLC (“Curi Wealth Management”), and Curi Capital, LLC, Curi Wealth Management, a registered investment adviser with approximately \$1.6 billion in assets under advisement, will merge with and into RMB, and RMB will be the surviving company under the name “Curi RMB, LLC.” Subject to the conditions set forth in the agreement, RMB currently anticipates that the merger transaction will close in late December 2023. Following the transaction, Curi Capital will own a majority interest in the surviving entity, and RMB Capital Holdings, in which RMB’s partners own equity, will hold a minority stake. The merger transaction is not expected to result in any material change in the day-to-day management of the Funds.

### ***The Funds’ Investment Advisory Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement***

The closing of the merger transaction is anticipated to result in a change of control of RMB. Consistent with the requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”) and the terms of (i) the investment advisory agreement between RMB and the Trust, on behalf of the Funds (the “Advisory Agreement”), and (ii) the sub-advisory agreement between RMB and Mendon Capital Advisors Corp. (the “Sub-Adviser”) with respect to the RMB Mendon Financial Services Fund (the “Sub-Advisory Agreement”), the change of control of RMB would constitute an assignment of the Advisory Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Agreement resulting in the automatic termination of those agreements. There can be no assurance that the closing conditions will be satisfied and that the merger transaction will be consummated.

In anticipation of the merger transaction and the resulting termination of the Advisory Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Board of Trustees of the Trust (the “Board”) will be asked to approve an interim advisory agreement and sub-advisory agreement, each with substantially the same terms and conditions as its corresponding Advisory Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement, respectively, in order to allow the Adviser and Sub-Adviser to continue managing the Funds. In accordance with Rule 15a-4 under the 1940 Act, the interim agreements will provide for, among other matters: a duration no greater than 150 days following the termination of the corresponding Advisory Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement; the same compensation as the corresponding Advisory Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement; termination of an interim agreement at any time with respect to a Fund by the Board or a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities, without the payment of any penalty, on not more than 10 calendar days’ written notice to the Adviser or Sub-Adviser, as applicable; and that the compensation earned under the interim agreements will be held in an interest-bearing escrow account with the Funds’ custodian or a bank, pending approval of the new advisory agreement and sub-advisory agreement by the Funds’ shareholders at a special shareholder meeting discussed below. Approval of the interim agreements by Fund shareholders is not required and will not be sought.

Special Meeting of Fund Shareholders

The Board will also be asked to approve a new advisory agreement and sub-advisory agreement with respect to the Funds and call a special meeting of the Funds' shareholders at which shareholders will also be asked to approve the new advisory agreement and sub-advisory agreement. The special shareholder meeting will be held within 150 days following the closing of the merger transaction, as the interim advisory agreement and sub-advisory agreement will terminate after 150 days. Additional information regarding the special shareholder meeting will be provided at a later date.

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**RMB Investors Trust**  
115 South LaSalle Street, 34th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

**Please retain this supplement with your Prospectus and SAI for future reference.**

**RMB INVESTORS TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**RMB FUND**  
**RMBHX (Class A)**  
**RMBJX (Class C)**  
**RMBGX (Class I)**

**RMB MENDON FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND**  
**RMBKX (Class A)**  
**RMBNX (Class C)**  
**RMBLX (Class I)**

**RMB INTERNATIONAL FUND**  
(Investor Class)(not available for purchase)  
**RMBTX (Class I)**

**RMB JAPAN FUND**  
(Investor Class)(not available for purchase)  
**RMBPX (Class I)**

**RMB SMALL CAP FUND**  
(Investor Class)(not available for purchase)  
**RMBBX (Class I)**

**RMB SMID CAP FUND**  
(Investor Class)(not available for purchase)  
**RMBMX (Class I)**

May 1, 2023

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus. It should be read in conjunction with the corresponding prospectus for the above-listed Funds dated May 1, 2023, as supplemented and amended from time to time (the “Prospectus”), which is incorporated by reference herein. The information in this SAI expands on information contained in the Prospectus. The audited financial statements for the above-listed funds for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 and the Report of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm thereon are incorporated by reference into this SAI from the annual reports to shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022. The Prospectus and annual reports can be obtained without charge on the Funds’ website at [www.rmbfunds.com](http://www.rmbfunds.com) or by contacting either the dealer through whom you purchased shares or the transfer agent at **1-800-462-2392**.

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## RMB INVESTORS TRUST

RMB Investors Trust (the “Trust”), located at 115 S. LaSalle Street, 34th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603, is an open-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”). The Trust is comprised of six series, each of which is a separate portfolio of investments with its own investment objective. This SAI relates to the RMB Fund, RMB Mendon Financial Services Fund (the “Financial Services Fund”), RMB International Fund (the “International Fund”), RMB Japan Fund (the “Japan Fund”), RMB Small Cap Fund (the “Small Cap Fund”) and RMB SMID Cap Fund (the “SMID Cap Fund”) (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”).

The Trust was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on August 20, 1998. The Trust is the surviving entity of the reorganization of The Burnham Fund, Inc. (the “Corporation”), a Maryland corporation, effected on April 30, 1999. Before the reorganization, the Corporation was an open-end management investment company in operation since 1961, consisting of a single series, The Burnham Fund, Inc.

On July 1, 2016 the Trust changed its name to RMB Investors Trust following the decision of the Trust’s Board of Trustees (the “Board” or the “Trustees”) to approve RMB Capital Management, LLC (the “Adviser” or “RMB”) to serve as the investment adviser to certain series of the Trust, effective July 1, 2016.

The RMB Fund commenced operations in 1961, and prior to July 1, 2016, was known as the Burnham Fund. The Financial Services Fund commenced operations on June 7, 1999, and prior to July 1, 2016 was known as the Burnham Financial Services Fund. The International Fund and Japan Fund, each commenced operations on December 27, 2017.

The Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund commenced operations as series of the Trust upon completion of the reorganization of each Fund’s predecessor fund, IronBridge Small Cap Fund and IronBridge SMID Cap Fund, respectively, each a series of IronBridge Funds, Inc., on June 21, 2019 (the “IronBridge Reorganization”). The IronBridge Small Cap Fund commenced operations on August 30, 2002, and the IronBridge SMID Cap Fund commenced operations on December 31, 2004.

**Diversification.** Each Fund is diversified as defined by the 1940 Act (see Fundamental Investment Restriction 6 below). This means that as to 75% of each Fund’s total assets, each Fund may not invest more than 5% of its total assets in the securities of a single issuer or hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of a single issuer. Under applicable federal securities laws, the diversification of a mutual fund’s holdings is measured at the time the Fund purchases a security. However, if a Fund purchases a security and holds it for a period of time, the security may become a larger percentage of the Fund’s total assets due to movements in the financial markets. If the market affects several securities held by a Fund, the Fund may have a greater percentage of its assets invested in securities of fewer issuers. A Fund may be subject to the risk that its performance may be hurt disproportionately by the poor performance of relatively few securities despite the Fund qualifying as a diversified fund under applicable federal laws.

## INVESTMENTS AND RELATED RISKS

Each Fund’s principal investment strategies and principal risks are described in the Funds’ prospectus. The following supplements the information contained in the prospectus concerning each Fund’s principal investment strategies and principal risks. In addition, although not principal strategies of the Funds, the Funds may invest in other types of securities and engage in other investment practices as described in the prospectus or in this SAI. Unless otherwise indicated, each Fund is permitted to invest in each of the investments listed below, or engage in each of the investment techniques listed below consistent with the Funds’ investment goals, investment limitations, policies and strategies.

References to the Adviser in this section and the section “Other Investment Practices and Risks” below may include RMB and Mendon Capital Advisors Corp. (“Mendon”), the sub-adviser to the Financial Services Fund. Unless noted otherwise, the investment techniques below may be employed by each of the Funds.

### EQUITY INVESTMENTS

**Common Shares.** Common shares represent an equity (*i.e.* ownership) interest in a company or other entity. This ownership interest often gives a Fund the right to vote on measures affecting the company’s organization and operations.



Although common shares generally have a history of long-term growth in value, their prices, particularly those of smaller capitalization companies, are often volatile in the short-term.

**Preferred Shares.** Preferred shares represent a limited equity interest in a company or other entity and frequently have debt-like features. Preferred shares are often entitled only to dividends at a specified rate, and have a preference over common shares with respect to dividends and on liquidation of assets. Preferred shares generally have fewer voting rights than common shares. Because their dividends are often fixed, the value of some preferred shares fluctuates inversely with changes in interest rates.

**Convertible Securities.** Convertible securities are bonds, preferred shares and other securities that pay a fixed rate of interest or dividends. However, they offer the buyer the additional option of converting the security into common stock. The value of convertible securities depends partially on interest rate changes and the credit quality of the issuer. The value of convertible securities is also sensitive to company, market and other economic news, and will change based on the price of the underlying common stock. Convertible securities generally have less potential for gain than common stock, but also less potential for loss, since their income provides a cushion against the stock's price declines. However, because the buyer is also exposed to the risk and reward potential of the underlying stock, convertible securities generally pay less income than similar non-convertible securities.

**Warrants and Rights.** Warrants and rights are securities that permit, but not obligate, their holder to purchase the underlying equity or fixed-income securities at a predetermined price. Generally, warrants and rights do not carry with them the right to receive dividends on or exercise voting rights concerning the underlying equity securities. Further, they do not represent any rights in the assets of the issuer. In addition, the value of warrants and rights do not necessarily change with the value of the underlying securities, and they become worthless if they are not exercised on or before their expiration date. As a result, an investment in warrants or rights may entail greater investment risk than certain other types of investments.

**Short Sale Risk.** The larger a Fund's short position, the greater the potential for gain and loss. If a security sold short increases in price, the Fund may have to cover its short position at a higher price than the short sale price, resulting in a loss, which can be unlimited. To borrow the security, the Fund also may be required to pay a premium, which could increase the cost of the security sold short. The amount of any gain will be decreased, and the amount of any loss increased, by the amount of the premium, dividends, interest or expenses the Fund may be required to pay in connection with the short sale. In addition, because a Fund's loss on a short sale arises from increases in the value of the security sold short, such loss is theoretically unlimited.

**Market Risk.** The market price of a security or instrument may decline, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably, due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions throughout the world, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. Local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issues, recessions, natural disasters, or other events could have a significant impact on a Fund and its investments. The market value of a security or instrument also may decline because of factors that affect a particular sector, sub-sector, or group of industries, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry.

COVID-19 may continue to cause significant global economic and societal disruption as further variants circulate. Future infectious disease outbreaks that may arise, as well as actions taken in response by governmental authorities or other third parties, may negatively impact the market. The 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine has, and other potential hostilities or geopolitical tensions may, negatively impact the market. Inflation or financial crises, and governmental and central bank responses to these events, may also negatively impact the market. These market impacts would reduce the value of the Funds' investments, possibly significantly.

**Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs").** REITs are pooled investment vehicles that invest primarily in income producing real estate or real estate related loans or interests. REITs are generally classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or a combination of equity and mortgage REITs. Equity REITs invest most of their assets directly in real property and derive income primarily from the collection of rents. Equity REITs can also realize capital gains by selling properties that have appreciated in value. Mortgage REITs invest most of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive income from

interest payments. Like investment companies, REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders if they comply with several requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). A Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any expenses (such as operating expenses and advisory fees) paid by REITs in which it invests in addition to the expenses paid by the Fund.

**Risks Associated with the Real Estate Industry.** Although a Fund that invests in REITs does not invest directly in real estate, it does invest primarily in real estate equity securities and may concentrate its investments in the real estate industry, and, therefore, an investment in the Fund may be subject to certain risks associated with the direct ownership of real estate and with the real estate industry in general. These risks include, among others:

- possible declines in the value of real estate;
- adverse general or local economic conditions;
- possible lack of availability of mortgage loans;
- overbuilding;
- extended vacancies of properties;
- increases in competition, property taxes and operating expenses;
- changes in zoning or applicable tax law;
- costs resulting from the clean-up of, and liability to third parties for damages resulting from, environmental problems;
- casualty or condemnation losses;
- uninsured damages from floods, earthquakes or other natural disasters;
- limitations on and variations in rents; and
- unfavorable changes in interest rates.

In addition, if a Fund has rental income or income from the disposition of real property acquired as a result of a default on securities the Fund owns, the receipt of such income may adversely affect its ability to retain its tax status as a regulated investment company. Investments by a Fund in securities of companies providing mortgage servicing will be subject to the risks associated with refinancing and its impact on servicing rights.

**Financial Services Companies.** The Funds may invest in financial services companies. Some events may disproportionately affect the financial services sector as a whole or a particular industry in this sector. Financial services companies could fall out of favor, causing a Fund to underperform funds that focus on other types of stocks. Accordingly, a Fund may be subject to greater market volatility than a fund that does not invest in financial services companies. Because the Financial Services Fund focuses its investments on financial services companies, it may be particularly susceptible to these risks.

In addition, most financial services companies are subject to extensive governmental regulation, which limits their activities and may (as with insurance rate regulation) affect their ability to earn a profit from a given line of business. Certain financial services businesses are subject to intense competitive pressures, including market share and price competition. In the past, financial crises have resulted in insolvency and the closure or acquisition of a number of financial institutions, which resulted in a total loss of shareholder value. No assurance can be made that future financial crises will not severely impact financial services companies.

Financial services companies may also be particularly sensitive to government fiscal policy and government actions taken in response to broader economic issues. For example, in March 2023, a number of U.S. regional banks experienced financial stress and, in two cases, failures. These events may have been precipitated by the rapid rise in interest rates by the Federal Reserve and a resulting deterioration in the balance sheets of the banks, which made them vulnerable to runs. There can be no certainty that the actions taken by banking regulators to limit the contagion of these events on the banking system or other financial services companies will be effective. It is possible that additional banks or other financial services companies will experience financial stress or fail, which may affect adversely the banking system or other financial

services companies. Any such adverse developments or concerns or rumors about any such developments, as well as the continued impact of rising interest rates, may reduce liquidity in the market generally or have other adverse effects on a Fund or issuers in which the Funds invest.

Governmental intervention in the operations of financial services companies and financial markets may materially and adversely affect the companies in which a Fund invests. The valuation of financial services companies has been and continues to be subject to unprecedented volatility. Changing interest rates could reduce the profitability of certain types of companies in the financial services sector. For example, rising interest rates increase the cost of financing to, and may reduce the profitability of, certain financial services companies.

Financial services companies in foreign countries are subject to similar regulatory and interest rate concerns. In particular, government regulation in certain foreign countries may include controls on interest rates, credit availability, prices and currency transfers. In some countries, foreign governments have taken steps to nationalize the operations of banks and other financial services companies.

In addition, regulations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission” or the “SEC”) limit a Fund’s investments in the securities of companies that derive more than 15% of their gross revenues from securities-related activities.

**Management Risk.** The Funds are subject to management risk because they are actively managed investment portfolios. The Adviser will apply its investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for the Funds, but there is no guarantee that its decisions will produce the intended result. A Fund’s management strategy or security selection methods could prove less successful than anticipated or unsuccessful. This risk is common for all actively managed funds. Individual stocks selected by the adviser may decline in value or not increase in value, even when the stock market in general is rising.

**Large-Cap Companies.** The Funds may invest in larger, more established companies that may be unable to respond quickly to new competitive challenges, such as changes in consumer tastes or innovative smaller competitors. Also, large-capitalization companies are sometimes unable to attain the high growth rates of successful, smaller companies, especially during extended periods of economic expansion.

**Small- and Mid- Cap Companies.** Investing in small-capitalization or mid-capitalization companies generally involves greater risks than investing in large-capitalization companies. Small- or mid-cap companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources or may depend on the expertise of a few people and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than securities of larger, more established companies or market averages in general. Many small capitalization companies may be in the early stages of development. Since equity securities of smaller companies may lack sufficient market liquidity and may not be regularly traded, it may be difficult or impossible to sell securities at an advantageous time or a desirable price.

**Micro-Cap Companies.** A Fund’s investments may be considered “micro-cap.” Micro-cap companies may be less financially secure than large, mid or small capitalization companies. Micro-cap companies may be in the early stage of development or newly formed with limited markets or product lines. There may also be less public information about micro-cap companies. In addition, micro-cap companies that rely on smaller management teams may be vulnerable to key personnel losses. Micro-cap stock prices also may be more volatile than large, mid or small cap stocks may have lower trading volume and lower degree of liquidity which makes these securities difficult to value and to sell. The securities of micro-cap companies may not be traded daily. As a result, some of a Fund’s holdings may be considered or become illiquid.

**Investment Companies.** A Fund may acquire securities of other registered investment companies to the extent that such investments are consistent with its investment objective, policies, strategies and restrictions and the limitations imposed by the 1940 Act. Investment companies may include mutual funds, closed-end funds, exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), business development companies and unit investment trusts. A Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any management fees and other expenses paid by such funds. Like all equity investments, these investments may go up or down in value.

**Closed-End Funds.** The shares of many closed-end funds, after their initial public offering, frequently trade at a price per share that is less than the net asset value per share, the difference representing the “market discount” of such shares. This market discount may be due in part to the investment objective of long-term appreciation, which is sought by many closed-end funds, as well as to the fact that the shares of closed-end funds are not redeemable by the holder upon demand to the issuer at the next determined net asset value, but rather, are subject to supply and demand in the secondary market. A relative lack of secondary market purchasers of closed-end fund shares also may contribute to such shares trading at a discount to their net asset value. The Fund may invest in shares of closed-end funds that are trading at a discount to net asset value or at a premium to net asset value. There can be no assurance that the market discount on shares of any closed-end fund purchased by the Fund will ever decrease. In fact, it is possible that this market discount may increase and the Fund may suffer realized or unrealized capital losses due to further decline in the market price of the securities of such closed-end funds, thereby adversely affecting the net asset value of the Fund’s shares. Similarly, there can be no assurance that any shares of a closed-end fund purchased by the Fund at a premium will continue to trade at a premium or that the premium will not decrease subsequent to a purchase of such shares by the Fund.

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

**Exchange-Traded Funds (“ETFs”).** The Funds may invest in ETFs. ETFs are publicly-traded unit investment trusts, open-end mutual funds, or depositary receipts that hold investment portfolios which seek to track the performance and/or dividend yield of specific indices (i.e., passively managed) or which are actively managed.

Investments in ETFs are generally subject to limits under the 1940 Act on investments in other investment companies. ETF shareholders are subject to the same risks as holders of other investment portfolios. ETFs are subject to certain additional risks, including: (1) the risk that their prices may not correlate perfectly with changes in the underlying index; and (2) the risk of possible trading halts due to market conditions or other reasons that, in the view of the exchange upon which an ETF trades, would make trading in the ETF inadvisable. An exchange-traded sector fund may also be adversely affected by the performance of that specific sector or group of industries on which it is based. Because ETFs trade on an exchange, they may trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value per share (“NAV”). Additionally, the Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of the expenses of the ETF.

For purposes of evaluating whether at least 40% of the International Fund’s investments are in companies located outside the U.S., investments in ETFs based on foreign market indices are considered located outside the U.S.

**Business Development Companies (“BDCs”).** BDCs are a type of closed-end fund regulated under the 1940 Act, which typically invest in and lend to small-and medium-sized private companies that may lack access to public equity markets for capital raising. Under the 1940 Act, BDCs must invest at least 70% of the value of their total assets in certain asset types, which are typically the securities of private U.S. businesses. Additionally, BDCs must make available significant managerial assistance to the issuers of such securities. BDCs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders, provided they qualify as a regulated investment company under the Code. BDCs have expenses associated with their operations. Accordingly, the Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any management and other expenses, and of any performance based fees, charged by the BDCs in which the Fund invests.

Because BDCs typically invest in small and medium-sized companies, a BDC’s portfolio is subject to the risks inherent in investing in smaller companies, including that portfolio companies may be dependent on a small number of products or services and may be more adversely affected by poor economic or market conditions. Some BDCs invest substantially, or even exclusively, in one sector or industry group and therefore the BDC may be susceptible to adverse conditions and economic or regulatory occurrences affecting the sector or industry group, which tends to increase volatility and result in higher risk. Investments in BDCs are also subject to management risk, including management’s ability to meet the BDC’s investment objective, and management’s ability to manage the BDC’s portfolio during periods of market turmoil and as investors’ perceptions regarding a BDC or its underlying investments change. BDC shares are not redeemable at the option of the BDC shareholder and, as with shares of other closed-end funds; they may trade in the secondary market at a discount to their NAV.

## FIXED INCOME INVESTMENTS

**Temporary Defensive Investments.** For temporary and defensive purposes, each Fund may invest up to 100% of its total assets in investment grade short-term fixed-income securities (including short-term U.S. Government securities, money market instruments, including negotiable certificates of deposit, non-negotiable fixed time deposits, bankers' acceptances, commercial paper and floating rate notes) and repurchase agreements. Each Fund may also hold significant amounts of its assets in cash, subject to the applicable percentage limitations for short-term securities. A Fund will not be achieving its investment objective to the extent it takes a temporary defensive position.

**General Characteristics and Risks of Fixed-Income Securities.** Bonds and other fixed-income securities are used by issuers to borrow money from investors. The issuer pays the investor a fixed or variable rate of interest, and must repay the principal amount at maturity. Some fixed-income securities, such as zero coupon bonds, do not pay current interest, but are purchased at a discount from their face values. Fixed-income securities have varying degrees of quality and varying maturities.

**Credit Ratings.** In general, the ratings of Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), S&P Global Ratings ("S&P"), and Fitch Ratings, Inc. ("Fitch Ratings") represent the opinions of these agencies as to the credit quality of the securities that they rate. However, these ratings are relative and subjective and are not absolute standards of quality. In addition, changes in these ratings may significantly lag changes in an issuer's creditworthiness. Changes by recognized agencies in the rating of any fixed-income security or in the ability of the issuer to make payments of interest and principal will also affect the value of the security. See Appendix A attached to this SAI for a description of the rating categories.

After its purchase by a Fund, an issue of securities may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced below the minimum required for purchase by the Fund. Neither of these events will necessarily require the Adviser, on behalf of a Fund, to sell the securities.

**Changing Fixed Income Market Conditions.** In response to past financial crises, the U.S. government and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve"), as well as certain foreign governments and central banks, took steps to support financial markets, including by keeping interest rates at historically low levels and by purchasing large quantities of securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities on the open market ("Quantitative Easing"). This and other government interventions may not work as intended, particularly if the efforts are perceived by investors as being unlikely to achieve the desired results. In response to escalating inflation, the Federal Reserve initiated a series of rapid interest rate hikes beginning in 2022. The Federal Reserve also reversed course on Quantitative Easing and began to divest assets acquired as part of its Quantitative Easing program. These policy changes, together with continued inflationary pressure, have heightened volatility in the debt and equity markets and could cause the value of a Fund's investments and share price to decline. It is uncertain when and if the Federal Reserve will slow or reverse its current program in response to changing economic conditions and how any such change would impact the Funds.

**Lower Rated/High Yield Fixed-Income Securities.** The Funds may also invest in debt securities of any maturity, duration or credit quality, including lower rated high yield fixed-income securities, from any government or corporate issuer, U.S. or foreign. Lower rated high yield fixed-income securities are those rated below Baa3 by Moody's, or below BBB- by S&P or Fitch Ratings, or securities which are unrated and determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality. Lower rated securities are generally referred to as high yield bonds or junk bonds. The risk of default and the price volatility associated with it are greater for junk bonds than for bonds of investment grade issuers. A Fund may invest in eligible unrated securities which, in the opinion of the Adviser, offer comparable risks to those associated with permissible rated securities.

Debt obligations rated in the lower ratings categories, or which are unrated, involve greater volatility of price and risk of loss of principal and income. In addition, lower ratings reflect a greater possibility of an adverse change in financial condition affecting the ability of the issuer to make payments of interest and principal. The market price and liquidity of lower rated fixed-income securities generally respond to short-term economic, corporate and market developments more dramatically than do higher rated securities. These developments are perceived to have a more direct relationship to the ability of an issuer of lower rated securities to meet its ongoing debt obligations.

Reduced volume and liquidity in the high yield bond market, or the reduced availability of market quotations, will make it more difficult to dispose of the bonds and accurately value a Fund's assets. The reduced availability of reliable, objective pricing data may increase a Fund's reliance on management's judgment in valuing high yield bonds. To the extent that a Fund invests in these securities, the achievement of the Fund's objective will be more dependent on the Adviser's judgment and analysis than it would otherwise be. In addition, high yield securities in a Fund's portfolio may be susceptible to adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not these perceptions are justified by fundamental factors. In the past, economic downturns and increases in interest rates have caused a higher incidence of default by the issuers of lower rated securities and may do so in the future, particularly with respect to highly leveraged issuers.

**Corporate Debt Securities.** Investment in U.S. dollar or foreign currency-denominated corporate debt securities of domestic or foreign issuers is limited to corporate bonds, debentures, notes and other similar corporate debt instruments, including convertible securities and including corporate income-producing securities, which meet the minimum ratings criteria. The Funds' investments in corporate bonds will generally be of short to medium-term maturities and, on average, will have a credit rating of A.

**Credit Risk.** Credit risk relates to the ability of an issuer to pay interest and principal as they become due. Generally, lower quality, higher yielding bonds are subject to more credit risk than higher quality, lower yielding bonds. A default by the issuer of, or a downgrade in the credit rating assigned to, a fixed-income security in a Fund's portfolio will reduce the value of the security.

**Interest Rate Risk.** Interest rate risk refers to the fluctuations in value of fixed-income securities resulting solely from the relationship between the market value of outstanding fixed-income securities and changes in interest rates. An increase in interest rates will generally reduce the market value of fixed-income investments, and a decline in interest rates will tend to increase their value. In addition, debt securities with longer maturities, which tend to produce higher yields, are subject to potentially greater capital appreciation and depreciation than obligations with shorter maturities. Fluctuations in the market value of fixed-income securities after their acquisition will not affect the cash interest payable on those securities but will be reflected in the valuations of those securities used to compute a Fund's NAV. A wide variety of factors can cause interest rates to rise (e.g., central bank monetary policies, inflation rates, general economic conditions, etc.). This is especially true under recent economic conditions in which interest rates have been at historically low levels and inflation reached historically high levels. The negative impact on fixed-income securities from interest rate increases could be swift and significant.

**LIBOR Rate Risk.** A Fund may have investments in financial instruments that utilize the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") as the reference or benchmark rate for variable interest rate calculations (including variable or floating rate debt securities or loans and derivatives such as interest rate futures or swaps). LIBOR is intended to measure the rate generally at which banks can lend and borrow from one another in the relevant currency on an unsecured basis. LIBOR was a common benchmark interest rate index used to make adjustments to variable-rate debt instruments, to determine interest rates for a variety of financial instruments and borrowing arrangements and as reference rate in derivative contracts. A Fund's investments may pay interest at variable or floating rates based on LIBOR, may be subject to interest caps or floors based on LIBOR or may otherwise reference LIBOR as a reference rate to determine payment obligations or financing terms.

In the years following the 2008 financial crisis, the integrity of LIBOR was increasingly questioned because several banks contributing to its calculation were accused of rate manipulation and because of a general contraction in the unsecured interbank lending market. As a result, regulators and financial industry working groups in several jurisdictions have worked over the past several years to identify alternative reference rates ("ARRs") to replace LIBOR and to assist with the transition to the new ARR. On December 16, 2022, the Fed adopted a final rule that identifies the Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") as a replacement for USD LIBOR. SOFR is a broad measure of the cost of overnight borrowing of cash through repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Treasury securities that will replace LIBOR in certain financial contracts after June 30, 2023.

In connection with the LIBOR transition, the publication of all settings of British Pound Sterling, Swiss Franc, Euro and Japanese Yen LIBOR, as well as the 1-week and 2-month settings of U.S. Dollar (USD) LIBOR were phased out at the end of 2021. The remaining settings of USD LIBOR, the 1-, 3-, and 6- month setting of the USD LIBOR which are the most widely used in financial markets, will continue to be published through June 2023 while a synthetic US dollar LIBOR rate for these settings will continue to be published through September 2024 to allow for an orderly transition away from these rates. Additionally, key regulators instructed banking institutions to cease entering into new contracts that reference these remaining USD LIBOR settings after December 31, 2021, subject to certain limited exceptions.

There remains uncertainty and risks relating to the continuing LIBOR transition and its effects on a Fund and the instruments in which a Fund may invest. For example, there can be no assurance that the composition or characteristics of any ARR or financial instruments in which a Fund invests that utilize ARRs will be similar to or produce the same value or economic equivalence as LIBOR or that these instruments will have the same volume or liquidity. Additionally, although regulators have generally prohibited banking institutions from entering into new contracts that reference those USD LIBOR settings that continue to exist, there remains uncertainty and risks relating to certain “legacy” USD LIBOR instruments that were issued or entered into before December 31, 2021 and the process by which a replacement interest rate will be implemented into these instruments when USD LIBOR is ultimately discontinued. While some “legacy” USD LIBOR instruments may contemplate a scenario where LIBOR is no longer available by providing for an alternative or “fallback” rate-setting methodology, there may be significant uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of such alternative or “fallback” methodologies to replicate USD LIBOR; other “legacy” USD LIBOR instruments may not include such “fallback” rate-setting provisions at all. As a result, the ongoing LIBOR transition might lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in, or a reduction in the value of, “legacy” USD LIBOR instruments held by a Fund; increased difficulty for borrowers associated with these instruments to refinance, the proceeds of which are needed to repay a Fund; or diminished effectiveness of any hedging strategies that a Fund may seek to implement in connection with these instruments. All of the foregoing may adversely affect a Fund’s performance or NAV.

**Call (Prepayment) Risk and Extension Risk.** Call risk is the risk that an issuer will pay principal on an obligation earlier than scheduled or expected, which would accelerate cash flows from, and shorten the average life and duration of, the security. This typically happens when interest rates have declined, and a Fund will suffer from having to reinvest in lower yielding securities.

Extension risk is the risk that an issuer may pay principal on an obligation slower than expected. This typically happens when interest rates have increased. Slower than expected prepayments will have the effect of extending the average life and duration of the obligation and possibly of a Fund’s fixed-income portfolio.

Prepayments that are faster or slower than expected may reduce the value of the affected security.

**Maturity and Duration.** The effective maturity of an individual portfolio security in which a Fund invests is defined as the period remaining until the earliest date when the Fund can recover the principal amount of such security through mandatory redemption or prepayment by the issuer, the exercise by the Fund of a put option, demand feature or tender option granted by the issuer or a third party or the payment of the principal on the stated maturity date. The effective maturity of variable rate securities is calculated by reference to their coupon reset dates. Thus, the effective maturity of a security may be substantially shorter than its final stated maturity.

Duration is a measure of a debt security’s price sensitivity taking into account expected cash flows and prepayments under a wide range of interest rate scenarios. In computing the duration of its portfolio, a Fund will have to estimate the duration of obligations that are subject to prepayment or redemption by the issuer taking into account the influence of interest rates on prepayments and coupon flows. Each Fund may use various techniques to shorten or lengthen the option-adjusted duration of its fixed-income portfolio, including the acquisition of debt obligations at a premium or discount, and the use of mortgage swaps and interest rate swaps, caps, floors and collars.

**Bank and Corporate Obligations.** Commercial paper represents short-term unsecured promissory notes issued in bearer form by banks or bank holding companies, corporations and finance companies. The commercial paper purchased by the Funds consists of direct obligations of domestic or foreign issuers. Bank obligations in which the Funds may invest include certificates of deposit, bankers’ acceptances and fixed time deposits.

Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates issued against funds deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers’ acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are “accepted” by a bank, meaning, in effect, that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity. Fixed time deposits are bank obligations payable at a stated maturity date and bearing interest at a fixed rate. Fixed time deposits may be withdrawn on demand by the investor, but may be subject to early withdrawal penalties that vary depending upon market conditions and the remaining maturity of the obligation. There are no contractual restrictions on the right to transfer a beneficial interest in a fixed time deposit to a third party, although there is no market for such deposits. Bank notes and bankers’ acceptances rank junior to domestic deposit liabilities of the bank and equal to other senior, unsecured obligations of the bank. Bank notes

are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) or any other insurer. Deposit notes are insured by the FDIC only to the extent of \$250,000 per depositor per bank.

**Repurchase Agreements.** The Funds may enter into repurchase agreements with approved banks and broker-dealers. In a repurchase agreement, a Fund purchases securities with the understanding that they will be repurchased by the seller at a set price on a set date. This allows a Fund to keep its assets at work but retain overnight flexibility pending longer term investments.

Repurchase agreements involve credit risk. For example, if a seller defaults, a Fund will suffer a loss if the proceeds from the sale of the collateral are lower than the repurchase price. If the seller becomes bankrupt, a Fund may be delayed or incur additional costs to sell the collateral. To minimize risk, collateral must be held with the Funds’ custodian and at least equal the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement plus any accrued interest. Repurchase agreements collateralized entirely by cash or U.S. government securities may be deemed to be fully collateralized pursuant to Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act and may be deemed to be investments in cash or U.S. government securities.

**U.S. Government Securities.** U.S. Government securities include U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) obligations and obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises, which are supported by:

- the full faith and credit of the Treasury (such as the Government National Mortgage Association (“GNMA”));
- the right of the issuer to borrow from the Treasury ( *e.g.*, Federal Home Loan Banks);
- the discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase certain obligations of the issuer (*e.g.*, Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“FHLMC”)); or
- only the credit of the agency and a perceived “moral obligation” of the U.S. Government.

No assurance can be given that the U.S. Government will provide financial support to U.S. Government agencies, authorities, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises that are not supported by the full faith and credit of the United States. Securities guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. Government, its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities include: (1) securities for which the payment of principal and interest is backed by an irrevocable letter of credit issued by the U.S. Government or any of its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities; and (2) participations in loans made to non-U.S. Governments or other entities that are so guaranteed, however there is a risk that the U.S. Government fails to pay interest or principal on U.S. Government obligations and such failure, or a perceived likelihood of such failure, will negatively impact the value and credit rating of U.S. Government obligations. The secondary market for certain of these participations is limited and, therefore, may be regarded as illiquid.

U.S. Government securities also include Treasury receipts, zero coupon bonds, Treasury inflation-indexed bonds, deferred interest securities and other stripped U.S. Government securities. The interest and principal components of stripped U.S. Government securities are traded independently. The most widely recognized trading program for such securities is the Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities Program. Treasury inflation-indexed obligations provide a measure of protection against inflation by adjusting the principal amount for inflation. The semi-annual interest payments on these obligations are equal to a fixed percentage of the inflation-adjusted principal amount.

Fannie Mae and FHLMC have been operating under conservatorship, with the Federal Housing Finance Administration (“FHFA”) acting as their conservator, since September 2008. The entities are dependent upon the continued support of the Treasury and FHFA in order to continue their business operations. These factors, among others, could affect the future status and role of Fannie Mae and FHLMC and the value of their debt and equity securities and the securities which they guarantee.

**Mortgage-Backed Securities.** Each Fund may invest only in those mortgage-backed securities that meet its credit quality and portfolio maturity requirements. Mortgage-backed securities represent participation interests in pools of adjustable and fixed rate mortgage loans secured by real property.

Unlike conventional debt obligations, mortgage-backed securities provide monthly payments derived from the monthly interest and principal payments (including any prepayments) made by the individual borrowers on the pooled mortgage



loans. The mortgage loans underlying mortgage-backed securities are generally subject to a greater rate of principal prepayments in a declining interest rate environment and to a lesser rate of principal prepayments in an increasing interest rate environment. Under certain interest rate and prepayment scenarios, a Fund may fail to recover the full amount of its investment in mortgage-backed securities notwithstanding any direct or indirect governmental or agency guarantee. Since faster than expected prepayments must usually be invested in lower yielding securities, mortgage-backed securities are less effective than conventional bonds in “locking” in a specified interest rate. In a rising interest rate environment, a declining prepayment rate may extend the average life of many mortgage-backed securities. Extending the average life of a mortgage-backed security reduces its value and increases the risk of depreciation due to future increases in market interest rates.

A Fund’s investments in mortgage-backed securities may include conventional mortgage pass-through securities and certain classes of multiple class collateralized mortgage obligations (“CMOs”). Mortgage pass-through securities are fixed or adjustable rate mortgage-backed securities that provide for monthly payments that are a “pass-through” of the monthly interest and principal payments (including any prepayments) made by the individual borrowers on the pooled mortgage loans, net of any fees or other amounts paid to any guarantor, administrator and/or servicer of the underlying mortgage loans. CMOs are issued in multiple classes, each having different maturities, interest rates, payment schedules and allocations of principal and interest on the underlying mortgages. Senior CMO classes will typically have priority over residual CMO classes as to the receipt of principal and/or interest payments on the underlying mortgages. The CMO classes in which a Fund may invest include but are not limited to sequential and parallel pay CMOs, including planned amortization class (“PAC”) and target amortization class (“TAC”) securities. Sequential pay CMOs apply payments of principal, including any prepayments, to each class of CMO in the order of the final distribution date. Thus, no payment of principal is made on any class until all other classes having an earlier final distribution date have been paid in full. Parallel pay CMOs apply principal payments and prepayments to two or more classes concurrently on a proportionate or disproportionate basis. The simultaneous payments are taken into account in calculating the final distribution date of each class. Each Fund may invest in the most junior classes of CMOs, which involve the most interest rate, prepayment and extension risk.

Different types of mortgage-backed securities are subject to different combinations of prepayment, extension, interest rate and other market risks. Conventional mortgage pass through securities and sequential pay CMOs are subject to all of these risks, but are typically not leveraged. PACs, TACs and other senior classes of sequential and parallel pay CMOs involve less exposure to prepayment, extension and interest rate risk than other mortgage-backed securities, provided that prepayment rates remain within expected prepayment ranges or “collars.” To the extent that the prepayment rates remain within these prepayment ranges, the residual or support tranches of PAC and TAC CMOs assume the extra prepayment, extension and interest rate risks associated with the underlying mortgage assets.

**Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities.** The Funds may invest in mortgage-backed securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, foreign governments or any of their agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises. Agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises of the U.S. Government include, but are not limited to, the GNMA, Fannie Mae and FHLMC. GNMA securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, which means that the U.S. Government guarantees that the interest and principal will be paid when due. Fannie Mae securities and FHLMC securities are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government; however, these enterprises have the ability to obtain financing from the Treasury. Although the U.S. Government has provided financial support to Fannie Mae and FHLMC, no assurance can be given that the U.S. Government will provide financial support in the future to securities not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. There are several types of agency mortgage securities currently available, including, but not limited to, guaranteed mortgage pass-through certificates and multiple class securities.

**Privately-Issued Mortgage-Backed Securities.** Mortgage-backed securities may also be issued by trusts or other entities formed or sponsored by private originators of and institutional investors in mortgage loans and other foreign or domestic non-governmental entities (or represent custodial arrangements administered by such institutions). These private originators and institutions include domestic and foreign savings and loan associations, mortgage bankers, commercial banks, insurance companies, investment banks and special purpose subsidiaries of the foregoing. Privately issued mortgage-backed securities are generally backed by pools of conventional (i.e., non-government guaranteed or insured) mortgage loans.

These mortgage-backed securities are not guaranteed by an entity having the credit standing of a U.S. Government agency. In order to receive a high quality rating, they normally are structured with one or more types of “credit enhancement.”

These credit enhancements fall generally into two categories: (1) liquidity protection and (2) protection against losses resulting after default by a borrower and liquidation of the collateral. Liquidity protection refers to the providing of cash advances to holders of mortgage-backed securities when a borrower on an underlying mortgage fails to make its monthly payment on time. Protection against losses resulting after default and liquidation is designed to cover losses resulting when, for example, the proceeds of a foreclosure sale are insufficient to cover the outstanding amount on the mortgage. This protection may be provided through guarantees, insurance policies or letters of credit, through various means of structuring the transaction or through a combination of such approaches.

Mortgage securities issued by non-government entities may be subject to greater credit risk than those issued by government entities. The performance of privately-issued mortgage securities may depend on the integrity and competence of the institutions that originate the underlying mortgages, yet investors in these mortgage securities may have only limited access to information enabling investors to evaluate the practices of these mortgage originators. In order to prevent defaults by troubled mortgage borrowers, the sponsors of mortgage securities may have to renegotiate and investors in mortgage securities may have to accept less favorable interest rates or other terms on the mortgages underlying these securities.

Unanticipated mortgage defaults or renegotiations of mortgage terms are likely to depress the prices of related mortgage securities. Although mortgage securities may be supported by some form of government or private guarantee and/or insurance, there is no assurance that private guarantors or insurers will meet their obligations. Guarantees, insurance and other forms of credit enhancement supporting mortgage securities may also be insufficient to cover all losses on underlying mortgages if mortgage borrowers default at a greater than expected rate.

**Asset-Backed Securities.** Asset-backed securities represent individual interests in pools of consumer loans, home equity loans, trade receivables, credit card receivables, and other debt and are similar in structure to mortgage-backed securities. The assets are securitized either in a pass-through structure (similar to a mortgage pass-through structure) or in a pay-through structure (similar to a CMO structure). Asset-backed securities may be 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. During periods of declining interest rates, prepayment of certain types of loans underlying asset-backed securities can be expected to accelerate. Accordingly, a Fund's ability to maintain positions in these securities will be affected by reductions in the principal amount of the securities resulting from prepayments, and the Fund must reinvest the returned principal at prevailing interest rates, which may be lower. Asset-backed securities may also be subject to extension risk during periods of rising interest rates.

Asset-backed securities entail certain risks not presented by mortgage-backed securities. The collateral underlying asset-backed securities may be less effective as security for payments than real estate collateral. Debtors may have the right to set off certain amounts owed on the credit cards or other obligations underlying the asset-backed security, or the debt holder may not have a first (or proper) security interest in all of the obligations backing the receivable because of the nature of the receivable or state or federal laws protecting the debtor. Certain collateral may be difficult to locate in the event of default, and recoveries on depreciated or damaged collateral may not fully cover payments due on these securities. A Fund may invest in any type of asset-backed security if the Adviser determines that the security is consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

**Floating Rate/Variable Rate Notes.** Some notes purchased by a Fund may have variable or floating interest rates. Variable rates are adjustable at stated periodic intervals; floating rates are automatically adjusted according to a specified market rate for such investments, such as the percentage of the prime rate of a bank, or the 91-day U.S. Treasury Bill rate. These obligations may be secured by bank letters of credit or other support arrangements. If a security would not satisfy a Fund's credit quality standards without such a credit support, the entity providing a bank letter or line of credit, guarantee or loan commitment must meet a Fund's credit quality standards.

The absence of an active secondary market for certain variable and floating rate notes could make it difficult for a Fund to dispose of the instruments, and a Fund could suffer a loss if the issuer defaults or there are periods during which the Fund is not entitled to exercise its demand rights. Variable and floating rate instruments held by a Fund will be subject to the Fund's limitation on investments in illiquid securities if a reliable trading market for the instruments does not exist, and the Fund cannot demand payment of the principal amount of such instruments within seven days.

**Structured Securities.** Structured securities include notes, bonds or debentures that provide for the payment of principal of and/or interest in amounts determined by reference to changes in the value of specific currencies, interest rates,

commodities, indices or other financial indicators (the “Reference”) or the relative change in two or more References. The interest rate or the principal amount payable upon maturity or redemption may be increased or decreased depending upon changes in the applicable Reference. The terms of structured securities may provide that in certain circumstances no principal is due at maturity and, therefore, may result in the loss of the Fund’s investment. Structured securities may be positively or negatively indexed, so that appreciation of the Reference may produce an increase or decrease in the interest rate or value of the security at maturity. In addition, the change in interest rate or the value of the security at maturity may be a multiple of the change in the value of the Reference. Consequently, leveraged structured securities entail a greater degree of market risk than other types of debt obligations. Structured securities may also be more volatile, less liquid and more difficult to accurately price than less complex fixed-income investments.

**Pay-In-Kind, Delayed Payment and Zero Coupon Bonds.** These securities are generally issued at a discount from their face value because cash interest payments are typically postponed until maturity or after a stated period. The amount of the discount rate varies depending on such factors as the time remaining until maturity, prevailing interest rates, the security’s liquidity and the issuer’s credit quality. These securities also may take the form of debt securities that have been stripped of their interest payments. The market prices of pay-in-kind, delayed payment and zero coupon bonds generally are more volatile than the market prices of securities that pay interest periodically and in cash, and are likely to respond more to changes in interest rates than interest-bearing securities having similar maturities and credit quality. A Fund generally accrues income on securities that are issued at a discount and/or do not make current cash payments of interest for tax and accounting purposes. This income is required to be distributed to shareholders. A Fund’s investments in pay-in-kind, delayed payment and zero coupon bonds may require the Fund to sell portfolio securities to generate sufficient cash to satisfy its income distribution requirements.

## FOREIGN SECURITIES

Each Fund may invest in the securities of corporate and governmental issuers located in or doing business in a foreign country (“foreign issuers”). A company is considered to be located in or doing business in a foreign country if it satisfies at least one of the following criteria: (i) the equity securities of the company are traded principally on stock exchanges in one or more foreign countries; (ii) it derives 50% or more of its total revenue from goods produced, sales made or services performed in one or more foreign countries; (iii) it maintains 50% or more of its assets in one or more foreign countries; (iv) it is organized under the laws of a foreign country; or (v) its principal executive offices are located in a foreign country.

**ADRs, EDRs, IDRs and GDRs.** American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) (sponsored or unsponsored) are receipts typically issued by a U.S. bank, trust company or other entity and evidence ownership of the underlying foreign securities. Most ADRs are traded on a U.S. stock exchange. Issuers of unsponsored ADRs are not contractually obligated to disclose material information in the U.S., so there may not be a correlation between this information and the market value of the unsponsored ADR. European Depositary Receipts (“EDRs”) and International Depositary Receipts (“IDRs”) are receipts typically issued by a European bank or trust company evidencing ownership of the underlying foreign securities. Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”) are receipts issued by either a U.S. or non-U.S. banking institution evidencing ownership of the underlying foreign securities.

**Sovereign Debt Obligations.** Investment in sovereign debt obligations involves special risks not present in domestic corporate debt obligations. The issuer of the sovereign debt or the governmental authorities that control the repayment of the debt may be unable or unwilling to repay principal or interest when due, and a Fund may have limited recourse in the event of a default. During periods of economic uncertainty, the market prices of sovereign debt, and a Fund’s NAV, may be more volatile than prices of U.S. corporate debt obligations. In the past, certain emerging market countries have encountered difficulties in servicing their debt obligations, withheld payments of principal and interest and declared moratoria on the payment of principal and interest on their sovereign debts.

A sovereign debtor’s willingness or ability to repay principal and pay interest in a timely manner may be affected by, among other factors, its cash flow situation, the extent of its foreign currency reserves, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange, the relative size of the debt service burden, the sovereign debtor’s policy toward principal international lenders and local political constraints. Sovereign debtors may also be dependent on expected disbursements from foreign governments, multilateral agencies and other entities to reduce principal and interest arrearages on their debt. The failure of a sovereign debtor to implement economic policies or repay principal or interest when due may result in the cancellation of third-party commitments to lend funds to the sovereign debtor, which may further impair such debtor’s ability or willingness to service its debts.

**Obligations of Supranational Entities.** Each Fund may invest in obligations of supranational entities designated or supported by governmental entities to promote economic reconstruction or development and of international banking institutions and related government agencies. Examples include the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank), the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Each supranational entity's lending activities are limited to a percentage of its total capital (including "callable capital" contributed by its governmental members at the entity's call), reserves and net income. Participating governments may not be able or willing to honor their commitments to make capital contributions to a supranational entity.

**Risks of Foreign Securities.** Investments in foreign securities may involve a greater degree of risk than securities of U.S. issuers. There is generally less publicly available information about foreign companies in the form of reports and ratings similar to those published about issuers in the United States. Also, foreign issuers are generally not subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting requirements comparable to those applicable to U.S. issuers.

To the extent that a Fund's foreign securities are denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in foreign currency exchange rates will affect the Fund's NAV, the value of dividends and interest earned, gains and losses realized on the sale of securities, and any net investment income and gains that the Fund distributes to shareholders. Securities transactions in some foreign markets may not be settled promptly so that a Fund's foreign investments may be less liquid and subject to the risk of fluctuating currency exchange rates pending settlement.

Foreign securities may be purchased on over-the-counter markets or exchanges located in the countries where an issuer's securities are principally traded. Many foreign markets are not as developed or efficient as those in the United States. While growing in volume, they usually have substantially less volume than U.S. markets. Securities of some foreign issuers are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. Fixed commissions on foreign exchanges are generally higher than negotiated commissions on U.S. exchanges, although a Fund will endeavor to achieve the most favorable net results on its portfolio transactions. There is generally less government supervision and regulation of securities exchanges, brokers and listed issuers in foreign countries than in the United States. In certain foreign countries, there is the possibility of adverse changes in investment or exchange control regulations, expropriation, nationalization or confiscatory taxation, limitations on the removal of assets of a Fund from a country, political or social instability, or diplomatic developments. Moreover, individual foreign economies may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in terms of growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency and balance of payments position. Dividends, interest, and, in some cases, capital gains earned by a Fund on certain foreign securities may be subject to foreign taxes, thus reducing the net amount of income or gains available for distribution to the Fund's shareholders.

The above risks may be intensified for investments in emerging markets or countries with limited or developing capital markets. These countries are located in the Asia-Pacific region, Eastern Europe, Latin and South America and Africa. Security prices in these markets can be significantly more volatile than in more developed countries, reflecting the greater uncertainties of investing in less established markets and economies. Political, legal and economic structures in many of these emerging market countries may be undergoing significant evolution and rapid development, and they may lack the social, political, legal and economic stability characteristic of more developed countries. Emerging market countries may have failed in the past to recognize private property rights. They may have relatively unstable governments, present the risk of nationalization of businesses, restrictions on foreign ownership, or prohibitions on repatriation of assets, and may have less protection of property rights than more developed countries. Their economies may be predominantly based on only a few industries, may be highly vulnerable to changes in local or global trade conditions, and may suffer from extreme and volatile debt burdens or inflation rates. Local securities markets may trade a small number of securities and may be unable to respond effectively to increases in trading volume, potentially making prompt liquidation of substantial holdings difficult or impossible at times. A Fund may be required to establish special custodial or other arrangements before making certain investments in these countries. Securities of issuers located in these countries may have limited marketability and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements. Sanctions and other intergovernmental actions may be undertaken against an emerging market country, which may result in the devaluation of the country's currency, a downgrade in the country's credit rating, and a decline in the value and liquidity of the country's securities. Sanctions could result in the immediate freeze of securities issued by an emerging market company or government, impairing the ability of a Fund to buy, sell, receive or deliver these securities.

**Currency Risk.** Foreign securities usually are denominated and traded in foreign currencies, while each Fund values its assets in U.S. dollars. The exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar fluctuate continuously. As a result, a Fund's performance will be affected by its direct or indirect exposure, which may include exposure through U.S. dollar denominated depositary receipts and participation certificates, to a particular currency due to favorable or unfavorable changes in currency exchange rates relative to the U.S. dollar. Currency exchange rates fluctuate significantly for many reasons, including changes in supply and demand in the currency exchange markets, actual or perceived changes in interest rates, intervention (or the failure to intervene) by U.S. or foreign governments, central banks, or supranational agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and currency controls or other political and economic developments in the U.S. or abroad.

A Fund's direct or indirect exposure to a particular currency may be hedged to mitigate currency volatility or because the Fund believes a currency is overvalued. There can be no guarantee that any hedging activity will be successful. Hedging activity and/or use of forward foreign currency exchange contracts may mitigate the risk of loss from changes in currency exchange rates, but also may reduce or limit the opportunity for gain and involves the risk that the contracting party will not fulfill its contractual obligation to deliver the currency contracted for at the agreed upon price to the Fund. The success of any hedging strategy is highly uncertain, and a Fund may be required to buy or sell additional currency on the spot market (and bear the expense of such transaction) if the Adviser's predictions regarding the movement of foreign currency or securities markets prove inaccurate.

**Risk of Investing in the European Union.** Some of the Funds may invest in securities in the European market. A Fund's performance will be affected by political, social and economic conditions in Europe, such as growth of the economic output (the gross national product), the rate of inflation, the rate at which capital is reinvested into European economies, the success of governmental actions to reduce budget deficits, the resource self-sufficiency of European countries and interest and monetary exchange rates between European countries. European financial markets may experience volatility due to concerns about high government debt levels, credit rating downgrades, rising unemployment, the future of the euro as a common currency, possible restructuring of government debt and other government measures responding to those concerns, and fiscal and monetary controls imposed on member countries of the European Union.

On January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom ("UK") ceased to be a member of the European Union ("EU") and the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement came into force (*i.e.*, "Brexit"). Following a transition period, the United Kingdom's post-Brexit trade agreement with the EU passed into law in December 2020 and went into effect on January 1, 2021. There is significant market uncertainty regarding Brexit's ramifications. The range and potential implications of possible political, regulatory, economic, and market outcomes cannot be fully known but could be significant, potentially resulting in increased volatility and illiquidity and lower economic growth for companies that rely significantly on Europe for their business activities and revenues. The UK has one of the largest economies in Europe and is a major trading partner with the other EU countries and the United States. Brexit may create additional and substantial economic stresses for the UK, including a contraction of the UK's economy, decreased trade, capital outflows, devaluation of the British pound, as well as a decrease in business and consumer spending and investment. The negative impact on not only the UK and European economies but also the broader global economy could be significant. Brexit also may cause other EU member states to contemplate departing the EU, which would likely perpetuate political and economic instability in the region and cause additional market disruption in global financial markets.

**Risks of Investing in Asia.** The value of the Japan Fund's assets may be adversely affected by political, economic, social, and religious instability; inadequate investor protection; changes in laws or regulations of countries within the Asian region (including countries in which the Fund invests, as well as the broader region); international relations with other nations; natural disasters; corruption and military activity. The Asian region, and particularly China, Japan and South Korea, may be adversely affected by political, military, economic and other factors related to North Korea. In addition, China's long-running conflict over Taiwan, border disputes with many of its neighbors and historically strained relations with Japan could adversely impact economies in the region. The economies of many Asian countries differ from the economies of more developed countries in many respects, such as rate of growth, inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency, financial system stability, the national balance of payments position and sensitivity to changes in global trade. Asian markets are particularly susceptible to restrictions on global funds. Deflationary factors could also reemerge in certain Asian markets, the potential effects of which are difficult to forecast. While certain Asian governments will have the ability to offset deflationary conditions through fiscal or budgetary measures, others will lack the capacity to do so. Certain Asian countries are highly dependent upon and may be affected by developments in the U.S., Europe, and other Asian economies. Global economic conditions, and international trade, affecting Asian economies and companies could deteriorate as a result of political instability and uncertainty, and politically motivated actions, in the U.S. and Europe, as well as increased tensions with certain nations such as Russia.

**Risks Associated with Japan.** The Japanese economy continues to emerge from a prolonged economic downturn. Japan's economic growth rate has remained relatively low. The economy is characterized by an aging demographic, declining population, large government debt and highly regulated labor market. Economic growth is dependent on domestic consumption, deregulation and consistent government policy. International trade, particularly with the U.S., also impacts growth and adverse economic conditions in the U.S. or other such trade partners may affect Japan. Any restrictions on global trade are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the country. Japan also has a growing economic relationship with China and other Southeast Asian countries, and thus Japan's economy may also be affected by economic, political, or social instability in those countries (whether resulting from local or global events).

**Risks Associated with Russian Invasion of Ukraine.** In late February 2022, Russian military forces invaded Ukraine, significantly amplifying already existing geopolitical tensions among Russia, Ukraine, Europe, NATO, and the West. Russia's invasion, the responses of countries and political bodies to Russia's actions, and the potential for wider conflict may increase financial market volatility and could have severe adverse effects on regional and global economic markets, including the markets for certain securities and commodities such as oil and natural gas. Following Russia's actions, various countries, including the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France, as well as the European Union, issued broad-ranging economic sanctions against Russia. A number of large corporations and U.S. states have also announced plans to divest interests or otherwise curtail business dealings with certain Russian businesses.

The imposition of these current sanctions (and potential further sanctions in response to continued Russian military activity) and other actions undertaken by countries and businesses may adversely impact various sectors of the Russian economy, including but not limited to, the financials, energy, metals and mining, engineering, and defense and defense-related materials sectors. Such actions also may result in the decline of the value and liquidity of Russian securities, a weakening of the ruble, and could impair the ability of a Fund to buy, sell, receive, or deliver those securities. Moreover, the measures could adversely affect global financial and energy markets and thereby negatively affect the value of a Fund's investments beyond any direct exposure to Russian issuers or those of adjoining geographic regions. In response to sanctions, the Russian Central Bank raised its interest rates and banned sales of local securities by foreigners. Russia may take additional counter measures or retaliatory actions, which may further impair the value and liquidity of Russian securities. Such actions could, for example, include restricting gas exports to other countries, seizure of U.S. and European residents' assets, or undertaking or provoking other military conflict elsewhere in Europe, any of which could exacerbate negative consequences on global financial markets and the economy. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is currently unpredictable and has the potential to result in broadened military actions. The duration of ongoing hostilities and corresponding sanctions and related events cannot be predicted and may result in a negative impact on performance and the value of Fund investments, particularly as it relates to Russia exposure.

#### ILLIQUID AND RESTRICTED SECURITIES

A Fund may purchase securities that are not registered ("restricted securities") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"), including commercial paper issued in reliance on Section 4(a)(2) of the 1933 Act, or Rule 144A securities (Rule 144A securities are unregistered securities sold by private companies to qualified institutional buyers through a broker-dealer), as well as private placements issued under Regulation S, and, therefore, are restricted as to their resale. However, a Fund will not invest more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. If it is determined that the securities are liquid, they will not be subject to the 15% limit in illiquid investments. The practice of investing in restricted securities could have the effect of decreasing the level of liquidity in the Fund if sufficient numbers of qualified institutional buyers are not interested in purchasing these restricted securities. The Japan Fund will also limit its investment in all restricted securities (liquid and illiquid), including Rule 144A securities, to 15% of its total assets (*see* Investment Restrictions - Non-Fundamental Investment Restrictions (below)).

Illiquid investments are investments that the Adviser reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions within seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. If a Fund holds illiquid investments it may be unable to quickly sell them or may be able to sell them only at a price below current value. Illiquid investments may be more difficult to value.

## DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

**General.** The Funds may, but are not required to, invest in derivative instruments, which are commonly defined as financial instruments whose performance and value are derived, at least in part, from another source, such as the performance of an underlying asset, security or index. The Funds' transactions in derivative instruments may include:

- i. the purchase and writing of options on securities (including index options) and options on foreign currencies;
- ii. the purchase and sale of futures contracts based on financial, interest rate and securities indices, equity securities or fixed-income securities; and
- iii. entering into forward contracts, swaps and swap related products, such as equity index, interest rate or currency swaps, and related caps, collars, floors and swaptions.

The success of transactions in derivative instruments depends on an Adviser's judgment as to their potential risks and rewards. Use of these instruments exposes a Fund to additional investment risks and transaction costs. If an Adviser incorrectly analyzes market conditions or does not employ the appropriate strategy with these instruments, the Fund's return could be lower than if derivative instruments had not been used. Additional risks inherent in the use of derivative instruments include: adverse movements in the prices of securities or currencies and the possible absence of a liquid secondary market for any particular instrument. A Fund could experience losses if the prices of its derivative positions correlate poorly with those of its other investments. The loss from investing in derivative instruments is potentially unlimited.

Each Fund may invest in derivatives for hedging purposes, to enhance returns, as a substitute for purchasing or selling securities, to maintain liquidity or in anticipation of changes in the composition of its portfolio holdings. The risks and policies of various types of derivative investments in which the Funds may invest are described in greater detail below.

Under Rule 18f-4 each Fund limits the notional amount of its derivatives transactions to 10% or less of its net assets in order to qualify as a "limited derivatives user" and has adopted and implemented policies and procedures reasonably designed to manage the Fund's derivatives risks.

**Options on Securities and Securities Indices.** A Fund may purchase and write (sell) call and put options on any securities in which it may invest or on any securities index containing securities in which it may invest. These options may be listed on securities exchanges or traded in the over-the-counter market. A Fund may write covered put and call options and purchase put and call options to enhance total return, as a substitute for the purchase or sale of securities, or to protect against declines in the value of portfolio securities and against increases in the cost of securities to be acquired.

**Writing Covered Options.** A call option on securities written by a Fund obligates the Fund to sell specified securities to the holder of the option at a specified price if the option is exercised at any time before the expiration date. A put option on securities written by a Fund obligates the Fund to purchase specified securities from the option holder at a specified price if the option is exercised at any time before the expiration date. Options on securities indices are similar to options on securities, except that the exercise of securities index options requires cash settlement payments and does not involve the actual purchase or sale of securities. In addition, securities index options are designed to reflect price fluctuations in a group of securities or segment of the securities market rather than price fluctuations in a single security. Writing covered call options may deprive a Fund of the opportunity to profit from an increase in the market price of the securities in its portfolio. Writing covered put options may deprive a Fund of the opportunity to profit from a decrease in the market price of the securities to be acquired for its portfolio.

A Fund may terminate its obligations under an exchange-traded call or put option by purchasing an option identical to the one it has written. Obligations under over-the-counter options may be terminated only by entering into an offsetting transaction with the counterparty to the option. These purchases are referred to as "closing purchase transactions."

**Purchasing Options.** A Fund would normally purchase call options in anticipation of an increase, or put options in anticipation of a decrease ("protective puts") in the market value of securities of the type in which it may invest. A Fund may also sell call and put options to close out its purchased options.

The purchase of a call option would entitle a Fund, in return for the premium paid, to purchase specified securities at a specified price during the option period. A Fund would ordinarily realize a gain on the purchase of a call option if, during the option period, the value of such securities exceeded the sum of the exercise price, the premium paid and transaction costs; otherwise the Fund would realize either no gain or a loss on the purchase of the call option.

The purchase of a put option would entitle a Fund, in exchange for the premium paid, to sell specified securities at a specified price during the option period. The purchase of protective puts is designed to offset or hedge against a decline in the market value of a Fund's portfolio securities. Put options may also be purchased by a Fund for the purpose of affirmatively benefiting from a decline in the price of securities which it does not own. A Fund would ordinarily realize a gain if, during the option period, the value of the underlying securities decreased below the exercise price sufficiently to cover the premium and transaction costs; otherwise the Fund would realize either no gain or a loss on the purchase of the put option. Gains and losses on the purchase of put options may be offset by countervailing changes in the value of the Fund's portfolio securities.

A Fund's options transactions will be subject to limitations established by each of the exchanges, boards of trade or other trading facilities on which such options are traded. These limitations govern the maximum number of options in each class which may be written or purchased by a single investor or group of investors acting in concert, regardless of whether the options are written or purchased on the same or different exchanges, boards of trade or other trading facilities or are held or written in one or more accounts or through one or more brokers. Thus, the number of options which a Fund may write or purchase may be affected by options written or purchased by other investment advisory clients of the Adviser. An exchange, board of trade or other trading facility may order the liquidation of positions found to be in excess of these limits, and it may impose certain other sanctions.

**Risks Associated with Options Transactions.** There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on a domestic or foreign options exchange will exist for any particular exchange-traded option or at any particular time. If a Fund is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction with respect to covered options it has written, the Fund will not be able to sell the underlying securities until the options expire or are exercised. Similarly, if a Fund is unable to effect a closing sale transaction with respect to options it has purchased, it would have to exercise the options in order to realize any profit and will incur transaction costs upon the purchase or sale of underlying securities.

Reasons for the absence of a liquid secondary market on an exchange include the following: (1) there may be insufficient trading interest in certain options; (2) restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both; (3) trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options; (4) unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; (5) the facilities of an exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading volume; or (6) one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options). If trading were discontinued, the secondary market on that exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist. However, outstanding options on that exchange that had been issued by the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

A Fund's ability to terminate over-the-counter options is more limited than with exchange-traded options and may involve the risk that broker-dealers participating in such transactions will not fulfill their obligations. The Adviser will determine the liquidity of each over-the-counter option in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Trustees.

The writing and purchase of options is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. The successful use of options depends in part on the Adviser's ability to predict future price fluctuations and, for hedging transactions, the degree of correlation between the options and securities markets. Imperfect correlation between the options and securities markets may detract from their effectiveness. In addition to the other risks associated with options described herein, a Fund may suffer a loss if it is unsuccessful in employing an options strategy and the Fund's total return may be less than if it had not engaged in the options transaction.

**Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts.** A Fund may use interest rate, foreign currency or index futures contracts, as specified for that Fund in the Prospectus or if permitted by its investment restrictions. An interest rate, foreign currency or index futures contract provides for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified



quantity of a financial instrument, foreign currency or the cash value of an index at a specified price and time. A futures contract on an index is an agreement pursuant to which two parties agree to take or make delivery of an amount of cash equal to the difference between the value of the index at the close of the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the index contract was originally written. Although the value of an index might be a function of the value of certain specified securities, no physical delivery of these securities is made.

A Fund may purchase and write call and put options on futures. Options on futures possess many of the same characteristics as options on securities and indexes (discussed above). An option on a futures contract gives the holder the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a long position (call) or short position (put) in a futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time during the period of the option. Upon exercise of a call option, the holder acquires a long position in the futures contract and the writer is assigned the opposite short position. In the case of a put option, the opposite is true.

Each Fund will use futures contracts and options on futures contracts in accordance with the rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”). For example, a Fund might use futures contracts to hedge against anticipated changes in interest rates that might adversely affect either the value of the Fund’s securities or the price of the securities which the Fund intends to purchase. A Fund’s hedging activities may include sales of futures contracts as an offset against the effect of expected increases in interest rates, and purchases of futures contracts as an offset against the effect of expected declines in interest rates. Although other techniques could be used to reduce that Fund’s exposure to interest rate fluctuations, the Fund may be able to hedge its exposure more effectively and perhaps at a lower cost by using futures contracts and options on futures contracts. Pursuant to CFTC Rule 4.5, the Adviser has filed a notice of exclusion from registration as a commodity pool operator in respect of each Fund. On February 9, 2012, the CFTC adopted rule amendments that modify the criteria for claiming the CFTC Rule 4.5 exclusion from registration and regulation as a commodity pool operator. The Adviser intends to limit each Fund’s use of commodity interests so as to remain eligible for the exclusion.

**Limitations on Use of Futures and Options Thereon.** A Fund that may use futures and futures options will only enter into futures contracts and futures options which are standardized and traded on a U.S. or foreign exchange, board of trade, or similar entity, or quoted on an automated quotation system.

When a purchase or sale of a futures contract is made by a Fund, the Fund is required to deposit with its custodian (or broker, if legally permitted) a specified amount of cash, U.S. government securities or other securities (“initial margin”). The margin required for a futures contract is set by the exchange on which the contract is traded and may be modified during the term of the contract. Margin requirements on foreign exchanges may be different than U.S. exchanges. The initial margin is in the nature of a performance bond or good faith deposit on the futures contract which is returned to the Fund upon termination of the contract, assuming all contractual obligations have been satisfied. Each Fund expects to earn interest income on its initial margin deposits. A futures contract held by a Fund is valued at the official price of the exchange on which it is traded. Each day a Fund pays or receives cash, called “variation margin,” equal to the daily change in value of the futures contract. This process is known as “marking to market.” Variation margin does not represent a borrowing or loan by a Fund but is instead a settlement between the Fund and the broker of the amount one would owe the other if the futures contract expired. In computing daily net asset value, each Fund will mark-to-market its open futures positions.

A Fund is also required to deposit and maintain margin with respect to put and call options on futures contracts written by it. Such margin deposits will vary depending on the nature of the underlying futures contract (and the related initial margin requirements), the current market value of the option, and other futures positions held by the Fund.

Although some futures contracts call for making or taking delivery of the underlying securities or commodities, generally these obligations are closed out prior to delivery by offsetting purchases or sales of matching futures contracts (same exchange, underlying security or index, and delivery month). Closing out a futures contract sale is effected by purchasing a futures contract for the same aggregate amount of the specific type of financial instrument or commodity with the same delivery date. If an offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, a Fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is more, a Fund realizes a capital loss. Conversely, if an offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, a Fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is less, a Fund realizes a capital loss. The transaction costs must also be included in these calculations.

When selling a call option on a futures contract, a Fund will maintain with its custodian (and mark-to-market on a daily basis) assets determined to be liquid by the Adviser in accordance with the procedures established by the Board that, when added to the amounts deposited with a futures commission merchant as margin, equal the total market value of the futures contract underlying the call option. Alternatively, the Fund may cover its position by entering into a long position in the same futures contract at a price no higher than the strike price of the call option, by owning the instruments underlying the futures contract, or by holding a separate call option permitting the Fund to purchase the same futures contract at a price not higher than the strike price of the call option sold by the Fund.

When selling a put option on a futures contract, a Fund will maintain with its custodian (and mark-to-market on a daily basis) assets determined to be liquid by the Adviser in accordance with the procedures established by the Board that equal the purchase price of the futures contract, less any margin on deposit. Alternatively, the Fund may cover the position either by entering into a short position in the same futures contract, or by owning a separate put option permitting it to sell the same futures contract so long as the strike price of the purchased put option is the same or higher than the strike price of the put option sold by the Fund.

The requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company for federal income tax purposes also may limit the extent to which a Fund may enter into futures, futures options and forward contracts.

**Risk Factors in Futures Transactions and Options Thereon.** Investment in futures contracts involves the risk of imperfect correlation between movements in the price of the futures contract and the price of the security being hedged. The hedge will not be fully effective when there is imperfect correlation between the movements in the prices of two financial instruments. For example, if the price of the futures contract moves more than the price of the hedged security, a Fund will experience either a loss or gain on the futures contract which is not completely offset by movements in the price of the hedged securities. To compensate for imperfect correlations, the Fund may purchase or sell futures contracts in a greater dollar amount than the hedged securities if the volatility of the hedged securities is historically greater than the volatility of the futures contracts. Conversely, the Fund may purchase or sell fewer futures contracts if the volatility of the price of the hedged securities is historically less than that of the futures contracts.

The particular securities comprising the index underlying the index financial futures contract may vary from the securities held by a Fund. As a result, the Fund's ability to hedge effectively all or a portion of the value of its securities through the use of such financial futures contracts will depend in part on the degree to which price movements in the index underlying the financial futures contract correlate with the price movements of the securities held by the Fund. The correlation may be affected by disparities in the Fund's investments as compared to those comprising the index and general economic or political factors. In addition, the correlation between movements in the value of the index may be subject to change over time as additions to and deletions from the index alter its structure. The trading of futures contracts also is subject to certain market risks, such as inadequate trading activity, which could at times make it difficult or impossible to liquidate existing positions.

Each Fund expects to liquidate a majority of the futures contracts it enters into through offsetting transactions on the applicable contract market. There can be no assurance, however, that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular futures contract at any specific time. Thus, it may not be possible to close out a futures position. In the event of adverse price movements, the Fund would continue to be required to make daily cash payments of variation margin. In such situations, if the Fund has insufficient cash, it may be required to sell portfolio securities to meet daily variation margin requirements at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. The inability to close out futures positions also could have an adverse impact on the Fund's ability to hedge effectively its investments. The liquidity of a secondary market in a futures contract may be adversely affected by "daily price fluctuation limits" established by commodity exchanges which limit the amount of fluctuation in a futures contract price during a single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in the contract, no trades may be entered into at a price beyond the limit, thus preventing the liquidation of open futures positions. Prices have in the past moved beyond the daily limit on a number of consecutive trading days. A Fund will enter into a futures position only if, in the judgment of the Adviser, there appears to be an actively traded secondary market for such futures contracts.

The successful use of transactions in futures and related options also depends on the ability of the Adviser to forecast correctly the direction and extent of interest rate movements within a given time frame. To the extent interest rates remain stable during the period in which a futures contract or option is held by a Fund or such rates move in a direction opposite to that anticipated, the Fund may realize a loss on a hedging transaction which is not fully or partially offset by an increase in

the value of portfolio securities. As a result, the Fund's total return for such period may be less than if it had not engaged in the hedging transaction.

Because of low initial margin deposits made upon the opening of a futures position, futures transactions involve substantial leverage. As a result, relatively small movements in the price of the futures contracts can result in substantial unrealized gains or losses. There is also the risk of loss by a Fund of margin deposits in the event of the bankruptcy of a broker with whom the Fund has an open position in a financial futures contract.

The amount of risk a Fund assumes when it purchases an option on a futures contract is the premium paid for the option plus related transaction costs. In addition to the correlation risks discussed above, the purchase of an option on a futures contract also entails the risk that changes in the value of the underlying futures contract will not be fully reflected in the value of the option purchased.

**Risks of Potential Government Regulation of Derivatives.** Future regulatory developments could impact the Funds' ability to invest in certain derivatives. It is possible that government regulation of various types of derivative instruments, including futures, options and swap agreements, may limit or prevent the Funds from using such instruments as a part of their investment strategies, and could ultimately prevent a Fund from being able to achieve its investment objective. In December 2015, the SEC proposed a new rule to regulate the use of derivatives by registered investment companies, such as the Funds. If the rule goes into effect as proposed, it could affect the Funds' investments in derivatives. It is impossible to fully predict the effects of past, present or future legislation and regulation in this area, but the effects could be substantial and adverse. It is possible that legislative and regulatory activity could limit or restrict the ability of the Funds to use certain derivatives as a part of their investment strategies and could alter, perhaps to a material extent, the nature of an investment in a Fund or the ability of a Fund to continue to implement its investment strategies.

The futures, options and swaps markets are subject to comprehensive statutes, regulations, and margin requirements. In addition, the SEC, CFTC and the exchanges are authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of a market emergency, including, for example, the implementation or reduction of speculative position limits, the implementation of higher margin requirements, the establishment of daily price limits and the suspension of trading. The regulation of futures, options and swaps transactions in the United States is a changing area of law and is subject to modification by government and judicial action.

In particular, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act") was signed into law on July 21, 2010. The Dodd-Frank Act has changed the way in which the U.S. financial system is supervised and regulated. Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act sets forth a legislative framework for OTC derivatives, including financial instruments, such as swaps, in which a Fund may invest. Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act made broad changes to the OTC derivatives market, grants significant authority to the SEC, the CFTC, and other federal regulators to regulate OTC derivatives and market participants, and requires clearing and exchange trading of many OTC derivatives transactions. The CFTC and the SEC finalized the definition of "swap" and "security-based swap" and provided parameters around which contracts will be subject to further regulation under the Dodd-Frank Act. Provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act include new capital and margin requirements and the mandatory use of clearinghouse mechanisms for many OTC derivative transactions. The CFTC, SEC and other federal regulators have been tasked with developing the rules and regulations enacting the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act. While certain of the rules are now effective, other rules are not yet final, so it is not possible at this time to gauge the exact nature and scope of the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on the Fund. Since 2010, and most notably in 2015 and 2016, comprehensive legislation has been proposed that is intended to pare back some of the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act.

**Hedging and Other Strategies.** Hedging is an attempt to establish with more certainty than would otherwise be possible the effective price or rate of return on portfolio securities or securities that a Fund proposes to acquire. When interest rates are rising or securities prices are falling, a Fund can seek to offset a decline in the value of its current portfolio securities through the sale of futures contracts. When interest rates are falling or securities prices are rising, a Fund, through the purchase of futures contracts, can attempt to secure better rates or prices than might later be available in the market when it effects anticipated purchases.

A Fund may, for example, take a "short" position in the futures market by selling futures contracts in an attempt to hedge against an anticipated rise in interest rates or a decline in market prices that would adversely affect the value of the Fund's portfolio securities. These futures contracts may include contracts for the future delivery of securities held by the Fund or securities with characteristics similar to those of the Fund's portfolio securities.

If, in the opinion of the Adviser, there is a sufficient degree of correlation between price trends for a Fund's portfolio securities and futures contracts based on other financial instruments, securities indices or other indices, the Fund may also enter into such futures contracts as part of its hedging strategy. Although under some circumstances prices of securities in a Fund's portfolio may be more or less volatile than prices of these futures contracts, the Adviser will attempt to estimate the extent of this volatility difference based on historical patterns and compensate for any differential by having the Fund enter into a greater or lesser number of futures contracts or by attempting to achieve only a partial hedge against price changes affecting the Fund's portfolio securities.

When a short hedging position is successful, any depreciation in the value of portfolio securities will be substantially offset by appreciation in the value of the futures position. On the other hand, any unanticipated appreciation in the value of a Fund's portfolio securities would be substantially offset by a decline in the value of the futures position.

On other occasions, a Fund may take a "long" position by purchasing futures contracts. This would be done, for example, when the Fund anticipates the subsequent purchase of particular securities when it has the necessary cash but expects the prices then available in the applicable market to be less favorable than prices that are currently available. The Fund may also purchase futures contracts as a substitute for transactions in securities, to alter the investment characteristics of portfolio securities or to gain or increase its exposure to a particular securities market.

**Foreign Currency Transactions.** A Fund's foreign currency exchange transactions may be conducted on a spot (i.e., cash) basis at the spot rate for purchasing or selling currency prevailing in the foreign exchange market. A Fund may also enter into forward foreign currency exchange contracts to enhance return, to hedge against fluctuations in currency exchange rates affecting a particular transaction or portfolio position, or as a substitute for the purchase or sale of a currency or assets denominated in that currency. Forward contracts are agreements to purchase or sell a specified currency at a specified future date and price set at the time of the contract. Transaction hedging is the purchase or sale of forward foreign currency contracts with respect to specific receivables or payables of a Fund accruing in connection with the purchase and sale of its portfolio securities quoted or denominated in the same or related foreign currencies. Portfolio hedging is the use of forward foreign currency contracts to offset portfolio security positions denominated or quoted in the same or related foreign currencies. A Fund may elect to hedge less than all of its foreign currency portfolio positions if deemed appropriate by the Adviser.

Hedging against a decline in the value of a currency does not eliminate fluctuations in the prices of portfolio securities or prevent losses if the prices of such securities decline. These transactions also preclude the opportunity for currency gains if the value of the hedged currency rises. Moreover, it may not be possible for the Fund to hedge against a devaluation that is so generally expected that the Fund is not able to contract to sell the currency at a price above the devaluation level it anticipates.

The cost to a Fund of engaging in foreign currency transactions varies with such factors as the currency involved, the length of the contract period and the market conditions then prevailing. Since transactions in foreign currency are usually conducted on a principal basis, no fees or commissions are involved.

**Foreign Currency Options.** Each Fund may purchase or sell (write) call and put options on currency. A foreign currency option provides the option buyer with the right to buy or sell a stated amount of foreign currency at the exercise price on a specified date or during the option period. The owner of a call option has the right, but not the obligation, to buy the currency. Conversely, the owner of a put option has the right, but not the obligation, to sell the currency. When the option is exercised, the seller of the option is obligated to fulfill the terms of the written option. However, either the seller or the buyer may, in the secondary market, close its position during the option period at any time before expiration.

A purchased call option on a foreign currency generally rises in value if the underlying currency appreciates in value. A purchased put option on a foreign currency generally rises in value if the underlying currency depreciates in value. Although purchasing a foreign currency option can protect a Fund against an adverse movement in the value of a foreign currency, the option will not limit changes in the value of such currency. For example, if a Fund was holding securities denominated in a foreign currency that was appreciating and had purchased a foreign currency put to hedge against a decline in the value of the currency, the Fund would not have to exercise its put option. Likewise, a Fund might enter into a contract to purchase a security denominated in foreign currency and, in conjunction with that purchase, might purchase a foreign currency call option to hedge against a rise in value of the currency. If the value of the currency instead depreciated

between the date of purchase and the settlement date, the Fund would not have to exercise its call. Instead, the Fund could acquire in the spot market the amount of foreign currency needed for settlement.

**Special Risks Associated with Foreign Currency Options.** Buyers and sellers of foreign currency options are subject to the same risks that apply to options generally. In addition, there are certain additional risks associated with foreign currency options. The markets in foreign currency options are relatively thin, and a Fund's ability to establish and close out positions on such options is subject to the maintenance of a liquid secondary market. A Fund will not purchase or write such options unless and until, in the opinion of the Adviser, the market for them has developed sufficiently to ensure that the risks in connection with such options are not greater than the risks in connection with the underlying currency. Nevertheless, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for a particular option at any specific time. In addition, options on foreign currencies are affected by most of the same factors that influence foreign exchange rates and investments generally.

The value of a foreign currency option depends upon the value of the underlying currency relative to the U.S. dollar. As a result, the price of the option position may vary with changes in the value of either or both currencies and may have no relationship to the investment performance of a foreign security. Because foreign currency transactions occurring in the interbank market involve substantially larger amounts than those that may be involved in the use of foreign currency options, investors may be disadvantaged by having to deal in an odd lot market (generally consisting of transactions of less than \$1 million) for the underlying foreign currencies at prices that are less favorable than for round lots.

There is no systematic reporting of last sale information for foreign currencies or any regulatory requirement that quotations available through dealers or other market sources be firm or revised on a timely basis. Available quotation information is generally representative of very large transactions in the interbank market and thus may not reflect relatively smaller transactions (*i.e.*, less than \$1 million) where rates may be less favorable. The interbank market in foreign currencies is a global, around-the-clock market. To the extent that the U.S. currency option markets are closed while the markets for the underlying currencies remain open, significant price and rate movements may take place in the underlying markets that cannot be reflected in the options markets until they reopen.

**Foreign Currency Futures Transactions.** By using foreign currency futures contracts and options on such contracts, a Fund may be able to achieve many of the same objectives as it would through the use of forward foreign currency exchange contracts. A Fund may sometimes be able to achieve these objectives more effectively and at a lower cost by using futures transactions instead of forward foreign currency exchange contracts.

The sale of a foreign currency futures contract creates an obligation by a Fund, as seller, to deliver the amount of currency called for in the contract at a specified future time for a specified price. The purchase of a currency futures contract creates an obligation by a Fund, as purchaser, to take delivery of an amount of currency at a specified future time at a specified price. Although the terms of currency futures contracts specify actual delivery or receipt, in most instances the contracts are closed out before the settlement date without the making or taking of delivery of the currency. Currency futures contracts are closed out by entering into an offsetting purchase or sale transaction for the same aggregate amount of currency and delivery date. If the sale price of a currency futures contract exceeds the price of the offsetting purchase, the Fund realizes a gain. If the sale price is less than the offsetting purchase price, the Fund realizes a loss. If the purchase price of a currency futures contract is less than the offsetting sale price, the Fund realizes a gain. If the purchase price of a currency futures contract exceeds the offsetting sale price, the Fund realizes a loss.

**Special Risks Associated with Foreign Currency Futures Contracts and Related Options.** Buyers and sellers of foreign currency futures contracts and related options are subject to the same risks that apply to the use of futures generally. In addition, the risks associated with foreign currency futures contracts and options on futures are similar to those associated with options on foreign currencies, as described above.

**U.S. Dollar Denominated Securities of Non-U.S. Companies.** Each Fund may invest without limit in U.S. dollar-denominated securities of non-U.S. companies but may invest only up to 15% of its total assets in non-dollar-denominated securities of non-U.S. companies.

**Swaps, Caps, Floors, Collars and Swaptions.** As one way of managing its exposure to different types of investments, a Fund may enter into interest rate swaps, currency swaps, and other types of swap agreements such as caps, collars, floors and swaptions. In a typical interest rate swap, one party agrees to make regular payments equal to a floating interest rate

times a “notional principal amount,” in return for payments equal to a fixed rate times the same notional amount, for a specified period of time. If a swap agreement provides for payment in different currencies, the parties might agree to exchange the notional principal amount as well. Swaps may also depend on other prices or rates, such as the value of an index or mortgage prepayment rates.

In a typical cap or floor agreement, one party agrees to make payments only under specified circumstances, usually in return for payment of a fee by the other party. For example, the buyer of an interest rate cap obtains the right to receive payments to the extent that a specified interest rate exceeds an agreed-upon level, while the seller of an interest rate floor is obligated to make payments to the extent that a specified interest rate falls below an agreed-upon level. An interest rate collar combines elements of buying a cap and selling a floor. A swaption is an option to buy or sell a swap position.

Swap agreements will tend to shift a Fund’s investment exposure from one type of investment to another. For example, if the Fund agreed to exchange payments in dollars for payments in a foreign currency, the swap agreement would tend to decrease the Fund’s exposure to U.S. interest rates and increase its exposure to foreign currency and interest rates. Caps and floors have an effect similar to buying or writing options. Depending on how they are used, swap agreements may increase or decrease the overall volatility of a Fund’s investments and its share price and yield.

Swap agreements are sophisticated risk management instruments that typically require a small cash investment relative to the magnitude of risks assumed. As a result, swaps can be highly volatile and may have a considerable impact on a Fund’s performance. Swap agreements are subject to credit risks related to the counterparty’s ability to perform, and may decline in value if the counterparty’s creditworthiness deteriorates. A Fund may also suffer losses if it is unable to terminate outstanding swap agreements or reduce its exposure through offsetting transactions.

**Forward Commitments, When-Issued Securities and Delayed Delivery Transactions.** The Funds may purchase or sell securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis and make contracts to purchase or sell securities for a set price at a set date beyond customary settlement time. A Fund will engage in when-issued purchases of securities in order to obtain what is considered to be an advantageous price and yield at the time of purchase. Securities purchased or sold on a when-issued, delayed delivery or forward commitment basis involve a risk of loss if the security to be purchased declines in value, or a security to be sold increases in value, before the settlement date. The failure of the issuer or other party to consummate the transaction may result in a Fund’s losing the opportunity to obtain an advantageous price. Although a Fund usually intends to acquire the underlying securities, the Fund may dispose of such securities before settlement. For purposes of determining a Fund’s average dollar-weighted maturity, the maturity of when-issued or forward commitment securities will be calculated from the commitment date.

**Short Sales.** Short sales are transactions in which a Fund sells a security it does not own in anticipation of a decline in the value of that security. To complete such a transaction, the Fund must borrow the security from a broker or other institution to make delivery to the buyer. The Fund then is obligated to replace the security borrowed by purchasing it at the market price at or prior to the time of replacement. The price at such time may be more or less than the price at which the security was sold by the Fund. As a result, there is no limit to the potential loss on a short sale. Until the security is replaced, the Fund is required to pay the broker from which it borrowed the security an amount equal to any dividends or interest that accrue during the period of the loan. Short sale dividends are treated as an expense and can increase a fund’s total expense ratio although no cash is received or paid by the Fund. To compensate the broker, the Fund also may be required to pay a premium, which would increase the cost of the security sold. The net proceeds of the short sale will be retained by the broker (or by the Fund’s custodian in a special custody account), to the extent necessary to meet margin requirements, until the short position is closed out.

The Fund will incur a loss as a result of the short sale if the price of the security sold short increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the Fund replaces the borrowed security. The Fund will realize a gain if the security declines in price between those dates. An increase in the value of a security sold short by the Fund over the price at which it was sold short will result in a loss to the Fund, and there can be no assurance that the Fund will be able to close out the position at any particular time or at an acceptable price. Although the Fund’s gain is limited to the amount at which it sold a security short, its potential loss is unlimited. Depending on arrangements made with brokers, the Fund may not receive any payments (including interest) on collateral deposited with them. The Fund will not make a short sale if, after giving effect to such sale, the market value of all securities sold short exceeds 100% of the value of the Fund’s net assets.

While the Fund is short a security, it is subject to the risk that the security's lender will terminate the loan at a time when the Fund is unable to borrow the same security from another lender. If this happened, the Fund would have to buy replacement shares immediately at the stock's then current market price or "buy in" by paying the lender an amount equal to the cost of purchasing the security to close out the short position.

The Fund will also incur transaction costs in effecting short sales. Short sales involve other costs. The Fund must repay to the lender any dividends or interest that accrue while it is holding a security sold short. To borrow the security, the Fund also may be required to pay a premium. The amount of any gain for the Fund resulting from a short sale will be decreased and the amount of any loss will be increased, by the amount of premiums, dividends, interest or expenses the Fund may be required to pay in connection with a short sale.

## OTHER INVESTMENT PRACTICES AND RISKS

**Active Management.** The Funds are actively managed investment portfolios. The Adviser will apply its investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for the Funds, but there is no guarantee that its decisions will produce the intended result. The management strategy or securities selection methods the Adviser uses in managing the Fund could prove less successful than anticipated or could be unsuccessful. This risk is common for all actively managed funds.

**ESG Evaluation.** As part of the Adviser's investment process for the Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund, the investment team evaluates the general and industry-specific ESG factors that the Adviser believes to be the most financially material to a company's short-, medium-, and long-term enterprise value at any given time. The Adviser's proprietary ESG evaluation process seeks to identify ESG factors that the Adviser believes will materially contribute to or detract from a company's financial performance.

Incorporation of ESG factors into a Fund's investment process may cause the Fund to make different investments, and result in different exposures to various issuers, than funds that do not incorporate such considerations into their strategy or investment processes. The Adviser's ESG considerations may also result in a greater emphasis on long-term performance, which may result in the Fund forgoing shorter-term opportunities to buy certain securities when it might otherwise be advantageous to do so, or selling securities for ESG-related reasons when it might not otherwise be advantageous to do so. This may affect the Fund's performance depending on whether certain investments are in or out of favor, and the Fund's investment performance could be different compared to funds that do not incorporate ESG considerations.

There are significant differences in interpretations of what it means for a company to meet ESG criteria. The Adviser's assessment of a company may differ from that of other funds advised by different advisers, and the Adviser's assessment of a company's ESG factors could change over time. As a result, stocks selected by the Adviser may not reflect the beliefs and values of any particular investor. When evaluating an issuer, the Adviser is dependent on information or data obtained through voluntary or third-party reporting that may be incomplete, inaccurate, or unavailable, which could cause the Adviser to incorrectly assess an issuer's ESG practices. Because ESG factor analysis is used as one part of the Adviser's overall investment process, a Fund may still invest in securities of issuers that many or all market participants view as having an unfavorable ESG profile.

**Securities Lending.** During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the Funds did not engage in securities lending. The Funds may lend portfolio securities to certain creditworthy borrowers in U.S. and non-U.S. markets. The borrowers provide collateral that is marked to market daily in an amount at least equal to 102% of the current market value of the securities loaned. The Funds may terminate a loan at any time and obtain the securities loaned. A Fund receives the value of any interest or cash or non-cash distributions paid on the loaned securities. A Fund cannot vote proxies for securities on loan, but may recall loans to vote proxies if a material issue affecting the Fund's economic interest in the investment is to be voted upon. Distributions received on loaned securities in lieu of dividend payments (i.e., substitute payments) would not be considered qualified dividend income.

With respect to loans that are collateralized by cash, the borrower may be entitled to receive a fee based on the amount of cash collateral. A Fund is compensated by the difference between the amount earned on the reinvestment of cash collateral and the fee paid to the borrower. In the case of collateral other than cash, a Fund is compensated by a fee paid by the borrower equal to a percentage of the market value of the loaned securities. Any cash collateral may be reinvested in certain short-term instruments either directly on behalf of each lending the Fund or through one or more joint accounts or money market funds, which may include those managed by the Adviser.

Securities lending involves exposure to certain risks, including operational risk (i.e., the risk of losses resulting from problems in the settlement and accounting process—especially so in certain international markets such as Taiwan), “gap” risk (i.e., the risk of a mismatch between the return on cash collateral reinvestments and the fees a Fund has agreed to pay a borrower), risk of loss of collateral, credit, legal, counterparty and market risk. A Fund is also exposed to the risk of losses in the event a borrower does not return the Fund’s securities as agreed. For example, delays in recovery of lent securities may cause a Fund to lose the opportunity to sell the securities at a desirable price. If management has knowledge that a material event will occur affecting an investment on loan, the Trustees would be obligated to call such loan in time to vote such proxies.

When a Fund lends portfolio securities, there is a risk that the borrower may fail to return the securities, that the securities will not be returned in time for the Funds to exercise their voting rights, or that the Funds’ securities lending agent does not learn of an impending vote and therefore does not initiate a recall of the lent securities on the Funds’ behalf. As a result, a Fund may incur a loss or, in the event of a borrower’s bankruptcy, may be delayed in, or prevented from, liquidating the collateral. The Fund will bear any losses incurred from the investment of the collateral it receives. Any gain or loss in the market price of the securities loaned that might occur during the term of the loan would belong to the Fund.

**Cyber Security Risk.** The Funds and their service providers may be prone to operational and information security risks resulting from breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause a Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption, or lose operational capacity. Breaches in cyber security include, among other behaviors, stealing or corrupting data maintained online or digitally, denial of service attacks on websites, the unauthorized release of confidential information, ransomware, or various other forms of cyber-attacks. Cyber security breaches affecting a Fund or its Adviser, custodian, transfer agent, intermediaries and other third-party service providers may adversely impact the Fund. For instance, cyber security breaches may interfere with the processing of shareholder transactions, impact a Fund’s ability to calculate its NAVs, cause the release of private shareholder information or confidential business information, impede trading, subject a Fund to regulatory fines or financial losses and/or cause reputational damage. The Funds may also incur additional costs for cyber security risk management purposes. Similar types of cyber security risks are also present for issuers of securities in which a Fund may invest, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers and may cause the Fund’s investment in such companies to lose value.

**Information Technology Sector Risk.** Information technology companies face intense competition, both domestically and internationally, which may have an adverse effect on profit margins. Like other technology companies, information technology companies may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or personnel. The products of information technology companies may face product obsolescence due to rapid technological developments and frequent new product introduction, unpredictable changes in growth rates and competition for the services of qualified personnel. Technology companies and companies that rely heavily on technology, especially those of smaller, less-seasoned companies, tend to be more volatile than the overall market. Companies in the information technology sector are heavily dependent on patent and intellectual property rights. The loss or impairment of these rights may adversely affect the profitability of these companies. Finally, while all companies may be susceptible to network security breaches, certain companies in the information technology sector may be particular targets of hacking and potential theft of proprietary or consumer information or disruptions in service, which could have a material adverse effect on their businesses. These risks are heightened for information technology companies in foreign markets.

**IPO Risks.** The Funds may invest in Initial Public Offerings (“IPOs”). An IPO is when a company (called the issuer) issues common stock or shares to the public for the first time. Such securities are often issued by smaller, younger companies seeking capital but can also be done by large privately-owned companies looking to trade publicly.

The purchase of IPO shares may involve high transaction costs and may involve the risk that the market value of IPO shares will fluctuate considerably due to factors such as the absence of a prior public market, unseasoned trading, the small number of shares available for trading and limited information about the issuer. IPO shares are subject to market risk and liquidity risk. When the Fund’s asset base is small, a significant portion of the fund’s performance could be attributable to investments in IPOs because such investments would have a magnified impact on the fund. As the Fund’s assets grow, the effect of the Fund’s investments in IPOs on the Fund’s performance probably will decline, which could reduce the Fund’s performance.



**Special Situations Risk.** Securities of companies that are involved in an initial public offering or a major corporate event, such as a business consolidation or restructuring, may be exposed to heightened risk because of the high degree of uncertainty that can be associated with such events. Securities issued in initial public offerings often are issued by companies that are in the early stages of development, have a history of little or no revenues and may operate at a loss following the offering. It is possible that there will be no active trading market for the securities after the offering, and that the market price of the securities may be subject to significant and unpredictable fluctuations. Initial public offerings are subject to many of the same risks as investing in companies with smaller market capitalizations. To the extent the Fund determines to invest in initial public offerings, it may not be able to invest to the extent desired, because, for example, only a small portion (if any) of the securities being offered in an initial public offering are available to the Fund.

The investment performance of the Fund during periods when it is unable to invest significantly or at all in initial public offerings may be lower than during periods when the Fund is able to do so. Securities purchased in initial public offerings which are sold within 12 months after purchase may result in increased short-term capital gains, which will be taxable to the Fund's shareholders as ordinary income. Certain "special situation" investments are investments in securities or other instruments that are determined to be illiquid or lacking a readily ascertainable fair value.

**Liquidity Risk.** Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are difficult to sell. In addition, liquid investments may become illiquid after purchase by the Fund, particularly during periods of market turmoil. When a Fund holds illiquid investments, the portfolio may be harder to value, especially in changing markets, and if the Fund is forced to sell these investments to meet redemption requests or for other cash needs, the Fund may suffer a loss. In addition, when there is illiquidity in the market for an investment, a Fund, due to limitations on illiquid investments, may be unable to achieve its desired level of exposure to a certain sector.

**Large Shareholder Purchase and Redemption Risk.** The Funds may experience adverse effects when certain large shareholders purchase or redeem large amounts of shares of the Funds. Such large shareholder redemptions may cause a Fund to sell its securities or invest additional cash, as the case may be, at times when it would not otherwise do so, which may negatively impact the Fund's NAV and liquidity. Redemptions of a large number of shares also may increase transaction and other costs or have adverse tax consequences for shareholders of the Fund by requiring a sale of portfolio securities. Similarly, large share purchases may adversely affect a Fund's performance to the extent that the Fund is delayed in investing new cash and is required to maintain a larger cash position than it ordinarily would. In addition, a large redemption could result in a Fund's current expenses being allocated over a smaller asset base, leading to an increase in the Fund's expense ratio. However, this risk may be limited to the extent that the Adviser and a Fund have entered into a fee waiver and/or expense limitation arrangement.

**Reverse Repurchase Agreements.** The Funds may enter reverse repurchase agreements whereby a Fund sells portfolio assets with an agreement to repurchase the assets at a later date at a set price. A Fund continues to receive principal and interest payments on these securities. The Funds rely on Rule 18f-4(d)(1)(i) of the 1940 Act with respect to reverse repurchase agreement transactions, and maintain cash or liquid securities, having a value at least equal to the repurchase price of the agreement, plus accrued interest.

Reverse repurchase agreements involve the risk that the value of the securities sold by a Fund may decline below the price of the securities the Fund is obligated to repurchase. Reverse repurchase agreements are borrowings by a Fund and are subject to its investment restrictions on borrowing.

**Short-Term Trading and Portfolio Turnover.** Short-term trading means the purchase and subsequent sale of a security after it has been held for a relatively brief period of time. A Fund may engage in short-term trading in response to stock market conditions, changes in interest rates or other economic trends and developments, or to take advantage of yield disparities between various fixed-income securities in order to realize capital gains or enhance income. Short-term trading may have the effect of increasing a Fund's portfolio turnover rate. A high rate of portfolio turnover involves correspondingly higher brokerage costs that must be borne directly by the Fund and thus indirectly by the shareholders, reducing the shareholders' return. Short-term trading may also increase the amount of taxable gains that must be distributed to shareholders. The following table sets forth each Fund's portfolio turnover rate for each of the two most recently completed fiscal years ended December 31:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
RMB Fund	18%	12%
Financial Services Fund	42%	70%
International Fund	30%	21%
Japan Fund	32%	18%
Small Cap Fund	15%	7%
SMID Cap Fund	4%	9%

## **INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

### FUNDAMENTAL INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

The following investment restrictions are considered fundamental, which means they may be changed with respect to a Fund only with the approval of the holders of a majority of that Fund's outstanding voting securities, defined under the 1940 Act as the lesser of: (1) 67% or more of that Fund's voting securities present at a meeting if the holders of more than 50% of that Fund's outstanding voting securities are present or represented by proxy, or (2) more than 50% of that Fund's outstanding voting securities.

1. A Fund may not borrow money or issue senior securities, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act.
2. A Fund may not make loans to other persons, except loans of securities not exceeding one-third of the Fund's total assets, investments in debt obligations and transactions in repurchase agreements.
3. A Fund may not purchase, sell or invest in real estate, but, subject to its other investment policies and restrictions, may invest in securities of companies that deal in real estate or are engaged in the real estate business. These companies include real estate investment trusts and securities secured by real estate or interests in real estate. A Fund may hold and sell real estate acquired through default, liquidation or other distribution of an interest in real estate as a result of the Fund's ownership of securities.
4. A Fund may not invest in commodities or commodity futures contracts, except for transactions in financial derivative contracts, such as forward currency contracts; financial futures contracts and options on financial futures contracts; options on securities, currencies and financial indices; and swaps, caps, floors, collars and swaptions.
5. A Fund may not underwrite securities of other issuers, except insofar as a Fund may be deemed an underwriter under the 1933 Act when selling portfolio securities.
6. The RMB Fund, the Financial Services Fund, International Fund, Japan Fund, Small Cap Fund, and SMID Cap Fund with respect to 75% of its total assets, may not invest more than 5% of such Fund's total assets in the securities of any single issuer, or own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer, in each case other than: (1) securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities; or (2) securities of other investment companies.
7. The RMB Fund, Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund will not concentrate more than 25% of the value of its total assets in any one industry.
8. A Fund (except for the RMB Fund, Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund) shall not invest more than 25% of its total assets, taken at market value, in the securities of issuers in any particular industry or group of industries (excluding the U.S. Government and its agencies and instrumentalities) except that the Financial Services Fund will, during normal market conditions, invest at least 25% of its total assets in the financial services sector, a group of industries that includes regional and money center banks, insurance companies, home, auto and other specialty finance companies, securities brokerage firms and electronic trading networks, investment management and advisory firms, publicly traded, government-sponsored financial intermediaries, such as Fannie Mae or FHLMC, thrift and savings banks, financial conglomerates, foreign financial services companies, electronic transaction processors for financial

services companies, real estate investment trusts, depository institutions and any company that derives at least 50% of its revenues from doing business with financial services companies, such as financial software companies.

9. The Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund may, notwithstanding any other fundamental investment policy or restriction, invest all of its assets in the securities of a single open-end management investment company with substantially the same fundamental investment objective, policies and restrictions as the Fund.

With respect to Fundamental Investment Restriction 1, the 1940 Act currently permits each Fund to borrow from banks in an amount that may not exceed 33 1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets at the time of borrowing. In the event that a Fund's borrowings exceed 33 1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets, the Fund will be required to reduce the amount of its borrowings as promptly as practicable, but in no event later than three business days.

#### NON-FUNDAMENTAL INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

The following restrictions are non-fundamental and may be modified by the Trustees without shareholder approval. Each Fund may change the policies described below upon 60 days' notice to shareholders.

1. A Fund may not acquire any illiquid investment if, immediately after the acquisition, the Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities.
2. A Fund may invest in other investment companies, including any closed-end or open-end investment company, hedge fund or unregistered investment company, as permitted by the 1940 Act or by such exemptions as may be granted by the Commission by any rule, regulation or order.
3. A Fund may not invest in a company for the purpose of exercising control or management of the company.
4. Under normal conditions, the Financial Services Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in stocks of U.S. companies in the financial services sector; under normal conditions, the Japan Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in equity securities of Japanese companies; under normal market conditions, the Small Cap Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus borrowings for investment purposes) in equity securities of U.S. companies with small market capitalizations; and, under normal market conditions, the SMID Cap Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in equity securities of companies with small-to-medium market capitalizations.
5. The Japan Fund will limit its investments in restricted securities, including Rule 144A securities, to 15% of its total assets.

For purposes of non-fundamental investment restriction 1. (above), an illiquid investment is any investment that a Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment.

Except with respect to 300% asset coverage for borrowing required by the 1940 Act, whenever any investment restriction states a maximum percentage of a Fund's assets that may be invested in any security, such percentage limitation will be applied only at the time the Fund acquires such security and will not be violated by subsequent increases in value relative to other assets held by the Fund.

A sector of issuers in different industries is not considered to be an industry, except as stated above with respect to the Financial Services Fund.

#### DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

It is the general policy of the Trust and each Fund that neither the Funds nor their service providers may selectively disclose a Fund's portfolio holdings information to any current or potential investor in the Funds, including individuals, institutions and financial intermediaries, in advance of the date such information is disclosed publicly by the Fund(s).

The Board has adopted policies and procedures relating to disclosure of a Fund's portfolio securities. These policies and procedures are designed to provide a framework for disclosing information regarding portfolio holdings, portfolio composition or other portfolio characteristics consistent with applicable regulations of the federal securities laws and general principles of fiduciary duty relating to Fund shareholders.

The Funds, like other typical mutual funds, rely on various service providers (including the Adviser) and other affiliated and/or unaffiliated entities, to perform all services relating to the Funds' operations. Some services, such as custody, fund audits, proxy voting, compliance testing, and pricing of portfolio securities, require that the service provider have almost continuous access to information about a Fund's current portfolio holdings. Other service providers, such as lawyers and accountants, are permitted to review information about a Fund's current portfolio holdings on a periodic basis. In addition, if a Fund wants to sell certain securities in its portfolio, the Fund will have to identify those securities to the broker handling the sale. It is the Trust's policy to grant access to portfolio information in the above and other appropriate circumstances only to the extent necessary so that the provider may perform its services relating to the Funds' operations and the provider is subject to a duty of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on the non-public information.

In addition, the Trust permits disclosure of non-public portfolio holdings information to third parties in limited circumstances where the Trust or a service provider has a legitimate business purpose for doing so and the recipients are subject to a duty of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on the non-public information.

It is also the policy of the Trust that none of the Funds or their service providers may enter into any arrangements pursuant to which they will receive compensation or other consideration directly or indirectly in return for the disclosure of non-public information about a Fund's portfolio holdings.

### **Periodic Public Disclosure**

The full portfolio holdings of each Fund are filed quarterly with the Commission within the time periods prescribed by rules of the Commission. Further, information regarding each Fund's portfolio holdings is provided to shareholders on a semi-annual basis in accordance with, and within the time periods prescribed by, rules of the Commission.

The Funds' portfolio holdings are published monthly, with approximately a 30-day lag, on the Funds' website. This policy is described in the Funds' current Prospectus and may be discontinued by the Trust without notice. The Trust considers a Fund's portfolio holdings not to be confidential on the next day after its portfolio holdings are published on the Funds' website.

In certain instances, a Fund's month-end portfolio holdings may be disclosed earlier than 30 days after the end of a month to certain third-parties under the following conditions: (i) for legitimate business purposes; and (ii) no adverse impact is anticipated to Fund shareholders. In addition, each Fund's month-end top 10 holdings reports may be made available by the seventh calendar day after month-end.

### **Disclosure of Holdings to Analytical Companies**

The Funds' portfolio holdings generally are sent to certain analytical companies (*e.g.*, Morningstar, Bloomberg, Broadridge, S&P, Thomson Financial, etc.) and investment consultants either monthly or quarterly on the next business day after a complete set of holdings is available on the Funds' website.

### **Disclosure of Individual Portfolio Holdings**

From time to time, employees of the Adviser or Sub-Adviser may express their views orally or in writing on securities held in the Funds with the public, media, current or prospective shareholders of the Funds, investment consultants/advisers and/or rating/ranking firms. The securities may be ones that were purchased or sold since the Funds' most recent month-end portfolio holdings and may not yet be disclosed on the Funds' website. In these situations, the confirmation of whether a stock is held in a Fund and its portfolio weighting as of a specific date must follow the public disclosure procedures as described above, including prompt public disclosure following such confirmation.

## **Disclosure of Holdings to Service Providers and Other Parties**

The Funds' portfolio holdings are disclosed to service providers on an on-going basis in the performance of their contractual duties. These providers include, but are not limited to, the Funds' custodian, fund accountant, fund administrator, printing companies, public accounting firm and attorneys. Holdings are disclosed to service providers that perform operational services for all of the accounts managed by the Adviser, including the Funds, which include back office services, portfolio accounting and performance systems services, proxy voting services and analytical and trading systems. Employees of the Adviser (as applicable) also may have frequent access to portfolio holdings. The frequency of disclosure to these parties varies and may be as frequently as intra-day with no lag.

Various broker/dealer and other parties involved in the trading and settlement process have access to Fund portfolio information when a Fund is buying and selling securities for its portfolio.

Non-public disclosure of the Funds' portfolio holdings will only be made to service providers and other parties who are under a duty of confidentiality to the Funds, whether by explicit written agreement or by virtue of their duties to the Funds. The Trust and the Adviser will make reasonable efforts to obtain written confidentiality agreements and prohibitions on trading based on knowledge of the Funds' portfolio holdings with the service providers and other parties who receive the Funds' portfolio holdings information prior to the holdings being made public. Employees of the Adviser are subject to their respective employer's code of ethics, but the improper use of Fund portfolio holdings by other parties is possible, notwithstanding contractual and confidentiality obligations.

## **Board Oversight of Disclosure of Fund Portfolio Holdings**

Exceptions to these policies may be granted only by the Board, the Trust's President, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Vice President or Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") upon a determination that the release of information (1) would be appropriate for legitimate business purposes and (2) is not anticipated to adversely affect Fund shareholders. Any such disclosures of Fund portfolio holdings shall be disclosed to the Board at its next regular meeting.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Board and an appropriate officer of the Trust, or the Trust's President or CCO may, on a case-by-case basis, impose additional restrictions on the dissemination of portfolio information beyond those found in these disclosure policies. (For example, the Funds may determine to not provide purchase and sale information with respect to Funds that invest in less liquid securities.)

There is no assurance that the Trust's disclosure policies will protect the Funds from potential misuse of holdings information by individuals in possession of that information.

## **SERVICES FOR SHAREHOLDERS**

### **SHAREHOLDER ACCOUNTS**

When an investor initially purchases shares, an account will be opened on the books of the Trust by the transfer agent. The investor appoints the transfer agent as agent to receive all dividends and distributions and to automatically reinvest them in additional shares of the same class of shares. Distributions or dividends are reinvested at a price equal to the NAV of these shares as of the ex-dividend date.

Shareholders who do not want automatic dividend and distribution reinvestment should check the appropriate box of the new account application or notify the transfer agent and, ten business days after receipt of such notice, all dividends and distributions will be paid by check.

## **PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES**

### **PURCHASE OF SHARES**

The RMB Fund and the Financial Services Fund currently offer Class A, Class C and Class I shares. The International Fund, Japan Fund, Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund currently offer Class I shares. The Trustees and officers reserve

the right to change or waive a Fund's minimum investment requirements and to reject any order to purchase shares (including purchases by exchange) when in their judgment the rejection is in a Fund's best interest.

Investor Class shares of the International Fund, Japan Fund, Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund are not currently being offered. Please see the Prospectus for further information regarding whether a Fund is currently offering shares of a particular class.

#### INITIAL SALES CHARGES ON CLASS A SHARES

Class A shares are offered at a price equal to their NAV plus a sales charge, which is imposed at the time of purchase. The sales charges applicable to purchases of Class A shares of the RMB Fund and the Financial Services Fund are described in the Funds' current prospectus. Up to 100% of the sales charge may be re-allowed to dealers who achieve certain levels of sales or who have rendered coordinated sales support efforts. These dealers may be deemed underwriters. Other dealers will receive the following compensation:

<b><u>Amount Invested</u></b>	<b>Dealer Concession as a % of Offering Price of Shares Purchased</b>
Less than \$50,000	4.50%
\$50,000 but less than \$100,000	4.00%
\$100,000 but less than \$250,000	3.50%
\$250,000 but less than \$500,000	2.75%
\$500,000 but less than \$1,000,000	1.75%
\$1,000,000 or more	0.00%

#### OBTAINING A REDUCED SALES CHARGE FOR CLASS A SHARES

Methods of obtaining a reduced sales charge referred to in the Funds' prospectus are described in more detail below. Sales charges may be waived for Trustees and certain affiliated persons of the Funds. Please see Appendix A in the Funds' prospectus for a description of variations in sales charges and waivers for Fund shares purchased through Raymond James, Janney Montgomery Scott, Oppenheimer & Co., Robert W. Baird & Co. and Ameriprise Financial.

**Purchases of Class A Shares of \$1 Million or More.** On purchases by a single purchaser aggregating \$1 million or more, the investor will not pay an initial sales charge.

**Rights of Accumulation.** If an investor, the investor's spouse or any children under the age of 21 already hold shares of any Fund, the investor may qualify for a reduced sales charge on its purchase of additional Class A shares. If the value of the shares the investor currently holds in any Fund, plus the amount the investor wishes to purchase is \$50,000 or more, the sales charge on the Class A shares being purchased will be at the rate applicable to the total aggregate amount. The Fund's policy is to give investors the lowest commission rate possible under the sales charge structure. To receive a reduction in your Class A initial sales charge, you must let your financial adviser or shareholder services know at the time you purchase shares that you qualify for such a reduction. You may be asked by your financial adviser or shareholder services to provide account statements or other information regarding related accounts of you or your immediate family in order to verify your eligibility for a reduced sales charge, including, where applicable, information about accounts opened with a different financial adviser.

Certain brokers or financial advisers may not offer these programs or may impose conditions or fees to use these programs. You should consult with your broker or your financial adviser prior to purchasing a Fund's shares. Rights of accumulation may be amended or terminated at any time as to all purchases occurring thereafter.

**Letter of Intent.** If an investor intends to purchase Class A shares valued at \$50,000 or more during a 13-month period, the investor may make the purchases under a Letter of Intent so that the initial Class A shares purchased qualify for the reduced sales charge applicable to the aggregate amount of the investor's projected purchase. The investor's initial purchase must be at least 5% of the intended purchase. Purchases made within 90 days before the signing of the Letter of

Intent may be included in such total amount and will be valued on the date of the Letter of Intent. The Letter of Intent will not impose a binding obligation to buy or sell shares on either the purchaser or the Fund.

During the period of the Letter of Intent, the transfer agent will hold shares representing 3% of the intended purchase in escrow to provide payment of additional sales charges that may have to be paid if the total amount purchased under the Letter of Intent is reduced. If the total Class A shares covered by the Letter of Intent are not purchased by the end of the period covered by the Letter of Intent, a sales charge adjustment is made to reflect the sales charge applicable to the actual amount invested within the period, and the applicable amount of shares held in escrow will be used to pay the sales charge adjustment and the remaining escrowed shares will be released to the account of the investor. A Letter of Intent can be amended: (a) during the 13-month period if the purchaser files an amended Letter of Intent with the same expiration date as the original; and (b) automatically after the end of the period, if the total purchases of Class A shares credited to the Letter of Intent qualify for an additional reduction in the sales charge. For more information concerning the Letter of Intent, see the application form or contact the Fund's transfer agent at 1-800-462-2392.

**Ongoing Charges and Fees.** Class A shares for the RMB Fund and the Financial Services Fund are subject to an annual Rule 12b-1 distribution and shareholder services fee of 0.25% (discussed below under "12b-1 Distribution Plan"). Class A shares have lower minimum investment thresholds than the Class I shares.

#### CLASS C SHARE PURCHASES

Class C shares are sold at the NAV next determined after receipt of an investor's purchase order, with a maximum purchase order of \$500,000. Class C shares are not subject to an initial sales charge but may be subject to a contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC") upon redemption. Brokers that initiate and are responsible for purchases of such Class C shares of that Fund may receive an up-front commission at the time of sale of up to 1.00% of the purchase price of Class C shares of the Fund. Class C shares do not convert into any other class of shares.

If Class C shares of a Fund are redeemed less than one year after a purchase, a 1% CDSC will be charged by calculating a percentage on the NAV of the shares redeemed at the time of purchase or sale, whichever is lower. The CDSC will be deducted from the redemption proceeds otherwise payable to the shareholder. In the case of Class C shares, 12b-1 fees, together with the CDSC, are used to finance the costs of up-front commissions paid to dealers and investment representatives.

**Ongoing Charges and Fees.** Class C shares for the RMB Fund and the Financial Services Fund are subject to an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 0.75% and shareholder service fee of 0.25%. Class C shares have lower minimum investment thresholds than the Class I shares.

#### INVESTOR CLASS SHARES

Investor Class shares, if offered in the future, will be sold at the NAV next determined after receipt of an investor's purchase order. Investor Class shares are not subject to an initial sales charge and are not subject to a CDSC upon redemption. Investor Class shares are subject to an annual Rule 12b-1 distribution and shareholder services fee of 0.25% (discussed below under "12b-1 Distribution Plan"). Investor Class shares have lower minimum investment thresholds than the Class I shares.

#### CLASS I SHARE PURCHASES

Class I shares are sold at the NAV next determined after receipt of an investor's purchase order. Class I shares are not subject to an initial sales charge, a CDSC upon redemption, or a Rule 12b-1 fee. Class I shares do not convert into any other class of shares.

#### EXEMPTIONS FROM CDSC

No CDSC will be imposed on Class I shares. No CDSC will be imposed on Class C shares in the following instances:

- (a) redemptions of shares or amounts representing increases in the value of an account above the net cost of the investment due to increases in the NAV; and

- (b) redemptions of shares acquired through reinvestment of income, dividends or capital gains distributions.

The CDSC will be waived for redemptions of Class C shares in connection with:

- distributions to participants or beneficiaries of plans qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code or from custodial accounts under Code Section 403(b)(7), individual retirement accounts (“IRAs”) under Code Section 408(a), deferred compensation plans under Code Section 457 and other employee benefit plans (“plans”);
- withdrawals under an automatic withdrawal plan where the annual withdrawal does not exceed 10% of the opening value of the account (only for Class C shares); and
- redemptions following the death or disability of a shareholder.

In determining whether the CDSC on Class C shares is payable, it is assumed that shares not subject to a CDSC are redeemed first and that other shares are then redeemed in the order purchased.

Please see Appendix A in the Funds’ prospectus for a description of variations in sales charges and waivers for Fund shares purchased through Raymond James, Janney Montgomery Scott, Oppenheimer & Co., Robert W. Baird & Co. and Ameriprise Financial.

#### REDEMPTION OF SHARES

Investors in the Funds may redeem shares on any day the Funds are open for business — normally when the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) is open — using the proper procedures described below. See “Net Asset Value” for a list of the days on which the NYSE will be closed.

1. Through Participating Dealers Or Other Financial Intermediaries. If an investor’s account has been established by a participating dealer or other financial intermediary, the investor should contact their financial adviser or financial intermediary to assist the investor with the redemption. Requests received by a financial adviser or financial intermediary before the close of the NYSE and transmitted to the transfer agent by its close of business that day will receive that day’s NAV.
2. Redemption Directly through the Transfer Agent. Redemption requests sent by mail to the transfer agent will receive the NAV of the shares being redeemed that is next determined after the request is received in “good form.” “Good form” means that the request is signed in the name in which the account is registered and the signature is guaranteed by a guarantor who participates in the medallion signature guarantee program. Eligible guarantors include member firms of a national securities exchange, certain banks and savings associations and, credit unions, as defined by the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. An investor should verify with the transfer agent that the institution is an acceptable (eligible) guarantor before signing. The transfer agent reserves the right to request additional confirmation from guarantor institutions, on a case by case basis, to establish eligibility. **A guarantee from a notary public is not acceptable.** Redemption requests for \$50,000 or less (whether written or telephonic), which are payable to the registered owner at the legal address of record do not require an additional medallion signature guarantee at the time of redemption.
3. Redemption by Telephone. Unless an investor has elected otherwise on its new account application, redemption requests may be made by telephone with the transfer agent for amounts of up to \$50,000. The investor or its financial professional can sell shares of the Fund by calling 1-800-462-2392. Please press 1 and follow the automated menu to speak with a customer service representative of the Fund. A check will be mailed to the investor on the following business day.

Redemption requests by a corporation, trust fiduciary, executor or administrator (if the name and title of the individual(s) authorizing such redemption is not shown in the account registration) must be accompanied by a copy of the resolution or other legal documentation appointing the authorized individual, signed and certified within the prior 60 days. The investor may obtain from the transfer agent, forms of resolutions and other documentation, which have been prepared in advance to help shareholders comply with the Funds’ procedures.



The Funds do not charge for their services in connection with the redemption of Fund shares, but upon prior notice may charge for such services in the future. Other securities firms may charge their clients a fee for their services in effecting redemptions of shares of the Funds.

**Terms of Redemptions.** The amount of your redemption proceeds will be based on the NAV next computed after the transfer agent receives the redemption request in proper form. Payment for the redemption normally will be mailed to the shareholder, except as provided below. A shareholder's redemption proceeds will normally be mailed or wired the day after the redemption is processed. If the shareholder purchased shares by check, the payment of redemption proceeds may be delayed until the purchase check has cleared, which may take fifteen or more days. This potential delay can be avoided by purchasing shares with federal funds or a certified check.

Beneficial owners of shares held of record in the name of the participating dealer or other financial intermediary may redeem their shares only through that firm. The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed under certain emergency or extraordinary situations, such as suspension of trading on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), or when trading in the markets a Fund normally uses is restricted or an emergency exists, as determined by the Commission, so that disposal of a Fund's assets or determination of its NAV is not reasonably practicable, or for such other periods as the Commission by order may permit.

Each Fund reserves the right to redeem a shareholder's account if its value, due to redemptions and not as a result of a decline in market value, is less than the minimum initial investment amount applicable to such share class and account type. The affected Fund will give the shareholder 60 days' notice to increase the account value to the minimum purchase amount. Redemption proceeds will be mailed in accordance with the procedures described above.

**Redemptions in Kind.** Although the Funds would not normally do so, each Fund has the right to pay the redemption price of shares of the Fund in whole or in part in portfolio securities, as prescribed by the Trustees. When the shareholder sells portfolio securities received in this fashion, a brokerage charge will be incurred and the shareholder may be subject to tax on any appreciation of such securities. The Funds will value securities distributed in an in kind redemption at the same value as is used in determining NAV. During periods of distressed market conditions, when a significant portion of a Fund's portfolio may be comprised of less-liquid investments, a Fund may be more likely to pay redemption proceeds by giving you securities. Redemptions in kind are taxable for federal income tax purposes in the same manner as redemptions for cash.

**Purchases, Redemptions or Exchanges Through Authorized Broker-Dealers or Investment Professionals.** Dealers may charge their customers a processing or service fee in connection with the purchase or redemption of Fund shares. The amount and applicability of such a fee is determined and disclosed to its customers by each individual dealer. Processing or service fees typically are fixed, nominal dollar amounts and are in addition to the sales and other charges described in the current Prospectus and this SAI. Your dealer will provide you with specific information about any processing or service fees that you may be charged.

#### REINSTATEMENT PRIVILEGE (CLASS A and CLASS C SHARES)

A shareholder of Class A or Class C shares who has redeemed such shares and has not previously exercised the reinstatement privilege may reinvest any portion or all of the redemption proceeds in Class A shares at NAV (without a front-end sales charge), provided that such reinstatement occurs within 120 calendar days after such redemption and the account meets the investment requirements as described in the prospectus for the Funds' Class A shares. This privilege may be modified or terminated at any time by the Funds.

In order to use this privilege, the shareholder must clearly indicate by written request to the applicable Fund that the purchase represents a reinvestment of proceeds from previously redeemed Class A or Class C shares. If a shareholder realizes a gain on a redemption of shares, this gain is taxable for federal income tax purposes even if all of such proceeds are reinvested. If a shareholder incurs a loss on a redemption and reinvests the proceeds in the same Fund, part or all of such loss may not be currently deductible for such tax purposes. See "Federal Income Taxes" below.

***The reinstatement privilege may be used by each shareholder only once, regardless of the number of shares redeemed or repurchased.*** However, the privilege may be used without limit in connection with transactions for the sole purpose of transferring a shareholder's interest in a Fund to his or her IRA or other tax-qualified retirement plan account.

## NET ASSET VALUE

Each Fund determines the NAV per share of each class on each business day as of the close of regular trading (generally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on the NYSE by dividing the Fund's net assets attributable to that class by the number of its shares of that class outstanding and rounding to the nearest cent. For purposes of determining NAV, expenses of the classes of a Fund are accrued daily and taken into account. If the NYSE closes early, the Funds accelerate the determination of NAV to the closing time. The NAV will not be calculated on days on which the NYSE is closed for trading. The NYSE is closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Each Fund values the securities in its portfolio on the basis of official closing or last reported sale prices on the security's primary exchange, the mean of the closing or last reported bid and ask prices for the security, or valuations provided by independent pricing services. If market quotations for a portfolio holding are unavailable, or deemed by the Adviser to be unreliable, the portfolio holding shall be fair valued by the Adviser, as the "valuation designee" approved by the Board pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the 1940 Act, in accordance with valuation procedures approved by the Board. When fair value pricing is employed, the value of the portfolio holding used to calculate the Funds' NAV may differ from quoted or official closing prices. Due to the subjective and variable nature of fair value pricing, it is possible that the value determined for a particular investment may be materially different from the value realized upon its sale. The Adviser's role with respect to fair valuation may present certain conflicts of interest given the impact valuations can have on Fund performance and the Adviser's asset-based fees.

### *Exchange-Listed Equities and Funds and Depositary Receipts*

The market value of an equity security, exchange-traded fund (e.g., ETF or closed-end fund), or depositary receipt (e.g., ADR or GDR) traded on a national stock exchange (other than Nasdaq Global Markets, Nasdaq Select Market and the Nasdaq Capital Markets (together, "Nasdaq")) is the last reported sale price on the exchange on which the security trades on the valuation date. If there is no such last sale reported, the security is valued at the mean between the last bid and asked prices on the exchange.

The market value of a security traded on Nasdaq is the Nasdaq Official Closing Price (or "NOCP") on the valuation date. The NOCP is determined by Nasdaq to be the last reported sale price, unless the last sale price is above or below the last reported bid and asked prices. If the last reported bid and asked prices are above the last sale price, the last reported bid is used; conversely, if the last reported bid and asked prices are below the last sale price, the last reported asked price serves as the NOCP. If no last sales price is reported, the security is valued at the mean between the closing bid and closing asked prices on the market on which the security trades.

### *Over-the-Counter Securities*

Securities traded over-the-counter ("OTC") are valued at the last reported sale in the OTC market on which the security trades, such as the OTC Bulletin Board, Pink OTC Markets, Inc. or other recognized OTC market, on the valuation date. If no last sale is reported, the security is valued at the mean between the closing bid and the closing asked prices on the market on which the security trades.

### *Foreign Securities*

Foreign securities (which are principally traded in markets other than the U.S.) are valued based upon the last reported sale price on the primary exchange or market on which they trade as of the close of business of such exchange or market immediately preceding the time of determining the Fund's NAV. Any Fund assets or liabilities initially valued in terms of non-U.S. dollar currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at the prevailing foreign currency exchange market rates. For portfolio holdings which trade in markets that close prior to the close of trading on the NYSE, which is generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, a fair value price provided by an Adviser-approved pricing service ("Pricing Service") is generally used in order to capture events occurring after the applicable foreign exchange closes that may affect the value of certain portfolio holdings traded on that foreign exchange.

### *Options*

Options traded on an exchange are valued at the last reported sale price. If no sales are reported on a particular business day, the average of the highest bid and lowest asked quotations across the exchanges on which the option is traded is used.

*Open-end Registered Investment Companies (excluding ETFs and Closed-End Funds)*

Shares of open-end registered investment companies (“funds”) are valued using their respective NAVs. If a fund’s NAV is not available, the last reported NAV of the fund may be used for one day.

*Fixed-Income Securities*

Fixed-income securities, including bonds, notes, debentures, certificates of deposit, and commercial paper, generally are valued at the evaluated mean between the closing bid and closing asked prices provided by the Pricing Service. Pricing Services generally take into account appropriate factors such as institutional-sized trading in similar groups of securities, yield, quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics, and other market data and may provide a price determined by a matrix pricing method or other analytical pricing models.

## **FEDERAL INCOME TAXES**

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

The discussions of the federal income tax consequences in the Prospectus and this SAI are based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (previously defined as the “Code”), and the regulations issued under it, and court decisions and administrative interpretations, as in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions may significantly alter the statements included herein, and any such changes or decisions may be retroactive.

Each Fund is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Each Fund has elected, qualified, and intends to continue to qualify for each taxable year as a “regulated investment company” under Subchapter M of Subtitle A, Chapter 1, of the Code. As such, each Fund intends to comply with the requirements of the Code regarding the sources of its income, the timing of its distributions, and the diversification of its assets. If each Fund meets all such requirements, each Fund will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its investment company taxable income and net capital gain (the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) that is distributed to shareholders in accordance with the timing and other requirements of the Code. If a Fund did not qualify as a regulated investment company, it would be treated as a U.S. corporation subject to U.S. federal income tax, thereby subjecting any income earned by the Fund to tax at the corporate level, and when such income is distributed to a further tax at the shareholder level.

Each Fund will be subject to a 4% non-deductible U.S. federal excise tax on a portion of its undistributed ordinary income and capital gain net income if it fails to meet certain distribution requirements with respect to each calendar year. Each Fund intends under normal circumstances to seek to avoid liability for such tax by satisfying such distribution requirements.

In order to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Code, each Fund must, among other things: (i) derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, other income (including gains from options, futures and forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies, and net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships (as defined in Section 851(h) of the Code) (the “90% income test”); and (ii) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of each taxable year: (a) at least 50% of the value of the Fund’s total assets is represented by (1) cash and cash items, U.S. Government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and (2) other securities, with such other securities limited in respect to any one issuer to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund’s total assets and to not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund’s total assets is invested in (1) the securities (other than U.S. Government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer, (2) the securities (other than securities of other regulated investment companies) of two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are engaged in the same, similar, or related trades or businesses, or (3) the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships. For the purposes of the 90% income test, the character of income earned by certain entities in which a Fund invests that are not treated as corporations (e.g., partnerships, other than qualified publicly traded partnerships, or trusts) for U.S. federal income tax purposes will generally pass through to such Fund. Consequently, a Fund may be required to limit its equity investments in such entities that earn fee income, rental income or other non-

qualifying income. The requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company may also significantly limit the extent to which a Fund may invest in certain other investments.

If a Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company and properly distributes to its shareholders each taxable year an amount equal to or exceeding the sum of: (i) 90% of its “investment company taxable income” as that term is defined in the Code (which includes, among other things, dividends, taxable interest, and the excess of any net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses, as reduced by certain deductible expenses) without regard to the deduction for dividends paid; and (ii) 90% of the excess of its gross tax-exempt interest, if any, over certain disallowed deductions, the Fund generally will be relieved of U.S. federal income tax on any income of the Fund, including “net capital gain” (the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss), distributed to shareholders. However, if a Fund meets such distribution requirements, but chooses to retain some portion of its investment company taxable income or net capital gain, it generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at regular corporate rates on the amount retained. Each Fund intends to distribute at least annually all or substantially all of its investment company taxable income, net tax-exempt interest, and net capital gain.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, a Fund is generally permitted to carry forward a net capital loss in any taxable year to offset its own capital gains, if any. These amounts are available to be carried forward to offset future capital gains to the extent permitted by the Code and applicable tax regulations. As of December 31, 2022, the following Fund had capital loss carryforwards in the amounts indicated below:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
International Fund	\$30,136,795 short-term \$4,026,746 long-term (not subject to expiration)

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, all distributions are taxable to a shareholder whether paid in cash or in shares, except as discussed below. Distributions from a Fund’s investment company taxable income are taxable either as ordinary income or, if so reported by a Fund in written statements furnished to its shareholders and certain other conditions are met, as “qualified dividend income,” as that term is defined in Section 1(h)(11)(B) of the Code, taxable to individual and other non-corporate shareholders at long-term capital gain rates. The maximum individual rate applicable to qualified dividend income and long-term capital gains is currently 20%, plus the Medicare tax discussed below. Distributions from a Fund’s net capital gain, if any, are taxable to a Fund’s shareholders as long-term capital gains for U.S. federal income tax purposes without regard to the length of time a shareholder has held shares of the Fund.

An additional 3.8% Medicare tax is imposed on certain net investment income (including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from a Fund and net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of Fund shares) of individual shareholders, estates and trusts to the extent that such person’s “modified adjusted gross income” (in the case of an individual) or “adjusted gross income” (in the case of an estate or trust) exceeds certain threshold amounts.

Dividend income distributed to individual and other non-corporate shareholders will generally be taxed at long-term capital gain rates to the extent that such dividends are attributable to qualified dividend income from a Fund’s investments in U.S. companies and certain qualified foreign corporations, provided that certain holding period and other requirements are met by both the Fund and the shareholder. A foreign corporation generally is treated as a qualified foreign corporation if it is incorporated in a possession of the United States or it is eligible for the benefits of certain income tax treaties with the United States. A foreign corporation that does not meet such requirements will be treated as qualifying with respect to dividends paid by it if the stock with respect to which the dividends are paid is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. Dividends received by a Fund from passive foreign investment companies will not qualify for long-term capital gain rates.

A dividend that is attributable to qualified dividend income of a Fund that is paid by the Fund to an individual or other non-corporate shareholder will not be taxable as qualified dividend income to such shareholder if: (1) the dividend is received with respect to any share of the Fund held for fewer than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date which is 60 days before the date on which such share became ex-dividend with respect to such dividend, (2) to the extent that the shareholder is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, or (3) the shareholder elects to have the dividend treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest.

Distributions by a Fund in excess of its current and accumulated 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 and any such amount in excess of that basis will be treated as gain from the sale of shares, as discussed below. Because a return of capital distribution reduces the basis of a shareholder's shares, a return of capital distribution may result in a higher capital gain or lower capital loss when the shares are sold. The U.S. federal income tax status of all distributions will be reported to shareholders annually.

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026, qualified REIT dividends (i.e., REIT dividends other than capital gain dividends and portions of REIT dividends designated as qualified dividend income) are eligible for a 20% federal income tax deduction in the case of individuals, trusts and estates. A Fund that receives qualified REIT dividends may elect to pass the special character of this income through to its shareholders. To be eligible to treat distributions from a Fund as qualified REIT dividends, a shareholder must hold shares of the Fund for more than 45 days during the 91-day period beginning on the date that is 45 days before the date on which the shares become ex dividend with respect to such dividend and the shareholder must not be under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. If a Fund does not elect to pass the special character of this income through to shareholders or if a shareholder does not satisfy the above holding period requirements, the shareholder will not be entitled to the 20% deduction for the shareholder's share of the Fund's qualified REIT dividend income while direct investors in REITs may be entitled to the deduction.

Any dividend declared by a Fund in October, November or December to shareholders of record during one of those months and paid the following January will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as received by shareholders on December 31 of the year in which it is declared. In addition, certain other distributions made after the close of a taxable year of a Fund may be "spilled back" and treated as paid by the Fund (except for purposes of the 4% excise tax) during such taxable year. In such case, shareholders generally will be treated as having received such dividends in the taxable year in which the distributions were actually made.

Certain distributions reported by a Fund as section 163(j) interest dividends may be treated as interest income by shareholders for purposes of the interest expense limitations under Code section 163(j). Such treatment by a shareholder is generally subject to holding period requirements and other potential limitations, although the holding period requirements are generally not applicable to dividends declared by money market funds and certain other funds that declare dividends daily and pay such dividends on a monthly or more frequent basis. The amount that a Fund is eligible to report as a section 163(j) dividend for a tax year is generally limited to the excess of the Fund's business interest income over the sum of the Fund's (i) business interest expense and (ii) other deductions properly allocable to the Fund's business interest income. A Fund may choose not to designate section 163(j) interest dividends.

Options written or purchased and futures contracts entered into by a Fund on certain securities, indices and foreign currencies, as well as certain forward foreign currency contracts, may cause a Fund to recognize gains or losses from marking-to-market even though those options may not have lapsed, been closed out, sold, or exercised, or those futures or forward contracts may not have been performed, sold or closed out. The tax rules applicable to these contracts may affect the characterization of some capital gains and losses realized by a Fund as long-term or short-term. Additionally, a Fund may be required to recognize gain if an option, futures contract, forward contract, short sale, swap or other transaction that is not subject to the mark-to-market rules is treated as a "constructive sale" of an "appreciated financial position" held by a Fund under Section 1259 of the Code. Any net mark-to-market gains and/or gains from constructive sales may also have to be distributed to satisfy the distribution requirements referred to above even though a Fund may receive no corresponding cash amounts, possibly requiring the disposition of Fund securities or borrowing to obtain the necessary cash. Losses on certain options, futures or forward contracts, swaps and/or offsetting positions (Fund securities or other positions with respect to which a Fund's risk of loss is substantially diminished by one or more options, futures or forward contracts) may also be deferred under the tax straddle rules of the Code, which may also affect the characterization of capital gains or losses from straddle positions and certain successor positions as long-term or short-term. Certain tax elections may be available that would enable a Fund to ameliorate some adverse effects of the tax rules described in this paragraph. The tax rules applicable to options, futures, forward contracts, swaps, straddles, caps, floors, collars and swaptions may affect the amount, timing and character of the Fund's income and gains or losses and hence of its distributions to shareholders.

If a Fund invests in certain pay-in-kind securities, zero coupon securities, deferred interest securities or, in general, any other securities with original issue discount (or with market discount if the Fund elects to include market discount in income currently), the Fund must accrue income on such investments for each taxable year, which generally will be prior to

the receipt of the corresponding cash payments. However, each Fund must distribute to shareholders, at least annually, all or substantially all of its investment company taxable income (determined without regard to the deduction for dividends paid), including such accrued income, to avoid federal income and excise taxes. Therefore, a Fund may have to dispose of its portfolio securities under disadvantageous circumstances to generate cash, or may have to leverage itself by borrowing the cash, to satisfy these distribution requirements.

Each Fund may also acquire market discount bonds. A market discount bond is a security acquired in the secondary market at a price below its redemption value (or its adjusted issue price if it is also an original issue discount bond). If a Fund invests in a market discount bond, it will be required to treat any gain recognized on the disposition of such market discount bond as ordinary income (instead of capital gain) to the extent of the accrued market discount unless the Fund elects to include the market discount in income as it accrues.

A Fund's investment in lower-rated or unrated debt securities may present issues for the Fund if the issuers of these securities default on their obligations because the federal income tax consequences to a holder of such securities are not certain.

Generally, the character of the income or capital gains that a Fund receives from another investment company will pass through to the Fund's shareholders as long as the Fund and the other investment company each qualify as regulated investment companies. However, to the extent that another investment company that qualifies as a regulated investment company realizes net losses on its investments for a given taxable year, a Fund will not be able to recognize its share of those losses until it disposes of shares of such investment company. Moreover, even when a Fund does make such a disposition, a portion of its loss may be recognized as a long-term capital loss. As a result of the foregoing rules, and certain other special rules, it is possible that the amounts of net investment income and net capital gains that a Fund will be required to distribute to shareholders will be greater than such amounts would have been had the Fund invested directly in the securities held by the investment companies in which it invests, rather than investing in shares of the investment companies. For similar reasons, the character of distributions from a Fund (e.g., long-term capital gain, qualified dividend income, etc.) will not necessarily be the same as it would have been had the Fund invested directly in the securities held by the investment companies in which it invests.

A Fund's investments in REIT equity securities may result in the Fund's receipt of cash in excess of the REIT's earnings; if the Fund distributes these amounts, these distributions could constitute a return of capital to the Fund's shareholders for federal income tax purposes. Investments in REIT equity securities also may require a Fund to accrue and distribute income not yet received. 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. Dividends received by a Fund from a REIT will not qualify for the corporate dividends received deduction and generally will not constitute qualified dividend income.

Under a notice issued by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), a portion of a Fund's income from residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs") or from a REIT (or other pass-through entity) that is attributable to the REIT's residual interest in a REMIC or an equity interest in a taxable mortgage pool (referred to in the Code as an "excess inclusion") will be subject to federal income tax in all events. This notice also provides that excess inclusion income of a regulated investment company, such as the Funds, will be allocated to shareholders of the regulated investment company in proportion to the dividends received by such shareholders, with the same consequences as if the shareholders held the related REMIC or taxable mortgage pool interest directly. In general, excess inclusion income allocated to shareholders (i) cannot be offset by net operating losses (subject to a limited exception for certain thrift institutions), (ii) will constitute unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") to entities (including a qualified pension plan, an individual retirement account, a 401(k) plan, a Keogh plan or other tax-exempt entity) subject to tax on UBTI, thereby potentially requiring such an entity that is allocated excess inclusion income, and otherwise might not be required to file a federal income tax return, to file a tax return and pay tax on such income, and (iii) in the case of a non-U.S. shareholder, will not qualify for any reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax. In addition, if at any time during any taxable year a "disqualified organization" (as defined by the Code) is a record holder of a share in a regulated investment company, then the regulated investment company will be subject to a tax equal to that portion of its excess inclusion income for the taxable year that is allocable to the disqualified organization, multiplied by the highest federal income tax rate imposed on corporations.

Foreign exchange gains and losses realized by a Fund in connection with certain transactions involving foreign currency-denominated debt securities, certain options and futures contracts relating to foreign currency, foreign currency forward

contracts, foreign currencies, or payables or receivables denominated in a foreign currency are subject to Section 988 of the Code, which generally causes such gain and loss to be treated as ordinary income or loss and may affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders.

Each Fund may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by foreign countries, including taxes on interest, dividends and capital gains, with respect to its investments in such countries. Tax conventions between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes in some cases. Investors in a Fund would be entitled to claim U.S. foreign tax credits with respect to such taxes, subject to certain holding period requirements and other provisions and limitations contained in the Code, only if more than 50% of the value of the applicable Fund's total assets at the close of the taxable year were to consist of stock or securities of foreign corporations and the Fund were to file an election with the IRS. Because the investments of the Funds are such that each Fund expects that it generally will not meet this 50% requirement, shareholders of each Fund generally will not directly take into account the foreign taxes, if any, paid by that Fund and will not be entitled to any related tax credits. Such taxes will reduce the amounts these Funds would otherwise have available to distribute. A Fund generally may deduct any foreign taxes that are not passed through to its shareholders in computing its income that must be distributed to shareholders to avoid Fund-level tax.

If a Fund acquires any equity interest (including, under Treasury regulations that may be promulgated in the future, an option to acquire stock such as is inherent in a convertible bond) in certain foreign corporations that receive at least 75% of their annual gross income from passive sources (such as interest, dividends, certain rents and royalties, or capital gains) or that hold at least 50% of their assets in investments producing such passive income ("passive foreign investment companies"), the Fund could be subject to U.S. federal income tax and additional interest charges on "excess distributions" actually or constructively received from such companies or on gain from the sale of stock in such companies, even if all income or gain actually realized is timely distributed by a Fund to its shareholders. The Fund will not be able to pass through to its shareholders any credit for such a tax. Elections may generally be available to ameliorate these adverse tax consequences, but any such elections could require the Fund to recognize taxable income or gain (subject to tax distribution requirements) without the concurrent receipt of cash. These investments could also result in the treatment of associated capital gains as ordinary income. The Funds may limit and/or manage stock holdings, if any, in passive foreign investment companies to minimize each Fund's tax liability or maximize its return from these investments.

Dividends received by a Fund, if any, from U.S. domestic corporations in respect of any shares of the stock of such corporations with a holding period in an unleveraged position of at least 46 days (91 days in the case of certain preferred stock), extending before and after the ex-dividend dates and distributed and reported by the Fund in written statements furnished to its shareholders (except for capital gain dividends received from a regulated investment company) may be eligible for the 50% dividends received deduction generally available to a corporation under the Code. Corporate shareholders must meet the minimum holding period requirements referred to above with respect to their shares of the applicable Fund, taking into account any holding period reductions from certain hedging or other transactions or positions that diminish their risk of loss with respect to Fund shares, in order to qualify for the deduction and, if they borrow to acquire, or otherwise incur debt attributable to, such shares, they may be denied a portion of the dividends-received deduction. Any corporate shareholder should consult its tax adviser regarding the possibility that its basis in its Fund shares may be reduced, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, by reason of "extraordinary dividends" received with respect to the shares, and, to the extent such basis would be reduced below zero, current recognition of income would be required.

Upon a redemption of shares of a Fund (including a systematic withdrawal), an exchange of shares in a Fund for shares of another Fund of the Trust or any other disposition of shares of a Fund in a transaction that is treated as a sale for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a shareholder that is subject to U.S. federal income tax generally will realize a taxable gain or loss on the difference between the redemption proceeds and the shareholder's tax basis in his, her or its shares. Such gain or loss will generally be treated as capital gain or loss if the shares are capital assets in the shareholder's hands. Generally, a shareholder will recognize long-term capital gain or loss if the shares were held by the shareholder for over twelve months at the time of their redemption, exchange or other disposition and, if not held for such period, short-term capital gain or loss. Any loss realized by a shareholder upon the redemption, exchange or other disposition of shares with a tax holding period of six months or less will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions of long-term capital gain with respect to such shares. Shareholders should consult their own tax advisers regarding their particular circumstances to determine whether a disposition of Fund shares is properly treated as a sale for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as is assumed in the foregoing discussion.

In addition, if Class A shares or Class C shares that have been held for less than 91 days, (1) are redeemed and reinvested prior to January 31 of the calendar year following the year such shares were redeemed in Class A shares of a Fund at NAV pursuant to the reinstatement privilege, or (2) Class A shares are exchanged for Class A shares in another Fund at NAV pursuant to the exchange privilege, all or a portion of the sales charge paid on the shares that are redeemed or exchanged will, for purposes of computing tax gain or loss on the redemption or exchange, not be included in their tax basis of such shares under the Code to the extent a sales charge that would otherwise apply to the shares received is reduced pursuant to the reinstatement or exchange privilege. In either case, the portion of the sales charge not included in the tax basis of the shares redeemed or surrendered in an exchange is included in the tax basis of the shares acquired in the reinvestment or exchange.

Any loss realized on a redemption or other disposition of shares may be disallowed under “wash sale” rules to the extent the shares disposed of are replaced with other investments in the same Fund (including those made pursuant to reinvestment of dividends and/or capital gain distributions) or other substantially identical securities within a period of 61 days beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after a redemption or other disposition of the shares. In such a case, the disallowed portion of any loss generally would be included in the U.S. federal income tax basis of the shares acquired. Withdrawals under the automatic withdrawal plan involve redemptions of shares, which are subject to the tax rules described above. Additionally, reinvesting pursuant to the reinstatement privilege does not eliminate the possible recognition of gain or loss upon the initial redemption of Fund shares but may require application of some of these tax rules (e.g., the wash sale rules).

Under Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to a Fund’s shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder, or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder, in any single taxable year (or greater amounts over a combination of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. A shareholder who fails to make the required disclosure to the IRS may be subject to substantial penalties. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether or not the taxpayer’s treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult with their tax advisers to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

Shareholders that are exempt from U.S. federal income tax, such as retirement plans that are qualified under Section 401 of the Code, generally are not subject to U.S. federal income tax on Fund dividends or distributions or on sales of Fund shares or exchanges of shares in a Fund for shares of another Fund of the Trust unless the acquisition of the Fund shares was debt financed. A plan participant whose retirement plan invests in a Fund generally also is not taxed on Fund dividends or distributions received by the plan or on sales or exchanges of Fund shares by the plan for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, distributions to plan participants from a retirement plan account (other than certain distributions from a Roth IRA or Coverdell education savings account) generally are taxable as ordinary income and different tax treatment, including penalties on certain excess contributions and deferrals, certain pre-retirement and post-retirement distributions and certain prohibited transactions, is accorded to accounts maintained as qualified retirement plans. Shareholders and plan participants should consult their tax advisers for more information.

The foregoing discussion relates solely to U.S. federal income tax consequences for shareholders who are U.S. persons (i.e., U.S. citizens or residents and U.S. corporations, trusts or estates) and who are subject to U.S. federal income tax and hold their shares as capital assets. Except as otherwise provided, the discussion does not address special tax rules applicable to certain classes of investors, such as tax-exempt or tax-advantaged plans, accounts or entities, insurance companies, securities dealers and financial institutions. If a partnership holds shares of a Fund, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. The foregoing discussion may not be applicable to an investor who is a partner in a partnership holding shares of a Fund. Such investors should consult their own tax adviser regarding the tax consequences of acquiring, owning and disposing of shares of a Fund.

Dividends, capital gain distributions, and ownership of or gains realized on the redemption (including an exchange of shares in a Fund for shares of another Fund of the Trust) of Fund shares may also be subject to state and local taxes. A state income (and possibly local income and/or intangible property) tax exemption is generally available to the extent, if any, a Fund’s distributions are derived from interest on (or, in the case of intangible property taxes, the value of its assets is attributable to) investments in certain U.S. Government obligations, provided in some states that certain thresholds for holdings of such obligations and/or reporting requirements are satisfied. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers regarding the applicable requirements in their particular states, as well as the U.S. federal, and any other state, local or



foreign, tax consequences of ownership of shares of, and receipt of distributions from, a Fund in their particular circumstances.

Shareholders may be subject to a current 24% backup withholding on reportable payments, including dividends, capital gain distributions, and the proceeds of redemptions (and exchanges) of shares, if they fail to furnish the Funds with their correct taxpayer identification number and certain certifications. A Fund may also be required to withhold if it receives notice from the IRS or a broker that the number provided is incorrect or backup withholding is applicable as a result of previous underreporting of interest or dividend income.

Non-U.S. investors (i.e., nonresident aliens, foreign corporations and other foreign investors) may be subject to different U.S. federal income tax treatment. These investors may be subject to a withholding tax at the rate of 30% (or a lower rate under an applicable tax treaty) on dividends from a Fund. However, the Funds will generally not be required to withhold tax on any amounts paid to a non-U.S. investor with respect to dividends attributable to “qualified short-term gain” (i.e., the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) designated as such by the Fund and dividends attributable to certain U.S. source interest income that would not be subject to federal withholding tax if earned directly by a non-U.S. person, provided such amounts are properly designated by the Fund. A Fund may choose not to designate such amounts. Non-U.S. investors will generally not be subject to U.S. tax on gains realized on the sale or redemption of shares in a Fund or on exchanges of shares in a Fund for shares of another Fund of the Trust, except that a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in a calendar year will be taxable on such gains and on capital gain dividends from a Fund.

In contrast, if a non-U.S. investor conducts a trade or business in the United States and an investment in a Fund is effectively connected with that trade or business, then the non-U.S. investor’s income from the Fund will generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax at graduated rates in a manner similar to the income of a U.S. person.

Each Fund will generally be required to withhold 30% tax on certain payments to foreign entities that do not meet specified information reporting requirements under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act or fail to provide the Fund with an effective IRS Form W-8.

Special rules apply to foreign persons who receive distributions from a Fund that are attributable to gain from “United States real property interests” (“USRPIs”). The Code defines USRPIs to include direct holdings of U.S. real property and any interest (other than an interest solely as a creditor) in a “United States real property holding corporation” or a former United States real property holding corporation. The Code defines a United States real property holding corporation as any corporation whose USRPIs make up 50% or more of the fair market value of its USRPIs, its interests in real property located outside the United States, plus any other assets it uses in a trade or business. In general, if a Fund is a United States real property holding corporation (determined without regard to certain exceptions), distributions by the Fund that are attributable to (a) gains realized on the disposition of USRPIs by the Fund and (b) distributions received by the Fund from a lower-tier regulated investment company or REIT that the Fund is required to treat as USRPI gain in its hands will retain their character as gains realized from USRPIs in the hands of the foreign persons and will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax. In addition, such distributions could result in the foreign shareholder being required to file a U.S. tax return and pay tax on the distributions at regular U.S. federal income tax rates. The consequences to a non-U.S. shareholder, including the rate of such withholding and character of such distributions (e.g., ordinary income or USRPI gain) will vary depending on the extent of the non-U.S. shareholder’s current and past ownership of a Fund.

In addition, if a Fund is a United States real property holding corporation or former United States real property holding corporation, the Fund may be required to withhold U.S. tax upon a redemption of shares by a greater-than-5% shareholder that is a foreign person, and that shareholder would be required to file a U.S. income tax return for the year of the disposition of the USRPI and pay any additional tax due on the gain. However, no such withholding is generally required with respect to amounts paid in redemption of shares of a fund if the fund is a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, or, in certain other limited cases, if a fund (whether or not domestically controlled) holds substantial investments in regulated investment companies that are domestically controlled qualified investment entities.

Non-U.S. investors should consult their tax advisers regarding the tax treatment described above and the application of foreign taxes to an investment in the Funds.

The Funds may be subject to state or local taxes in any jurisdiction where the Funds may be deemed to be doing business. In addition, in those states or localities that have income tax laws, the treatment of a Fund and its shareholders under such laws may differ from their treatment under U.S. federal income tax laws, and an investment in the Fund may have tax consequences for shareholders different from those of a direct investment in the Fund's portfolio securities. Shareholders should consult their own tax advisers concerning these matters.

## TRUST GOVERNANCE

### THE BOARD

The following table provides basic information about the Trustees, including their names, the date each was first elected or appointed to office, the principal business occupations of each during at least the last five years and other directorships held. Each Trustee serves a term of unlimited duration. The mailing address of each Trustee and officer for purposes of Trust business is c/o RMB Investors Trust, 115 S. LaSalle Street, 34th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

Name, Address and Age	Position Held with the Funds	Term of Office and Time Served	Principal Occupation During the Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships held by Trustee
<b>INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES</b>					
MARGARET M. EISEN (1953)	Trustee and Chair	since 2013	Formerly, Trustee, Smith College, 2012-2016; Chief Investment Officer, EAM International LLC (finance and asset management), 2003- 2013; and Managing Director, CFA Institute, 2005-2008.	6	Board of Trustees, Columbia Acorn Trust (6 series) and Wanger Advisors Trust (3 series) (2002-Present); formerly, Board Member, IronBridge Funds, Inc. (2017-2019).
PETER BORISH (1959)	Trustee	since 2015	President, Computer Trading Corporation (financial consulting firm), since 1995.	6	None.
JAMES SNYDER (1947)	Trustee	since 2019	Private investor, manages a family foundation and serves on corporate and not-for-profit boards. Retired from Northern Trust since 2001.	6	Lead Independent Director, Frontier Funds, Inc. (6 series) (2002-2022); Board Member, IronBridge Funds, Inc. (2010 - 2019).

### BOARD STRUCTURE

The direction and supervision of the Trust is the responsibility of the Board. The Board establishes each Fund's policies and oversees and reviews the management of each Fund. The Board reviews the services provided by the Adviser, Mendon and U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (the "Administrator" or "Fund Services") to ensure that each Fund's general investment policies and programs are being carried out and administrative services are being provided to the Funds in a satisfactory manner. Fund Services serves as the administrator for all of the Funds.

The Board is comprised of three Trustees (the "Independent Trustees"), none of whom is considered an "interested person" of the Trust as defined in the 1940 Act (an "Interested Trustee"). The Board has appointed Ms. Eisen as its Chair. Each Trustee serves until a successor is elected, the Trustee resigns or is removed, the Trust terminates, or reaching the Trust's mandatory retirement age for Independent Trustees (or any extension thereof). The Board may grant one or more extensions of service of up to 12 months to Independent Trustees who have reached the age of retirement. The Trustees appoint their own successors, provided that at least two-thirds of the Trustees, after such appointment, have been elected by the Trust's shareholders. Shareholders may remove a Trustee, with or without cause, upon the vote of two-thirds of the

Trust's outstanding shares at any meeting called for that purpose. A Trustee may be removed with or without cause by a written instrument signed by a majority of the Trustees.

The Trustees annually evaluate the performance of the Board, which evaluation includes considering the effectiveness of the Board's committee structure. The Board believes that its leadership structure is appropriate in light of the asset size of the Trust, the number of Funds offered by the Trust, the nature of its business, and is consistent with industry practices. In particular, the Board believes that having all Independent Trustees is appropriate and in the best interests of Fund shareholders. The Board believes the existing structure enables it to exercise effective oversight over the Funds and their operations.

## COMMITTEES

The Board has established two standing committees: the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee. Each committee is chaired by and comprised solely of Independent Trustees.

The Audit Committee of the Board consists of Ms. Eisen and Messrs. Borish and Snyder, each an Independent Trustee. Ms. Eisen is the chair of the Audit Committee and is the designated Audit Committee Financial Expert. The Audit Committee reviews the scope and results of the Trust's annual audit with the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm and recommends the engagement of such accounting firm. The Audit Committee oversees the Funds' risks by, among other things, meeting with the Funds' internal auditors and overseeing the Funds' Disclosure Controls and Procedures. The Audit Committee reviews Fund valuation matters as it deems appropriate and consistent with the Board's responsibilities in this regard. The Audit Committee met two times during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

The Nominating Committee of the Board consists of Ms. Eisen and Messrs. Borish and Snyder, each an Independent Trustee. Mr. Borish is chair of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is responsible for considering candidates for election to the Board in the event a position is vacated or created. The Nominating Committee meets as necessary. The Nominating Committee did not meet during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022. While the Nominating Committee will consider candidates timely recommended by shareholders to serve as a trustee, the Nominating Committee may only act upon such recommendations if there is a vacancy on the Board or the Nominating Committee determines that the selection of a new or additional Independent Trustee is in the best interests of the Trust. Any recommendation should be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Trust, c/o RMB Capital Management, LLC, 115 S. LaSalle Street, 34th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603. Any submission should include at a minimum the following information: as to each individual proposed for election or re-election as an Independent Trustee, the name, age, business address, residence address and principal occupation or employment of such individual, the class, series and number of shares of stock of the Trust that are beneficially owned by such individual, the date such shares were acquired and the investment intent of such acquisition, whether such shareholder believes such individual is, or is not, an "interested person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust, and information regarding such individual that is sufficient, in the discretion of the Nominating Committee, to make such determination. In a case where the Trust is holding a meeting of shareholders, any such submission, in order to be considered for inclusion in the Trust's proxy statement, should be submitted within a reasonable time before the Trust begins to print and mail its proxy statement. In the event that a vacancy arises or a change in Board membership is determined to be advisable, the Nominating Committee will, in addition to any timely submitted shareholder recommendations, consider candidates identified by other means, including candidates proposed by members of the Nominating Committee or other Independent Trustees. The Nominating Committee is under no obligation to nominate candidates recommended by shareholders. The Trust's charter for the Nominating Committee specifically precludes discrimination against nominees on the basis of age, race, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or any other basis proscribed by law.

## RISK OVERSIGHT

As part of its responsibilities for oversight of the Trust and the Funds, the Board oversees risk management of each Fund's investment program and business affairs. Day-to-day risk management functions are subsumed within the responsibilities of the Funds' Adviser and other service providers (depending on the nature of the risk). The Funds are subject to a number of risks, including investment, compliance, valuation, and operational risks. The Board interacts with and reviews reports from the Adviser, the independent registered public accounting firm for the Funds and the Administrator regarding risks faced by the Funds and the service providers' risk functions. The Board performs its oversight responsibilities as part of its Board and Committee activities. The Board has delegated to the Audit Committee oversight responsibility of the integrity

of the Trust's financial statements, the Trust's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements as they relate to the financial statements, the independent auditor's qualifications and independence, the Trust's internal controls over financial reporting, the Trust's disclosure controls and procedures and the Trust's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The Audit Committee reports areas of concern, if any, to the Board for discussion and action.

The Board has approved the Trust's compliance program and appointed the Trust's CCO, who is responsible for testing the compliance procedures of the Trust and certain of its service providers. Senior management of the Adviser and the CCO report at least quarterly to the Board regarding compliance matters relating to the Trust, and the CCO annually assesses (and reports to the Board regarding) the operation of the Trust's compliance program. The Independent Trustees also regularly meet outside the presence of management and have engaged independent legal counsel to assist them in performing their oversight responsibilities.

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF TRUSTEES AND NOMINEES

The Board believes that each Trustee's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees lead to the conclusion that each Trustee should serve in such capacity. Among other attributes common to all Trustees are their ability to review critically, evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, to interact effectively with the Adviser, other service providers, counsel and the independent registered public accounting firm, to exercise effective business judgment in the performance of their duties, and to represent the interests of all the shareholders. A Trustee's ability to perform the duties effectively may have been attained through educational background or professional training; business, consulting or academic positions; experience from service as a Trustee of the Trust, or in various roles at public companies, private entities or other organizations; and/or other life experiences. In addition to these shared characteristics, set forth below is a brief discussion of the specific qualifications, attributes or skills of each Trustee that support the conclusion that each person is qualified to serve as a Trustee.

Mr. Borish has served as an Independent Trustee on the Board since 2015. His relevant experience includes over 30 years of experience with financial, regulatory and investment matters, including as a founder, chief executive officer and trader for multiple hedge fund firms as well as a trading coach. Mr. Borish has experience with board functions through his position on the boards of various charitable organizations and as a result of his service as an Independent Trustee since 2015.

Ms. Eisen has served as an Independent Trustee on the Board since 2013. Her relevant experience includes experience with financial, regulatory and investment matters as a result of her position as a managing director with responsibility for multibillion dollar portfolios of equities, both public and private, at two of the largest corporate pension funds in the United States. She also acquired such experience through her position as a managing director of the CFA Institute, which sets standards for measuring competence and integrity in the fields of portfolio management and investment analysis. Ms. Eisen has experience with board functions through her former position as a director of a public operating company, her service as an independent trustee on the boards of other registered investment companies since 2002, and her service as an Independent Trustee of the Trust since 2013.

Mr. Snyder has served as an Independent Trustee on the Board since 2019. His relevant experience includes experience with financial, regulatory and investment matters as a result of holding various positions with The Northern Trust Company and its affiliates, including Executive Vice President and Vice Chairman and Chief Investment Officer of Northern Trust Global Investments and has earned the right to use the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. In addition, Mr. Snyder was a director of Frontier Funds, Inc., another registered investment company which previously included the predecessors of the Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund from 2002-2022.

## SECURITY AND OTHER INTERESTS

The table below sets forth the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by each Trustee in all registered investment companies overseen by the Trustee within the Trust’s family of investment companies, as defined in Form N-1A under the 1940 Act, as of December 31, 2022.

Name of Trustee	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Funds*	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies <sup>1</sup>
<b><u>INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES</u></b>		
Peter F. Borish	RMB Fund – None Financial Services Fund – None International Fund – None Japan Fund – None Small Cap Fund – None SMID Cap Fund – None	None
Margaret M. Eisen	RMB Fund – None Financial Services Fund – None International Fund – None Japan Fund – None Small Cap Fund – None SMID Cap Fund – None	None
James Snyder	RMB Fund – None Financial Services Fund – None International Fund – None Japan Fund – None Small Cap Fund – Over \$100,000 SMID Cap Fund – None	Over \$100,000

\* Securities “beneficially owned” as defined by rules promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “1934 Act”), include direct and or indirect ownership of securities where the Trustee’s economic interest is tied to the securities, the Trustee can exert voting power and where the Trustee has authority to sell the securities. The dollar ranges are: None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000 and over \$100,000.

<sup>1</sup> As of December 31, 2022, the RMB family of Funds consisted of the six Funds disclosed in this SAI.

For the two-year period ended December 31, 2022, none of the Independent Trustees, or their immediate family members, owned, beneficially or of record, any securities in the Adviser or principal underwriter of the Trust, or in a person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Adviser or principal underwriter of the Trust.

## COMPENSATION OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

Officers affiliated with the Adviser are not compensated by the Trust for their services. The Trust typically pays the Independent Trustees an annual retainer, supplemental compensation for Board and Audit Committee Chair positions and a per-meeting fee and reimburses them for their expenses associated with attendance at meetings. The table below sets forth the aggregate amount of compensation paid to each Independent Trustee by the Trust for the fiscal year ended December

31, 2022, and excludes reimbursed expenses (e.g., out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Board and applicable Committee meetings).

**Aggregate Compensation From**

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Name of Person, Position	RMB Fund	Finan- cial Services Fund	Inter- national Fund	Japan Fund	Small Cap Fund	SMID Cap Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued	Total Compensation from Trust and Fund Complex
INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES								
Peter F. Borish	\$11,522	\$24,706	\$26,229	\$3,311	\$11,298	\$20,934	N/A	\$98,000
Margaret M. Eisen	\$15,064	\$32,235	\$34,258	\$4,337	\$14,748	\$27,358	N/A	\$128,000
James Snyder	\$11,522	\$24,706	\$26,229	\$3,311	\$11,298	\$20,934	N/A	\$98,000
Total	\$38,108	\$81,647	\$86,716	\$10,959	\$37,344	\$69,226	N/A	\$324,000

OFFICERS

Name, Address and Age	Position Held with the Funds	Term of Office and Time Served	Principal Occupation During the Past 5 Years
<b>OFFICERS</b>			
CHRISTOPHER M. GRAFF (1973)	President	since 2019	Co-Chief Investment Officer of the Adviser (since 2018); Managing Director of Asset Management of the Adviser (since 2011).
MAHER A. HARB (1968)	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	since 2016	Chief Financial Officer of the Adviser, since 2008.
JOSEPH D. MCDERMOTT (1969)	Chief Compliance Officer	since 2023	Chief Compliance Officer of the Adviser (2022-present); Managing Director, Alaric Compliance Services, LLC (2019-2022); Chief Compliance Officer, THL Credit Senior Loan Fund (2018-2019); Compliance Manager, THL Credit Senior Loan Strategies, LLC (2018-2019); Chief Compliance Officer, Aviva Investors Americas LLC (2015-2018); Chief Compliance Officer, Aviva Investors Canada Inc. (2016-2018).
FRANK A. PASSANTINO (1964)	First Vice President, Assistant Secretary and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer	since 1990	Manager of Mutual Funds Operations of the Adviser (since 2016); First Vice President, Burnham Asset Management Corporation (funds' former investment adviser) (1990-2016); and First Vice President, Burnham Securities, Inc. (1990- 2016).
LAURA A. FLENTYE (1969)	Senior Vice President and Secretary	since 2017	Chief Administrative Officer since 2018; Vice President, Business Administration, of the Adviser (2017); Chief Operating Officer and Chief Compliance Officer, Cupps Capital Management, LLC (2000-2016).

## PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

### Other Accounts Managed

The following table provides information about funds and accounts, other than the Funds, for which the Funds' portfolio managers were primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management as of December 31, 2022.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Number of Other Accounts Managed and Total Assets by Account Type			Number of Other Accounts and Total Assets for Which Advisory Fee is Performance Based		
	Registered Investment Companies	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Other Accounts	Registered Investment Companies	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Other Accounts
<b>RMB Fund</b>						
Todd Griesbach	None	None	1,594 accounts with \$931,474,338 in assets.	None	None	None
<b>Financial Services Fund</b>						
Anton V. Schutz	None	1 account with \$13,919,288 in assets.	1 account with \$13,914,894 in assets.	None	None	None
Dan GoldFarb	None	1 account with \$13,919,288 in assets.	1 account with \$13,914,894 in assets.	None	None	None
<b>International Fund</b>						
Masa Hosomizu	None	1 account with \$26,385,807 in assets.	134 accounts with \$389,703,968 in assets.	None	None	None
Jim Plumb	None	None	134 accounts with \$389,703,968 in assets.	None	None	None
<b>Japan Fund</b>						
Masa Hosomizu	None	1 account with \$26,385,807 in assets.	134 accounts with \$389,703,968 in assets.	None	None	None
Ilhwa Lee	None	1 account with \$26,358,807 in assets.	None	None	None	None
<b>Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund</b>						
Christopher C. Faber	None	None	708 accounts with \$340,405,883	None	None	None

### Description of Compensation

The Adviser's investment team, including the Funds' portfolio managers, is compensated in various forms, which typically includes the following: (i) a base salary, (ii) individual bonus, and (iii) profit sharing. Compensation is used to reward, attract and retain high quality investment professionals.

Fixed salaries and individual bonuses for investment professionals are determined by the Adviser's compensation committee, using tools which may include annual evaluations, compensation surveys, and feedback from other employees.



The amount of the individual bonus is determined by a mix of quantitative and qualitative measures related largely to (i) the performance of the specific funds and accounts managed by the individual and (ii) the individual's contributions to the investment process and overall teamwork. For these purposes, fund and account pre-tax performance is evaluated on an absolute basis and in relation to a benchmark over one- and three-year periods. Each Fund's applicable benchmark is provided below. The individual bonus is not based on a pre-determined percentage of the Adviser's revenues or net income.

<b><u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Benchmark</u></b>
RMB Fund	S&P 500 <sup>®</sup> Index Total Return
Financial Services Fund	NASDAQ Bank Index
International Fund	MSCI Europe, Australasia and Far East (EAFE) Index
Japan Fund	MSCI Japan Index
Small Cap Fund	Russell 2000 <sup>®</sup> Index
SMID Cap Fund	Russell 2500 <sup>™</sup> Index

The investment team may also receive profit sharing. The Adviser believes that profit sharing will be a significant factor in ensuring a motivated and stable employee base going forward. The Adviser believes that the combination of competitive salaries, individual bonuses, and profit sharing provides the Adviser with a demonstrable advantage in the retention and motivation of employees.

The Adviser believes that its compensation structure/levels are more attractive than the industry norm, which is illustrated by the firm's lower-than-industry-norm investment personnel turnover. The Adviser believes that overall its compensation structure/levels is aligned with the interests of the Funds' shareholders.

*Financial Services Fund* – Pursuant to the sub-advisory agreement, the Adviser has hired Mendon to provide investment advisory services to the Financial Services Fund. For the sub-advisory services provided to the Fund, the Adviser (and not the Fund) pays Mendon at the rates set forth in the sub-advisory agreement. Mr. Anton Schutz, the President of Mendon, has had primary day-to-day responsibility for the Fund's portfolio since inception. As a controlling shareholder of Mendon, Mr. Schutz receives a percentage of Mendon's profits. Mendon's other portfolio managers are compensated with a base salary plus a performance bonus tied to the absolute level of return for the Financial Services Fund and a relative return against an appropriate benchmark, such as the NASDAQ Bank Index.

#### Potential Conflicts of Interest

References in this section to the Adviser include RMB and Mendon.

When a portfolio manager is responsible for the management of more than one account, the potential arises for the portfolio manager to favor one account over another. The side-by-side management of a Fund, separate accounts, proprietary accounts and pooled investment vehicles may raise potential conflicts of interest relating to the allocation of investment opportunities and the aggregation and allocation of trades. In addition, certain trading practices such as cross trading between a Fund and another account raise conflicts of interest. The principal types of potential conflicts of interest that may arise are discussed below. Although the Trust and the Adviser have adopted procedures that they believe are reasonably designed to detect and prevent violations of the federal securities laws and to mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest to affect portfolio management decisions, there can be no assurance that all conflicts will be identified or that all procedures will be effective in mitigating the potential for such risks. Generally, the risks of such conflicts of interests are increased to the extent that a portfolio manager has a financial incentive to favor one account over another.

- A portfolio manager could favor one account over another in allocating new investment opportunities that have limited supply, such as IPOs and private placements. If, for example, an IPO that was expected to appreciate in value significantly shortly after the offering was allocated to a single account, that account may be expected to have better investment performance than other accounts that did not receive an allocation of the IPO.
- A portfolio manager could favor one account over another in the order in which trades for the accounts are placed. If a portfolio manager determines to purchase a security for more than one account in an aggregate amount that

may influence the market price of the security, accounts that purchased or sold the security first may receive a more favorable price than accounts that made subsequent transactions. The less liquid the market for the security or the greater the percentage that the proposed aggregate purchases or sales represent of average daily trading volume, the greater the potential for accounts that make subsequent purchases or sales to receive a less favorable price. When a portfolio manager intends to trade the same security on the same day for more than one account, the trades typically are “bunched,” which means that the trades for the individual accounts are aggregated and each account receives the same price. There are some types of accounts as to which bunching may not be possible for contractual reasons (such as directed brokerage arrangements). Circumstances may also arise where the trader believes that bunching the orders may not result in the best possible price. Where those accounts or circumstances are involved, the portfolio manager will place the order in a manner intended to result in as favorable a price as possible for such client.

- A portfolio manager could favor an account if the portfolio manager’s compensation is tied to the performance of that account to a greater degree than other accounts managed by the portfolio manager. If, for example, the portfolio manager receives a bonus based upon the performance of certain accounts relative to a benchmark while other accounts are disregarded for this purpose, the portfolio manager will have a financial incentive to seek to have the accounts that determine the portfolio manager’s bonus achieve the best possible performance to the possible detriment of other accounts. Similarly, if the Adviser receives a performance-based advisory fee, the portfolio manager may favor that account, whether or not the performance of that account directly determines the portfolio manager’s compensation.
- A portfolio manager could favor an account if the portfolio manager has a beneficial interest in the account, in order to benefit a large client or to compensate a client that had poor returns. For example, if the portfolio manager held an interest in an investment partnership that was one of the accounts managed by the portfolio manager, the portfolio manager would have an economic incentive to favor the account in which the portfolio manager held an interest.

If the different accounts have materially and potentially conflicting investment objectives or strategies, a conflict of interest could arise. For example, if a portfolio manager purchases a security for one account and sells the same security short for another account, such trading pattern may disadvantage either the account that is long or short. In making portfolio manager assignments, the Trust and the Adviser seek to avoid such potentially conflicting situations. However, where a portfolio manager is responsible for accounts with differing investment objectives and policies, it is possible that the portfolio manager will conclude that it is in the best interest of one account to sell a portfolio security while another account continues to hold or increase the holding in such security.

*Mendon:* The portfolio managers of the Financial Services Fund manage other pooled investment vehicles that have investment objectives and strategies similar to those of the Financial Services Fund, including vehicles that employ leveraged trading. As discussed above, potential conflicts of interest arise from such side-by-side management.

Certain portfolio managers of Mendon who serve as portfolio managers of the Financial Services Fund also serve as executives, portfolios managers and indirect owners or control persons of another investment adviser that manages venture capital products. While this adviser may offer different products in the future, its primary venture capital strategy (“Venture Fund”) currently involves investing in venture stage financial technology companies primarily focused on serving incumbent U.S. banks and financial institutions, including with respect to: (1) data and analytics; (2) payments; (3) core banking; (4) risk and compliance; and (5) automation. Although the investment strategy of the Venture Fund differs from the investment strategies and objectives of the Financial Services Fund, conflicts of interest exist with respect to the management of the Venture Fund or future products. Certain of the conflicts of interest include:

- Portfolio companies of the Financial Services Fund are investors in the Venture Fund and may be investors in future venture capital products. Further, subject to regulations covering affiliated transactions under the Act, portfolio companies of the Financial Services Fund may co-invest with the Venture Fund in portfolio companies of the Venture Fund or other venture capital products. As a result, Mendon has an incentive to allocate Financial Services Fund capital to portfolio companies that are actual or potential investors in the Venture Fund or portfolio companies of the Venture Fund or other venture capital products.

- A portfolio manager of the Financial Services Fund could spend a substantial portion of their business time and attention on the Venture Fund or other venture capital products versus the Financial Services Fund. The performance of the Financial Services Fund could suffer as a result of such obligations.

Mendon has adopted policies and procedures that it believes are reasonably designed to mitigate these conflicts of interest. These include compliance monitoring and certification by Mendon’s Chief Compliance Officer covering: the existence of any material conflicts of interest involving the Financial Services Fund with respect to the Venture Fund or any portfolio company of the Venture Fund or other venture capital products; certain restrictions on ownership by the Financial Services Fund of more than 5% of the outstanding voting securities of its portfolio companies; and assurances that the purchase and sale of portfolio companies of the Financial Services Fund have not been influenced by the status of such companies as investors in the Venture Fund or other venture capital products. The Financial Services Fund is also prohibited from investing in any of the portfolio investments of the Venture Fund or other venture capital products.

As discussed above, there can be no assurance that all conflicts will be identified or that Mendon’s procedures will be effective in mitigating the potential for such risks.

#### Ownership of Securities

The following table sets forth the dollar range of equity securities of the Funds beneficially owned by each portfolio manager as of December 31, 2022.

	<b>Dollar Range of Fund Shares Beneficially Owned</b>
<b>RMB Fund</b>	
Todd Griesbach	None
<b>Financial Services Fund</b>	
Anton Schutz	\$100,001 - \$500,000
Dan GoldFarb	None
<b>International Fund</b>	
Masa Hosomizu	\$50,001 - \$100,000
Jim Plumb	\$10,001 - \$50,000
<b>Japan Fund</b>	
Masa Hosomizu	\$50,001 - \$100,000
Ilhwa Lee	None
<b>Small Cap Fund</b>	
Christopher C. Faber	Over \$1,000,000
<b>SMID Cap Fund</b>	
Christopher C. Faber	Over \$1,000,000

#### **CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS**

As of April 1, 2023, the Trustees and Officers as a group owned approximately less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each class of each of the Funds.

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of a Fund. A control person is one who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of a company or acknowledges the existence of control. Shareholders with a controlling interest could affect the outcome of voting or the direction of management of the Fund. As of April 3, 2023, the following shareholders were considered to be either a control person or principal shareholder of the Funds.

**Control Persons of the Funds**

Name and Address	Jurisdiction in which Shareholder is Organized	Parent Company of the Shareholder	Percent of Fund's Outstanding Shares Owned
<b>Financial Services Fund Class A Shares:</b>			
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Attn: Mutual Funds 101 Montgomery Street San Francisco, CA 94104-4122	DE	The Charles Schwab Corporation	31.50%
<b>Small Cap Fund Class I Shares:</b>			
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	DE	The Charles Schwab Corporation	34.14%

**Principal Holders of the Funds**

Name and Address	Percent of Fund's Outstanding Shares Owned	Ownership Type
<b>RMB Fund Class A Shares:</b>		
Gerard F. Sullivan & Ann M. Sullivan, JT TEN c/o RMB 115 S. LaSalle Street, 34th Floor Chicago, IL 60603	5.67%	R
<b>RMB Fund Class C Shares:</b>		
UBS Financial Services Inc. FBO Susan B. Bauer c/o RMB	13.33%	B
LPL Financial FBO Customer Accounts Attn: Mutual Fund Operations 4707 Executive Drive San Diego, CA 92121-3091	9.54%	R
Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC 2801 Market Street St. Louis, MO 63103	7.53%	R
UBS Financial Services Inc. FBO Wehman Res Fam Tr/Ann Marie & John Wehman & U/W/O John M. Wehman c/o RMB	5.72%	R
<b>RMB Fund Class I Shares:</b>		
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	14.59%	R
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Blvd. Jersey City, NJ 07310	6.48%	R
<b>Financial Services Fund Class A Shares:</b>		
Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC 2801 Market Street St. Louis, MO 63103	5.02%	R
<b>Financial Services Fund Class C Shares:</b>		
Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC 2801 Market Street St. Louis, MO 63103	9.90%	R

Name and Address	Percent of Fund's Outstanding Shares Owned	Ownership Type
Raymond James Omnibus For Mutual Funds Attn: Courtney Waller 880 Carillon Parkway St. Petersburg, FL 33716	7.52%	R
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	5.44%	R
<b>Financial Services Fund Class I Shares:</b>		
Raymond James Omnibus For Mutual Funds Attn: Courtney Waller 880 Carillon Parkway St. Petersburg, FL 33716	24.70%	R
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	9.91%	R
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	5.13%	R
<b>International Fund Class I Shares:</b>		
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	11.21%	R
<b>Japan Fund Class I Shares:</b>		
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	9.42%	R
<b>Small Cap Fund Class I Shares:</b>		
CAPINCO c/o US Bank NA 1555 North RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302 Milwaukee, WI 53212	8.91%	R
Citi Private Bank NJ Newport Office Center 480 Washington Boulevard, 15th Floor Jersey City, NJ 07310-2053	5.03%	R
<b>SMID Cap Fund Class I Shares:</b>		
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Boulevard Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	23.41%	R
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Boulevard Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	12.76%	R
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	12.51%	R
Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith FBO Its Customers 4800 Deer Lake Drive E Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	8.66%	R
National Financial Services LLC 499 Washington Boulevard Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	6.53%	R
JP Morgan Securities LLC FBO 582-37885-17 4 Chase Metrotech Center Brooklyn, NY 11245-0001	5.81%	R
Citi Private Bank NJ Newport Office Center 480 Washington Boulevard, 15th Floor Jersey City, NJ 07310-2053	5.73%	R

B - Shareholder is the "Beneficial" owner, meaning that the name listed refers to the actual pecuniary, or financial, interest in the security.

R - Shareholder is the owner of “Record,” meaning that the name listed is the name of the shareholder on the account.

## INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES

### INVESTMENT ADVISER

RMB, located at 115 S. LaSalle Street, 34th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603 is the investment adviser to the Funds. The Adviser is an independent diversified financial services firm with approximately \$9.5 billion in regulatory assets under management, as of March 31, 2023, that provides advisory and investment services to individuals, institutions, and employers, utilizing both internally and externally managed investment products. The Adviser was organized in 2005 and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RMB Capital Holdings LLC, a holding company organized under Delaware law in 2012.

#### Compensation Information

Each Fund has entered into an investment advisory contract (the “Advisory Agreement”) with the Adviser, pursuant to which the Adviser will: (a) furnish continuously an investment program for the Fund and determine, subject to the overall supervision and review of the Trustees, which investments should be purchased, held, sold or exchanged, or select a sub-adviser to carry out this responsibility, and (b) supervise all aspects of the Fund’s investment operations except those which are delegated to an administrator, custodian, transfer agent or other agent. The Funds bear all costs of their organization and operation that are not specifically required to be borne by another service provider.

As compensation for its services under the Advisory Agreement, each Fund pays the Adviser monthly a fee based on a stated percentage of the average daily net assets of the Fund as follows:

<u>FUND NAME</u>	<u>ANNUAL ADVISORY FEE (% of average daily net assets)</u>
RMB Fund	0.60%
Financial Services Fund	0.75%
International Fund	0.75%
Japan Fund	0.90%
Small Cap Fund	0.85%
SMID Cap Fund	0.70%

The tables below provide the fees earned by the Adviser with respect to the Fund indicated for the fiscal years ended December 31. Each table also provides the advisory fees waived, expenses reimbursed, and the related fee and expense recoupments pursuant to the Expense Limitation Agreement as described in more detail below under “Expense Limitation Agreement.”

#### RMB Fund:

	2022	2021	2020
Adviser Fees Earned	\$701,484	\$802,612	\$605,534
Fees and Expenses Waived, Reimbursed, and Recouped	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Fees Paid by Fund to Adviser	\$701,484	\$802,612	\$605,534

#### Financial Services Fund:

	2022	2021	2020
Adviser Fees Earned	\$1,909,270	\$2,020,319	\$1,631,848
Fees and Expenses Waived, Reimbursed, and Recouped	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Fees Paid by Fund to Adviser	\$1,909,270	\$2,020,319	\$1,631,848

#### International Fund:

	2022	2021	2020
Adviser Fees Earned	\$2,028,981	\$2,195,596	\$1,563,092
Fees and Expenses Waived, Reimbursed, and Recouped	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Fees Paid by Fund to Adviser	\$2,028,981	\$2,195,596	\$1,563,092

**Japan Fund:**

	2022	2021	2020
Adviser Fees Earned	\$291,476	\$474,186	\$592,912
Fees and Expenses Waived, Reimbursed	\$(108,303)	\$(41,579)	\$(20,598)
Fees and Expenses Recouped	\$0	\$162	\$6,269
Total Fees Paid by Fund to Adviser	\$183,173	\$432,769	\$578,583

**Small Cap Fund:**

	2022	2021	2020
Adviser Fees Earned	\$982,834	\$1,147,574	\$917,926
Fees and Expenses Waived, Reimbursed, and Recouped	\$(209,754)	\$(152,691)	\$(182,479)
Total Fees Paid by Fund to Adviser	\$773,080	\$994,883	\$735,447

**SMID Cap Fund:**

	2022	2021	2020
Adviser Fees Earned	\$1,402,004	\$1,871,469	\$1,239,547
Fees and Expenses Waived, Reimbursed and Recouped	\$(229,454)	\$(107,893)	\$(159,722)
Total Fees Paid by Fund to Adviser	\$1,172,550	\$1,763,576	\$1,079,825

**Expense Limitation Agreement**

From time to time, the Adviser may reduce its fee or make other arrangements to limit a Fund's expenses to a specified percentage of average daily net assets. For each Fund, the Adviser has contractually agreed to waive all or a portion of its management fees and reimburse other expenses to the extent required so that each Fund's Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses do not exceed amounts specified for each share class. The table below sets forth the expense limits agreed to by the Adviser for each Fund and share class, as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets.

	Limit on Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses					
	RMB Fund	Financial Services Fund	International Fund	Japan Fund	Small Cap Fund	SMID Cap Fund
<b>Class A</b>	1.59%	1.80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Class C</b>	2.34%	2.55%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Class I</b>	1.34%	1.55%	1.15%	1.30%	0.95%	0.80%
<b>Investor Class</b>	N/A	N/A	1.40%	1.55%	1.20%	1.05%

The Adviser's expense waiver and reimbursement obligations under the agreement are determined monthly, based on each Fund's annualized expenses for the month. The Expense Limitation Agreement will remain in effect through April 30, 2024, for each Fund unless its continuance is approved by all parties to the agreement, and cannot be terminated prior to said date without the approval of the Board. There can be no assurance that the Expense Limitation Agreement will be continued, or that any other similar agreement will be effective, after the termination of the Expense Limitation Agreement.

The expense limits will not apply to interest charges on borrowings, taxes, brokerage commissions, dealer spreads and other transaction costs, expenditures that are capitalized in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, "Acquired Fund" (as defined in Form N-1A under the 1940 Act) fees and expenses, short sale dividends, extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of a Fund's business (e.g., litigation and indemnification), and any other costs and expenses that may be approved by the Board. Extraordinary expenses are expenses that are unusual or are expected to recur infrequently, and may include, but are not limited to: (i) expenses of the reorganization, restructuring or merger of a Fund, including the acquisition of all the assets of a Fund or the acquisition by a Fund of another fund's assets, (ii) expenses of substantially rewriting and reformatting a Fund's disclosure documents, (iii) expenses of holding and soliciting proxies for a shareholder meeting to consider and vote upon changes to a Fund's investment policies and restrictions,

charter documents or other fundamental matters, and (iv) expenses of converting to a new custodian, transfer agent or other service provider.

The Adviser may recoup from a Fund fees and expenses waived and reimbursed by the Adviser pursuant to the Expense Limitation Agreement for a period of three years following the date on which the waiver or reimbursement occurred, provided that such recoupment does not cause the Fund to exceed the expense limits in effect at the time of the waiver/reimbursement or recoupment.

### **Additional Information**

Securities held by the Funds may also be held by other investment advisory clients for which the Adviser or its affiliates provide investment advice. Because of different investment objectives or other factors, a particular security may be bought for one or more RMB Investors Trust's mutual funds, including the Funds, or clients when one or more are selling the same security. If opportunities for purchase or sale of securities by the Adviser for the Funds or for other investment advisory clients arise for consideration at or about the same time, transactions in such securities will be made, insofar as feasible, for the respective Funds or clients in a manner deemed equitable to all of them. To the extent that transactions on behalf of more than one client of the Adviser or its affiliates may increase the demand for securities being purchased or the supply of securities being sold, there may be an adverse effect on price.

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser is not liable to the Funds or their shareholders for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss suffered by the Funds in connection with the matters to which the Advisory Agreement relates, except a loss resulting from willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Adviser in the performance of its duties or from reckless disregard by the Adviser of its obligations and duties under the Advisory Agreement. In addition, the Advisory Agreement includes a mutual indemnity for the benefit of the Funds and the Adviser.

Under the Advisory Agreement, the Trust and the Funds may use the name "RMB" or any name derived from or similar to it only for so long as the Advisory Agreement or any extension, renewal or amendment thereof remains in effect. If the Advisory Agreement is no longer in effect, the Trust and the Funds (to the extent that they lawfully can) will cease to use such a name or any other name indicating that it is advised by or otherwise connected with the Adviser.

### **Marketing and Support Payments**

The Adviser, out of its own resources and without additional cost to the Funds or their shareholders, may provide additional cash payments or other compensation to certain financial intermediaries who sell shares of the Funds. Such payments are in addition to upfront sales commissions paid by the Adviser and Rule 12b-1 distribution fees and service fees paid by the Funds (as applicable), and may be divided into categories as follows:

*Support Payments.* Payments may be made by the Adviser to certain financial intermediaries in connection with the eligibility of the Funds to be offered in certain programs and/or in connection with meetings between Fund representatives and financial intermediaries and their sales representatives. Such meetings may be held for various purposes, including providing education and training about the Funds and other general financial topics to assist financial intermediaries' sales representatives in making informed recommendations to, and decisions on behalf of, their clients.

*Entertainment, Conferences and Events.* The Adviser also may pay cash or non-cash compensation to sales representatives of financial intermediaries in the form of (i) occasional gifts; (ii) occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; and/or (iii) sponsorship support for the financial intermediary's client seminars and cooperative advertising. In addition, the Adviser may pay for exhibit space or sponsorships at regional or national events of financial intermediaries.

*Certain Service Fees.* Certain service fees charged by financial intermediaries, such as sub-administration, subtransfer agency and other shareholder services fees, which exceed the amounts payable pursuant to the Funds' Distribution Plan (as described in this SAI), are paid by the Adviser.

The prospect of receiving, or the receipt of, additional payments or other compensation as described above by financial intermediaries may provide such intermediaries and/or their salespersons with an incentive to favor sales of shares of the Funds, and other mutual funds whose affiliates make similar compensation available, over sale of shares of mutual funds



(or non-mutual fund investments) not making such payments. You may wish to take such payment arrangements into account when considering and evaluating any recommendations relating to Fund shares.

#### THE SUB-ADVISER

The Adviser has engaged the services of Mendon to provide portfolio management services to the Financial Services Fund. For its sub-advisory services to the Fund, the Adviser pays Mendon a sub-advisory fee expressed as an annual percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets equal to 0.375%. The Fund is not responsible for the payment of sub-advisory fees.

Mendon's principal office is located at 31 Ocean Reef Drive, Suite C101 #249, Key Largo, Florida 33037. Mendon is a corporation organized in the state of Delaware. Mendon is a registered investment adviser and has been providing investment advisory services that focus on the financial services industry to private and public investment companies since 1996. For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2022, 2021, and 2020, Mendon was paid \$954,635, \$1,010,159 and \$815,924, respectively, for its service as sub-adviser to the Financial Services Fund.

#### THE INVESTMENT ADVISER AND SUB-ADVISER

**Codes of Ethics.** To mitigate the possibility that a Fund will be adversely affected by personal trading of employees, the Funds, Adviser and Mendon have each adopted a code of ethics under Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act. These codes contain policies restricting securities trading in personal trading accounts of Trustees and others who normally come into possession of information about Fund portfolio transactions. These codes of ethics permit personnel subject to the codes to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Funds. The foregoing description is qualified in its entirety by the Code of Ethics, a copy of which has been filed with the SEC.

**Proxy Voting Procedures.** The Board has delegated proxy voting authority to the Adviser, subject to the supervision of the Board. The Adviser votes all proxies on behalf of the Funds, or may in some instances determine to not vote a proxy, in accordance with the Adviser's proxy voting policies, which address, among other things, conflicts of interest that may arise between the interests of the Adviser and its affiliates and the interests of the Trust, and also sets forth the Adviser's procedures for voting proxies.

The Adviser's proxy voting policies provide that the Adviser will vote proxies with respect to client securities in a manner consistent with the best interest of its clients. The Adviser has engaged Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. ("ISS"), a third party proxy voting agent, to research proxy proposals, provide vote recommendations and vote proxies on behalf of the Adviser on frequent proxy proposals, such as routine matters, shareholder rights, anti-takeover matters, proxy contests, capital structure, and executive and director compensation, unless client interests or instructions require otherwise. The Adviser believes that most conflicts of interest that may otherwise arise have been mitigated by the engagement of ISS to vote proxies on behalf of the Funds. However, should a conflict of interest between the Adviser and the Funds' interests arise, the Adviser, with the input of its Proxy Committee, will determine whether or not the Adviser may vote the proxy, whether legal counsel should be consulted regarding the conflict and voting the proxy.

Each Fund is required to annually file Form N-PX, which lists the Fund's complete proxy voting record for the 12-month period ending June 30th of each year. Once filed, the Fund's proxy voting record will be available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free 1-800-462-2392 and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

#### ADMINISTRATOR

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (previously defined as "Fund Services"), located at 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, serves as the Administrator to the Funds pursuant to an administration agreement (the "Fund Services Administration Agreement"). Pursuant to the Fund Services Administration Agreement, Fund Services provides certain services to the Funds including, among other responsibilities, facilitating the Funds' payment of Fund expenses upon authorization from the Trust; monitoring the Funds' compliance with certain 1940 Act requirements and preparing and filing federal and state regulatory filings; preparing financial and tax reports; arranging for the computation of performance data, including NAV and yield; responding to shareholder inquiries; facilitating preparation for Board and Committee meetings, maintaining certain books and records of the Funds; and providing, at its own expense, office facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to carry out its duties. In this capacity,

Fund Services does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Fund, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of the Fund’s shares.

Pursuant to the Fund Services Administration Agreement, as compensation for its services, Fund Services receives from the Funds, a fee based on each Fund’s current average daily net assets, subject to a minimum annual fee. Fund Services also is entitled to certain out-of-pocket expenses. Fund Services also acts as fund accountant under a separate agreement.

The table below sets forth the administration fees paid by the Funds for the fiscal years ended 2022, 2021 and 2020:

	Services		
	2022	2021	2020
RMB Fund	\$65,757	\$68,910	\$60,529
Financial Services Fund	\$68,980	\$76,232	\$58,127
International Fund	\$69,482	\$77,391	\$61,404
Japan Fund	\$64,329	\$65,262	\$61,223
Small Cap Fund	\$65,718	\$69,140	\$60,822
SMID Cap Fund	\$68,026	\$75,863	\$60,704

#### DISTRIBUTOR

**Distribution Agreement.** Foreside Fund Services, LLC is the distributor (also known as the principal underwriter) of the shares of the Funds effective beginning February 16, 2016 and is located at Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine 04101 (the “Distributor”). The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”). The Distributor is not affiliated with the Trust, the Adviser, or any other service provider for the Funds.

Under a Distribution Agreement with the Trust (the “Distribution Agreement”), the Distributor acts as the agent of the Trust in connection with the continuous offering of shares of the Funds. The Distributor continually distributes shares of the Funds on a best efforts basis. The Distributor has no obligation to sell any specific quantity of Fund shares. The Distributor and its officers have no role in determining the investment policies or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Trust.

The Distributor may enter into agreements with selected broker-dealers, banks or other financial intermediaries for distribution of shares of the Funds. With respect to certain financial intermediaries and related fund “supermarket” platform arrangements, the Funds and/or the Adviser, rather than the Distributor, typically enter into such agreements. These financial intermediaries may charge a fee for their services and may receive shareholder service or other fees from parties other than the Distributor. These financial intermediaries may otherwise act as processing agents and are responsible for promptly transmitting purchase, redemption and other requests to the Fund.

Investors who purchase shares through financial intermediaries will be subject to the procedures of those intermediaries through which they purchase shares, which may include charges, investment minimums, cutoff times and other restrictions in addition to, or different from, those listed herein. Information concerning any charges or services will be provided to customers by the financial intermediary through which they purchase shares. Investors purchasing shares of a Fund through financial intermediaries should acquaint themselves with their financial intermediary’s procedures and should read the applicable prospectus in conjunction with any materials and information provided by their financial intermediary. The financial intermediary, and not its customers, will be the shareholder of record, although customers may have the right to vote shares depending upon their arrangement with the financial intermediary. The Distributor does not receive compensation from the Funds for its distribution services except the distribution/service fees with respect to the shares of those classes for which a Rule 12b-1 distribution plan is effective. The Adviser pays the Distributor an additional fee for certain distribution-related services.

The Distribution Agreement has an initial term of up to two years and will continue in effect only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities in accordance with the 1940 Act. The Distribution Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on behalf of a Fund

on no less than 60 days' written notice when authorized either by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund or by vote of a majority of the members of the Board who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Distribution Agreement, or by the Distributor, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment" (as defined in the 1940 Act). The Distribution Agreement provides that the Distributor shall not be liable for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss suffered by the Trust in connection with the performance of the Distributor's obligations and duties under the Distribution Agreement, except a loss resulting from the Distributor's willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of such duties and obligations, or by reason of its reckless disregard thereof.

The table below sets forth both the aggregate amounts of sales charges paid by shareholders and the amounts retained by the Distributor for the fiscal year ended December 31:

<b>Aggregate Dollar Amount Paid</b>			
	2022	2021	2020
RMB Fund	\$224,528	\$255,002	\$203,144
Financial Services Fund	\$456,235	\$509,626	\$392,738
International Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Japan Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Small Cap Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
SMID Cap Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Amount Retained by Distributor</b>			
RMB Fund	\$141,358	\$48,275	\$46,084
Financial Services Fund	\$49,193	\$4,539	\$28,006
International Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Japan Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Small Cap Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
SMID Cap Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Rule 12b-1 Distribution Plan.** The Trust has adopted a distribution plan for the Class A and Class C shares of RMB Fund and the Financial Services Fund, and the Investor Class shares of the International Fund and Japan Fund, (the "Plan") in accordance with Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. Class I shares are not subject to the Plan. The Plan is a compensation plan, which means that the amount of payments under the Plan is not linked to the Distributor's expenditures. Pursuant to the Plan, each Fund pays the Distributor for distribution services and expenses primarily intended to result in the sale of Class A, Class C and Investor Class shares or to provide services to holders of Class A, Class C and Investor Class shares, provided the categories of expenses for which payment is made are approved by the Board. Under the Plan, the Trust shall pay to the Distributor a distribution and/or shareholder service fee at the rate of: up to 0.25% per annum of the average daily NAV of the Class A shares of the RMB Fund and the Financial Services Fund; and up to 0.25% per annum of the average daily NAV of the Investor Class shares of the International Fund and Japan Fund. Under the Plan, the Trust shall pay to the Distributor a distribution fee at the rate of up to 0.75% per annum of the average daily NAV of the Class C shares of the RMB Fund and Financial Services Fund and a shareholder service fee at a rate of 0.25% per annum of the average daily NAV of the Class C shares of the RMB Fund and Financial Services Fund.

The Plan provides that the distribution and/or shareholder service fees permitted under the Plan paid by Class A, Class C and Investor Class shares of the applicable Funds may be used by the Distributor to furnish, or cause or encourage others to furnish, services and incentives in connection with the promotion, offering and sale of each Fund's Class A, Class C, and

Investor Class Shares, and where suitable and appropriate, the retention of each Fund's Class A, Class C, and Investor Class Shares by the respective Fund's shareholders. Such amounts may be spent by the Distributor, in its discretion, on, among other things: compensation to and expenses (including overhead and telephone expenses) of account executives or of other broker-dealers who engage in or support the distribution of each Fund's Class A, Class C and Investor Class shares; printing of prospectus and reports for prospective shareholders; advertising; preparation, printing and distribution of sales literature; allowances to other broker-dealers; and distribution expenses incurred in connection with the distribution of shares of a corresponding class of any Fund or other open-end, registered investment company which sells all or substantially all of its assets to a Fund or which merges or otherwise combines with a Fund. A report of the amounts expended under the Plan is submitted to and approved by the Trustees each quarter. Because of the Plan, long-term shareholders may pay more over time than the economic equivalent of the maximum sales charge permitted by FINRA regarding investment companies.

Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, amounts retained by the Distributor are not held for profit at the Distributor, but instead are used to pay for and/or reimburse the Adviser for distribution related expenditures.

The Adviser is entitled to retain all fees related to the Plan for the first 12 months on any investment in Class C shares to recoup its expenses with respect to the payment of up-front commissions for Class C shares. Financial intermediaries will become eligible for compensation under the Plan beginning in the 13th month following the purchase of Class C shares, although the Distributor or Adviser may, pursuant to a written agreement between the Distributor or Adviser and a particular financial intermediary, pay such financial intermediary these fees prior to the 13th month following the purchase of Class C shares. Up-front payments to broker-dealers or financial advisors are financed solely by the Adviser and are not financed by investors or the Fund. The Adviser also receives any contingent deferred sales charges paid with respect to Class C shares.

**General.** The fees paid under the Plan are calculated and accrued daily and paid monthly or at such other longer intervals as the Board shall determine. The Plan is subject to annual approval by the Trustees. The Plan is terminable at any time by vote of the Trustees or by vote of a majority of the shares of the applicable class or Fund. Pursuant to the Plan, a new Trustee who is not an interested person (as defined under the 1940 Act) must be nominated by existing Trustees who are not interested persons.

If a Plan is terminated (or not renewed) with respect to any one or more classes or Funds, the Plan may continue in effect with respect to a class or Fund as to which it has not been terminated (or has been renewed).

The Independent Trustees and Trust Officers have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or related agreements. The Plan was adopted because of its anticipated benefits to the Funds. These anticipated benefits include: increased promotion and distribution of each Fund's shares, an enhancement in each Fund's ability to maintain accounts and improve asset retention, increased stability of net assets for the Funds, increased stability in each Fund's positions, and greater flexibility in achieving investment objectives. The costs of any joint distribution activities between the Funds will be allocated among the Funds in proportion to their net assets.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the Funds paid fees for each principal type of activity under their Rule 12b-1 Plan according to the table below:

	<b>RMB Fund</b> (Classes A & C)	<b>Financial Services Fund</b> (Classes A & C)	<b>International Fund</b> (Investor Class)*	<b>Japan Fund</b> (Investor Class)*	<b>Small Cap Fund</b> (Investor Class)*	<b>SMID Cap Fund</b> (Investor Class)*
Marketing and Advertising	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Printing and Mailing of Prospectuses	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Underwriter Compensation	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Broker-Dealer Compensation	\$63,744	\$370,294	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sales Personnel Compensation	\$67,700	\$41,287	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Interest, Carrying, or other Financing Charges	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*The Investor Class shares for each of the International Fund, Japan Fund, Small Cap Fund and SMID Cap Fund are not currently available for purchase.

As stated above, the Plan is a compensation plan, and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the Distributor was paid \$137,737 in fees from the Funds in excess of expenses paid by the Distributor. As of December 31, 2022, the Distributor's remaining balance of Plan fees received from the Funds in excess of expenses paid by the Distributor pursuant to the Plan was \$190,551.

#### CUSTODIAN

U.S. Bank National Association is the custodian of all securities and cash of the Funds (the "Custodian") pursuant to a custody agreement between the Custodian and the Trust. The Custodian attends to the collection of principal and income and payment for and collection of proceeds of securities bought and sold by the Trust. The Custodian also serves as the Funds' delegated foreign custody manager, pursuant to Rule 17f-5 under the 1940 Act. The Custodian's address is 1555 N. RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212. The Custodian does not participate in decisions relating to the purchase and sale of securities by the Funds. Fund Services and the Custodian are affiliated entities under the common control of U.S. Bancorp.

#### TRANSFER AGENT AND DIVIDEND PAYING AGENT

BNY Mellon Asset Servicing, located at 500 Ross Street, 154-0520, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15262, is the transfer and dividend paying agent for the Trust. Its compensation is based on schedules agreed on by the Trust and the transfer agent.

#### INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Tait, Weller & Baker LLP, located at Two Liberty Place, 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2900, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102, is the independent registered public accounting firm for the Trust. In addition to reporting annually on the financial statements of the Trust, the firm provides other audit, tax and related services.

### **SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST**

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST'S SHARES

The Trust is a statutory trust organized on August 20, 1998 under Delaware law. The Trustees are responsible for the management and supervision of the Funds. The Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as amended and restated (the "Declaration of Trust") permits the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest of the Funds, with a par value of \$0.10 per share or such other amount as the Trustees may establish. Under the Declaration of Trust, the Trustees have the authority to create and classify shares of beneficial interest in separate series, without further action by shareholders. As of the date of this SAI, the Trustees have authorized shares only of the Funds offered in this SAI. Additional series may be added in the future. The Declaration of Trust also authorizes the Trustees to classify and reclassify the shares of the Funds, or any other series of the Trust, into one or more classes.

Each share of a Fund represents an equal proportionate interest in the assets belonging to that Fund. When issued, shares are fully paid and non-assessable. In the event of liquidation of a Fund, shareholders are entitled to share pro-rata in the net assets of the Fund available for distribution to such shareholders. Shares of a Fund are freely transferable and have no preemptive, subscription or conversion rights.

In accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Trust, the Trustees have initially determined that shares entitle their holders to one vote per share on any matter on which such shares are entitled to vote. The Trustees may determine in the future, without the vote or consent of shareholders, that each dollar of net asset value (number of shares owned times NAV) will be entitled to one vote on any matter on which such shares are entitled to vote.

Unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act or the Declaration of Trust, the Funds have no intention of holding annual meetings of shareholders. Shareholders may remove a Trustee by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Trust's outstanding shares. At any time that less than a majority of the Trustees holding office were elected by the shareholders, the Trustees will call a special meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing Trustees.

Under Delaware law, shareholders of a Delaware statutory trust are protected from liability for acts or obligations of the Trust to the same extent as shareholders of a private, for-profit Delaware corporation. In addition, the Declaration of Trust expressly provides that the Trust has been organized under Delaware law and that the Declaration of Trust will be governed by Delaware law. It is possible that the Trust might become a party to an action in another state whose courts refused to apply Delaware law, in which case the Trust's shareholders could be subject to personal liability.

To guard against this risk, the Declaration of Trust:

- i. contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust and provides that notice of this disclaimer may be given in each agreement, obligation and instrument entered into or executed by the Trust or its Trustees;
- ii. provides for the indemnification out of Trust or Fund property of any shareholders held personally liable for any obligations of the Trust or of the Fund; and
- iii. provides that the Trust shall, upon request, assume the defense of any claim made against any shareholder for any act or obligation of the Trust and satisfy any judgment thereon.

Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss beyond his or her investment because of shareholder liability with respect to a Fund is limited to circumstances in which all of the following factors are present: (1) a court refused to apply Delaware law; (2) the liability arose under tort law or, if not, no contractual limitation of liability was in effect; and (3) the Fund itself would be unable to meet its obligations. In light of Delaware law, the nature of the Trust's business and the nature of its assets, we believe the risk of personal liability to a shareholder is remote.

The Declaration of Trust further provides that the Trust will indemnify each of its Trustees and officers against liabilities and expenses reasonably incurred by them, in connection with, or arising out of, any action, suit or proceeding, threatened against or otherwise involving the Trustee or officer, directly or indirectly, by reason of being or having been a Trustee or officer of the Trust. The Declaration of Trust does not authorize the Trust or any Fund to indemnify any Trustee or officer against any liability to which he or she would otherwise be subject by reason of or for willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of such person's duties.

## **BROKERAGE**

Subject to policies established by the Board and applicable rules, the Adviser and Mendon are responsible for the execution of portfolio transactions and the allocation of brokerage transactions for the Funds. In executing portfolio transactions, the Adviser and Mendon will seek to obtain the best price and most favorable execution for the Funds, taking into account such factors as the price (including the applicable brokerage commission or dealer spread), size of the order, difficulty of execution and operational facilities of the firm involved. While the Adviser and Mendon generally seek reasonably competitive commission rates, payment of the lowest commission or spread is not necessarily consistent with obtaining the best price and execution in particular transactions.

When one or more brokers is believed capable of providing the best combination of price and execution, the Adviser or Mendon may select a broker based upon brokerage or research services provided to the Adviser or Mendon if a good faith determination is made that the commission is reasonable in relation to the services provided.

Section 28(e) of the 1934 Act permits an investment adviser, under certain circumstances, to cause a fund to pay a broker or dealer a commission for effecting a transaction in excess of the amount of commission another broker or dealer would have charged for effecting the transaction in recognition of the value of brokerage and research services provided by the broker or dealer. Brokerage and research services include: (1) furnishing advice as to the value of securities, the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities, and the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities; (2) furnishing analyses and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy, and the performance of accounts; and (3) effecting securities transactions and performing functions incidental thereto (such as clearance, settlement, and custody).

To the extent research services may be a factor in selecting brokers, such services may be in written form or through direct contact with individuals and may include information as to particular companies and securities as well as market,

economic, or institutional areas and information which assists in the valuation and pricing of investments. Examples of research-oriented services for which the Adviser might utilize Fund commissions include research reports and other information on the economy, industries, sectors, groups of securities, individual companies, statistical information, political developments, technical market action, pricing and appraisal services, credit analysis, risk measurement analysis, performance and other analysis. The Adviser may use research services furnished by brokers in servicing all client accounts and not all services may necessarily be used in connection with the account that paid commissions to the broker providing such services. Information so received by the Adviser will be in addition to and not in lieu of the services required to be performed by the Adviser under their investment advisory agreement with the Funds. Any advisory or other fees paid to the Adviser are not reduced as a result of the receipt of research services.

In some cases, the Adviser may receive services from a broker that have both a “research” and a “non-research” use. These services may include such matters as trade execution services, general economic and market reviews, industry and company reviews, evaluations of investments, recommendations as to the purchase and sale of investments, trade magazines, company financial data, market data, pricing services, quotation services, and news services utilized by the Adviser’s investment professionals. When received, the Adviser makes a good faith allocation, under all the circumstances, between the research and non-research uses of the service. The percentage of the service that is used for research purposes may be paid for with client commissions, while the Adviser will use its own funds to pay for the percentage of the service that is used for non-research purposes. In making this good faith allocation, the Adviser faces a potential conflict of interest, but the Adviser believes that its allocation procedures are reasonably designed to ensure that they appropriately allocate the anticipated use of such services to their research and non-research uses. The management fee paid by each Fund is not reduced because the Adviser may receive these services even though the Adviser might otherwise be required to purchase some of these services for cash.

No transactions may be effected by a Fund with the Distributor acting as principal for its own account. Over-the-counter purchases and sales normally are made with principal market makers except where, in management’s opinion, better executions are available elsewhere. Transactions in securities on a securities exchange are generally effected as agency transactions with brokers who receive compensation for their services. U.S. Government and debt securities are traded primarily in the over-the-counter market. Certain equity securities also may be traded in the over-the-counter market. Transactions in the over-the-counter market are generally effected as principal transactions with dealers. However, transactions in the over-the-counter market may also be effected as agency transactions, such as through an electronic communications network (“ECN”) or an alternative trading system (“ATS”). The cost of transactions in securities in the over-the-counter market, whether effected through dealers, ECNs, ATs or otherwise, may include dealer spreads, brokerage commissions, commission equivalent charges or a combination thereof.

The broker commissions paid by each Fund for the last three fiscal years are set forth in the table below:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Brokerage Commissions Paid</b>		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
RMB Fund	\$13,042	\$11,604	\$32,372
Financial Services Fund	\$234,310	\$359,523	\$753,237
International Fund	\$166,269	\$144,744	\$227,154
Japan Fund	\$29,756	\$38,596	\$106,326
Small Cap Fund	\$27,894	\$20,078	\$40,140
SMID Cap Fund	\$39,015	\$19,799	\$40,195

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the following amounts of brokerage commissions for each Fund were paid to brokers for third-party research:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Related Commissions for Third-Party Research</u>
RMB Fund	\$478
Financial Services Fund	\$17,859
International Fund	\$0
Japan Fund	\$0
Small Cap Fund	\$0
SMID Cap Fund	\$0

Each Fund may at times invest in securities of its regular broker-dealers or the parent of its regular broker-dealers. As of December 31, 2022, the following Funds held securities of their regular broker-dealers or the parent of their regular broker-dealers.

Fund	Security	Amount
RMB Fund	Morgan Stanley	\$2,355,564
Financial Services Fund	Wells Fargo & Co.	\$2,064,500
Japan Fund	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc.	\$1,953,604
Small Cap Fund	Stifel Financial Corp.	\$1,744,563

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Funds' audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 are included in the Trust's Annual Report to Shareholders dated December 31, 2022. You can obtain a copy of the Trust's Annual Report dated December 31, 2022 by writing or calling the Adviser at the address or telephone number set forth on the cover of this SAI. The Funds' audited financial statements and the report of the independent registered public accounting firm thereon included in the Annual Reports are incorporated by reference into this SAI by reference to the Annual Reports as filed with the Commission on March 6, 2023.



## APPENDIX A

### DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES RATINGS

#### Short-Term Credit Ratings

An **S&P Global Ratings** short-term issue credit rating is a forward-looking opinion about the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation having an original maturity of no more than 365 days. The following summarizes the rating categories used by S&P Global Ratings for short-term issues:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“F2” – Good short-term credit quality. Good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

“F3” – Fair short-term credit quality. The intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.

“B” – Speculative short-term credit quality. Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

“C” – High short-term default risk. Default is a real possibility.

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

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

The **DBRS® Ratings Limited (“DBRS”)** short-term debt rating scale provides an opinion on the risk that an issuer will not meet its short-term financial obligations in a timely manner. Ratings are based on quantitative and qualitative considerations relevant to the issuer and the relative ranking of claims. The R-1 and R-2 rating categories are further denoted by the sub-categories “(high)”, “(middle)”, and “(low)”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“R-4” – Speculative credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is uncertain.

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

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

### Long-Term Credit Ratings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Moody’s appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from “Aa” through “Caa.” The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category. Additionally, a “(hyb)” indicator is appended to all ratings of hybrid securities issued by banks, insurers, finance companies, and securities firms. By their terms, hybrid securities allow for the omission of scheduled dividends, interest, or principal payments, which can potentially result in impairment if such an omission occurs. Hybrid securities may also be subject to contractually allowable write-downs of principal that could result in impairment. Together with the hybrid indicator, the long-term obligation rating assigned to a hybrid security is an expression of the relative credit risk associated with that security.

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

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

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

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

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

“BB” – Speculative. “BB” ratings indicate that there is an elevated vulnerability to credit risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.

“B” – Highly speculative. “B” ratings indicate that material credit risk is present.

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

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

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

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

The **DBRS** long-term rating scale provides an opinion on the risk of default. That is, the risk that an issuer will fail to satisfy its financial obligations in accordance with the terms under which an obligation has been issued. Ratings are based on quantitative and qualitative considerations relevant to the issuer, and the relative ranking of claims. All rating categories other than AAA and D also contain subcategories “(high)” and “(low)”. The absence of either a “(high)” or “(low)” designation indicates the rating is in the middle of the category. The following summarizes the ratings used by DBRS for long-term debt:

“AAA” – Highest credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is exceptionally high and unlikely to be adversely affected by future events.

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

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

“BBB” – Adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.

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

“B” – Highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet financial obligations.

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

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

### Municipal Note Ratings

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

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

Municipal Short-Term Note rating symbols are as follows:

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

“SP-2” – Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

“SP-3” – Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

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

**Moody’s** uses the Municipal Investment Grade (“MIG”) scale to rate U.S. municipal bond anticipation notes of up to three years maturity. Municipal notes rated on the MIG scale may be secured by either pledged revenues or proceeds of a take-out financing received prior to note maturity. MIG ratings expire at the maturity of the obligation, and the issuer’s long-term rating is only one consideration in assigning the MIG rating. MIG ratings are divided into three levels – “MIG-1” through “MIG-3” while speculative grade short-term obligations are designated “SG”. The following summarizes the ratings used by Moody’s for short-term municipal obligations:

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

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

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

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

In the case of variable rate demand obligations (“VRDOs”), a two-component rating is assigned: a long or short-term debt rating and a demand obligation rating. The first element represents Moody’s evaluation of risk associated with scheduled principal and interest payments. The second element represents Moody’s evaluation of risk associated with the ability to receive purchase price upon demand (“demand feature”). The second element uses a rating from a variation of the MIG rating scale called the Variable Municipal Investment Grade (“VMIG”) scale. VMIG ratings of demand obligations with

unconditional liquidity support are mapped from the short-term debt rating (or counterparty assessment) of the support provider, or the underlying obligor in the absence of third party liquidity support, with VMIG 1 corresponding to P-1, VMIG 2 to P-2, VMIG 3 to P-3 and SG to not prime. For example, the VMIG rating for an industrial revenue bond with Company XYZ as the underlying obligor would normally have the same numerical modifier as Company XYZ's prime rating. Transitions of VMIG ratings of demand obligations with conditional liquidity support, as shown in the diagram below, differ from transitions on the Prime scale to reflect the risk that external liquidity support will terminate if the issuer's long-term rating drops below investment grade.

“VMIG-1” – This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by the superior short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

“VMIG-2” – This designation denotes strong credit quality. Good protection is afforded by the strong short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

“VMIG-3” – This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Adequate protection is afforded by the satisfactory short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

“SG” – This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Demand features rated in this category may be supported by a liquidity provider that does not have an investment grade short-term rating or may lack the structural and/or legal protections necessary to ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

#### About Credit Ratings

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

**Moody's** credit ratings must be construed solely as statements of opinion and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, sell or hold any securities.

**Fitch's** credit ratings provide an opinion on the relative ability of an entity to meet financial commitments, such as interest, preferred dividends, repayment of principal, insurance claims or counterparty obligations. Fitch credit ratings are used by investors as indications of the likelihood of receiving the money owed to them in accordance with the terms on which they invested. Fitch's credit ratings cover the global spectrum of corporate, sovereign (including supranational and sub-national), financial, bank, insurance, municipal and other public finance entities and the securities or other obligations they issue, as well as structured finance securities backed by receivables or other financial assets.

Credit ratings provided by **DBRS** are forward-looking opinions about credit risk which reflect the creditworthiness of an issuer, rated entity, and/or security. Credit ratings are not statements of fact. They include subjective considerations and involve expectations for future performance that cannot be guaranteed. To the extent that future events and economic conditions do not match expectations, credit ratings assigned to issuers and/or securities can change. Credit ratings are also based on approved and applicable methodologies, models and criteria (“Methodologies”), which are periodically updated and when material changes are deemed necessary for a wide variety of potential reasons, this may also lead to rating changes.

Credit ratings typically provide an opinion on the risk that investors may not be repaid in accordance with the terms under which the obligation was issued. In some cases, credit ratings may also include consideration for the relative ranking of claims and recovery, should default occur. Credit ratings are meant to provide opinions on relative measures of risk and are not based on expectations of any specific default probability, nor are they meant to predict such.

The data and information on which DBRS bases its opinions is not audited or verified by DBRS, although DBRS conducts a reasonableness review of information received and relied upon in accordance with its Methodologies and policies.

DBRS uses rating symbols as a concise method of expressing its opinion to the market.