



THIRD LINE

—REAL ESTATE INCOME FUND—

Ticker: TREIX

Statement of  
Additional  
Information

Common Shares of Beneficial Interest

## STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### THIRDLINE REAL ESTATE INCOME FUND

#### *Shares of Beneficial Interest*

Thirdline Real Estate Income Fund (the “Fund”) is a closed-end, non-diversified investment company operating as an “interval fund.” This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) relating to shares of the Fund (“Shares”) does not constitute a prospectus but should be read in conjunction with the prospectus relating thereto dated July 31, 2023 (the “Prospectus”). This SAI does not include all information that a prospective investor should consider before purchasing Shares of the Fund, and investors should obtain and read the Prospectus prior to purchasing such Shares. A copy of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge by calling the Fund at (877) 771-7715. The Prospectus and this SAI are part of the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), Washington, D.C., which includes additional information regarding the Fund. The registration statement may be obtained from the SEC upon payment of the fee prescribed, inspected at the SEC’s office at no charge or inspected on the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this SAI have the meanings ascribed to them in the Prospectus.

**This SAI is dated July 31, 2023**

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Fund	B-3
Investment Objectives and Policies	B-3
Fundamental Investment Policies and Restrictions	B-3
Non-Fundamental Investment Policies and Restrictions	B-6
Portfolio Turnover	B-19
Management of the Fund	B-20
Portfolio Transactions	B-28
Description of Shares	B-29
Tax Aspects	B-30
Code of Ethics	B-53
Proxy Voting Policy and Proxy Voting Record	B-53
Fiscal Year	B-54
Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	B-54
Legal Counsel	B-54
Financial Statements	B-54
Appendix A: Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures of the Fund and the Advisor	B-55
Appendix B: Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter	B-57

## THE FUND

Thirdline Real Estate Income Fund is a Delaware statutory trust, formed on April 7, 2021, amended on July 23, 2021, and is registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “1940 Act”) as a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company operating as an “interval fund.” Thirdline Capital Management, LLC serves as the Fund’s investment adviser (the “Advisor”).

### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Fund’s investment objective is to generate current income with low volatility and low correlation to broader equity and bond markets. As a secondary objective, the Fund also seeks moderate long-term capital appreciation. The Fund pursues its investment objectives by investing, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in the equity and debt of “Real Estate Investments” as defined in the Prospectus and below. The Fund does not intend to focus on any one sector of the real estate industry but, at times, the Fund’s investments may be positioned in any one or more of the many sectors including, but not limited to, retail, office, multifamily, hospitality, industrial, residential, medical, self-storage, data centers, cell towers, manufactured housing, land, and infrastructure.

### FUNDAMENTAL INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RESTRICTIONS

The Fund has adopted certain fundamental investment policies and restrictions, which cannot be changed without the vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities. Under the 1940 Act, the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company, such as the Fund, means the affirmative vote of the lesser of: (a) more than fifty percent (50%) of its outstanding shares; or (b) sixty-seven percent (67%) or more of the voting securities present at a meeting of the Fund’s shareholders (“Shareholders”) (provided that more than fifty percent (50%) of its outstanding shares are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy). If a fundamental policy and restriction is adhered to at the time of an investment or transaction, a later increase or decrease in percentages will not be considered a violation of any of these fundamental policies and restrictions if these increases or decreases in percentages result solely from increases or decreases in the total amount of the Fund's assets or changes in the values of portfolio investments, provided, however, that the asset coverage requirement applicable to borrowings shall be maintained in the manner contemplated by applicable law.

1. The Fund may borrow money to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.
2. The Fund may issue senior securities to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.
3. The Fund may act as an underwriter of securities issued by others to the extent it could be considered an underwriter in the acquisition and disposition of restricted securities.
4. The Fund may purchase or sell real estate and interests in real estate to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.
5. The Fund may invest in physical commodities or contracts relating to physical commodities to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.
6. The Fund may make loans to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

7. The Fund may not “concentrate” its investments in a particular industry or group of industries, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder; provided, however, that the Fund will, under normal market conditions, concentrate its investments in the securities of issuers in the real estate group of industries.
8. The Fund will make quarterly repurchase offers pursuant to Rule 23c-3 under the 1940 Act, as such rule may be amended from time to time, for between 5% and 25% of the Shares outstanding at NAV, unless suspended or postponed in accordance with regulatory requirements, and each repurchase pricing shall occur no later than the 14th day after the Repurchase Request Deadline (as defined in the Prospectus), or the next business day if the 14th day is not a business day.

In addition, the Fund is classified as a “non-diversified company,” as that term is defined in the 1940 Act.

### **Additional Information Regarding Fundamental Investment Restrictions**

The following are interpretations of the fundamental policies of the Fund and may be revised without Shareholder approval, consistent with current laws and regulations as such may be interpreted or modified by regulatory authorities having jurisdiction, from time to time.

**Borrowing Money.** Under current law as interpreted by the SEC and its staff, the Fund may borrow money in the amount of up to one-third of the Fund’s total assets for any purpose and up to 5% of the Fund’s total assets from banks or other lenders for temporary purposes. The Fund’s total assets include the amounts being borrowed. To limit the risks that accompany borrowing, the 1940 Act requires the Fund to maintain at all times an asset coverage of 300% of the amount of its borrowings. The Fund expects to use proceeds from borrowing for investment purposes and to satisfy Shareholder repurchase requests. The Fund expects to utilize debt financing consisting of property level debt (mortgages on the Fund’s properties that are generally not recourse to the Fund) and entity level debt (non-mortgage debt at the Fund). Property level debt will be incurred by entities held by the Fund (including as part of a joint venture with a third party) and secured by real estate owned by such entities. Such entities would own real estate assets and would borrow from a lender using the owned property as mortgage collateral. If any such entity were to default on a loan, the lender’s recourse would be to the mortgaged property and the lender would typically not have a claim to other assets of the Fund. When such property level debt is not recourse to the Fund, the Fund will not treat such non-recourse borrowings as senior securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) for purposes of complying with the 1940 Act’s limitations on leverage, unless the entity holding such debt is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fund or the financial statements of the entity holding such debt will be consolidated in the Fund’s financial statements in accordance with Regulation S-X and other accounting rules.

**Senior Securities.** Senior securities may include any obligation or instrument issued by an investment company evidencing indebtedness, including the issuance of debt or preferred Shares of beneficial interest. Current law, as interpreted by the SEC and its staff, provides that, in the case of a senior security representing indebtedness, a closed-end investment company must have asset coverage of 300% immediately after such issuance, and no cash dividends on the company’s stock may be made unless the indebtedness generally has an asset coverage at that time of 300%. In the case of a class of senior security representing a stock, a closed-end investment company must have asset coverage of 200% immediately after such issuance, and no cash dividends on the company’s stock may be made unless the preferred stock generally has an asset coverage at that time of 200%. Shareholders of preferred stock also must have the right, as a class, to elect at least two directors at all times and to elect a majority of directors if dividends on their stock are unpaid in certain amounts.

Underwriting. Under the 1940 Act, underwriting securities generally involves an investment company purchasing securities directly from an issuer for the purpose of selling (distributing) them or participating in any such activity either directly or indirectly. The Fund's limitation with respect to underwriting securities is not applicable to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities (including restricted securities), the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under certain federal securities laws.

Real Estate. The 1940 Act does not directly restrict an investment company's ability to invest in real estate or interest in real estate but does require that every investment company have a fundamental investment policy governing such investments. The Fund may invest in real estate or interests in real estate, securities that are secured by or represent interests in real estate (e.g. mortgage loans evidenced by notes or other writings defined to be a type of security), mortgage-related securities, investment funds that invest in real estate through entities that may qualify as REITs, or in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including REITs). The Fund can invest in real estate or interest in real estate to the extent set out in the investment strategies and policies described in the Prospectus and this SAI.

Commodities. The 1940 Act does not directly restrict an investment company's ability to invest in commodities or contracts related to commodities but does require that every investment company have a fundamental investment policy governing such investments. The extent to which the Fund can invest in commodities or contracts related to commodities is set out in the investment strategies and policies described in the Prospectus and this SAI.

Loans. Under current law as interpreted by the SEC and its staff, the Fund may not lend any security if, as a result, more than 33 1/3% of its total assets would be lent to other parties. This restriction does not apply to purchases of debt securities or repurchase agreements or the origination of real estate-related loans by the Fund in accordance with its investment objective and policies. For purposes of this limitation, the term "loans" shall not include the purchase of a portion of an issue of publicly distributed bonds, debentures, or other securities.

Concentration. Although the 1940 Act does not define what constitutes "concentration" in an industry or group of industries, under current law as interpreted by the SEC and its staff, any fund that invests more than 25% of its total assets in a particular industry or group of industries (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities) is deemed to be "concentrated" in that industry or group of industries. The Fund does not apply this restriction to (i) repurchase agreements collateralized by securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities or (ii) securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, including U.S. government agency securities.

Repurchase Offers. The Fund will not suspend or postpone a repurchase offer except pursuant to a vote of a majority of the Trustees, including a majority of the Independent Trust, and only: (i) if making or effecting the repurchase offer would cause the Fund to lose its status as a RIC under the Code; (ii) for any period during which the NYSE or any other market in which the securities owned by the Fund are principally traded is closed, other than customary weekend and holiday closings, or during which trading in such market is restricted; (iii) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal by the Fund of securities owned by it is not reasonably practicable, or during which it is not reasonably practicable for the Fund fairly to determine the value of its net assets; or (iv) for such other periods as the SEC may by order permit for the protection of Shareholders of the Fund.

## Non-Fundamental Investment Restrictions

In addition to the fundamental investment restrictions described above, the Board has adopted the following non-fundamental policy, which may be changed or amended by action of the Board without approval of Shareholders.

- **80% Investment Policy.** The Fund's name suggests that the Fund will focus its investments in the real estate industry; therefore, the Fund has adopted a non-fundamental policy that, under normal circumstances, it will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes) in Real Estate Investments as defined in the Prospectus and described below. This restriction may be changed by the Board without Shareholder approval. However, Shareholders would receive at least 60 days' notice prior to the effectiveness of the change.

## NON-FUNDAMENTAL INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RESTRICTIONS

All principal investment strategies and risks are discussed in the Prospectus. This section contains a more detailed discussion of some of the investments the Fund may make and some of the techniques the Fund may use, as described in the risk/return summary in the Prospectus. Additional non-principal strategies and risks also are discussed here.

### Equity Securities

The Fund's investments in equity securities will include Real Estate Investments but it may also involve common stock of companies not part of the real estate industry. The Fund's exposure to such companies will be limited by the Fund's desire to be taxed as a REIT. The value of a company's stock may fall as a result of factors directly relating to that company, such as decisions made by its management or lower demand for the company's products or services. A stock's value also may fall because of factors affecting not just the company, but also companies in the same industry or in a number of different industries, such as increases in production costs. To the extent the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in securities of a particular industry or sector, the Fund's performance could be negatively affected if that industry or sector performs poorly. The value of a company's stock also may be affected by changes in the financial markets that are relatively unrelated to the company or its industry, such as changes in interest rates or currency exchange rates. The value of a company's stock is also generally subject to the risk of future local, national or global economic disturbances based on unknown weaknesses in the markets in which the Fund invests. In the event of such a disturbance, issuers of securities held by the Fund may experience significant declines in the value of their assets and even cease operations or may receive government assistance accompanied by increased restrictions on their business operations or other government intervention. Instability in the financial markets in the wake of the 2008 economic downturn led many governments and regulators, including the U.S. Government, to take a number of unprecedented actions designed to support certain financial institutions and segments of the financial markets that have experienced extreme volatility and, in some cases, a lack of liquidity. It is not certain if the U.S. Government or other governments will intervene in response to a future market disturbance and the effect of any such future intervention cannot be predicted. In addition, political events within the U.S. and abroad, including the U.S. Government's ongoing inability to implement a long-term budget and deficit reduction plan, the imposition of tariffs and sanctions by the U.S. or other governments, uncertainty surrounding the sovereign debt of European Union ("EU") members, the aftermath of the war in Iraq and possible terrorist attacks, could negatively impact financial markets and the Fund's performance.

### Private Investment Funds

The Fund may invest up to 15% of its assets in private funds (i.e., investment funds that would be investment companies but for the exemptions under Rule 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) under the 1940 Act). Among other things, the private funds may invest in U.S. and non-U.S. equity and debt securities and may engage in leverage, short selling and derivative transactions. Private funds typically offer their securities privately without registration under the Securities Act, in large minimum denominations (often at least \$1 million) to a limited number of high net worth individual and institutional investors. Private funds are not registered as investment companies under the 1940 Act pursuant to an exemption from registration under the 1940 Act. The Fund has not set a limitation on the amount of its investments that it may invest in all other private equity real estate funds (e.g., those not within the definitions of investment company under Section 3(a)(1) of the 1940 Act (not primarily engaged in investing, reinvesting or trading in securities and have less than 40% of their total assets, on an unconsolidated basis, in "investment securities" as defined in the 1940 Act), or are otherwise excluded from the definition of investment company by Section 3(c)(5)(C) of the 1940 Act because they are primarily engaged in purchasing or otherwise acquiring mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate).

Typically, investment managers of private funds are compensated through asset-based fees and incentive-based allocations. The private funds employ a variety of “alternative” investment strategies to achieve attractive risk-adjusted returns (i.e., returns adjusted to take into account the volatility of those returns) with low correlation to the broad equity and fixed-income markets. “Alternative” investment strategies, unlike “relative return strategies,” are generally managed without reference to the performance of equity, debt and other markets. Alternative investment strategies permit the managers of private funds to use leveraged or short sale positions to take advantage of perceived inefficiencies in the global capital markets. Alternative investment strategies differ from the investment programs of traditional registered investment companies, such as mutual funds. “Traditional” investment companies are generally characterized by long-only investments and restricted use of leverage.

### **Other Investment Companies**

The Fund may invest in securities of other investment companies, including ETFs. The Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any management fees and other expenses paid by investment companies in which it invests, in addition to the management fees (and other expenses) paid by the Fund. The Fund’s investments in other investment companies are subject to statutory limitations prescribed by the 1940 Act, including in certain circumstances a prohibition on the Fund acquiring more than 3% of the voting shares of any other investment company, and a prohibition on investing more than 5% of the Fund’s total assets in securities of any one investment company or more than 10% of its total assets in the securities of all investment companies. In addition, Rule 12d1-4 of the 1940 Act provides that the provisions of paragraph 12(d)(1) shall not apply to securities purchased or otherwise acquired by the Fund if (i) the Fund does not control the acquired fund; (ii) the Fund uses mirror voting if it holds more than 25% of an acquired open-end fund due to a decrease in the outstanding securities of the acquired fund and if it holds more than 10% of a closed-end fund; (iii) the Advisor and the investment adviser to the acquired fund make certain findings regarding the fund of funds arrangement, after considering specific factors; (iv) the Fund and acquired funds not advised by the Advisor have entered into an agreement prior to exceeding the limits of section 12(d)(1); and (v) the Fund is not part of a three tiered or more fund of funds structure. Many ETFs, however, have obtained exemptive relief from the SEC to permit unaffiliated funds (such as the Fund) to invest in their shares beyond these statutory limits, subject to certain conditions and pursuant to contractual arrangements between the ETFs and the investing funds. The Fund may rely on these exemptive orders in investing in ETFs.

ETFs are shares of unaffiliated investment companies issuing shares which are traded like traditional equity securities on a national stock exchange. Much like an index mutual fund, an ETF represents a portfolio of securities, which is often designed to track a particular market segment or index. An investment in an ETF, like one in any investment company, carries the same risks as those of its underlying securities. An ETF may fail to accurately track the returns of the market segment or index that it is designed to track, and the price of an ETF’s shares may fluctuate or lose money. In addition, because they, unlike other investment companies, are traded on an exchange, ETFs are subject to the following risks: (i) the market price of the ETF’s shares may trade at a premium or discount to the ETF’s net asset value; (ii) an active trading market for an ETF may not develop or be maintained; and (iii) there is no assurance that the requirements of the exchange necessary to maintain the listing of the ETF will continue to be met or remain unchanged. In the event substantial market or other disruptions affecting ETFs should occur in the future, the liquidity and value of the Fund’s shares could also be substantially and adversely affected.

The Fund may also invest in closed-end investment companies to gain exposure to the real estate industry and/or to gain exposure to other industries and asset classes. Shares of closed-end funds are typically offered to the public in a one-time initial public offering by a group of underwriters who retain a spread or underwriting commission of between 4% or 6% of the initial public offering price. Such securities are then listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange, the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (commonly known as "NASDAQ") and, in some cases, may be traded in other over-the-counter markets. Because the shares of closed-end funds cannot be redeemed upon demand to the issuer like the shares of an open-end investment company (such as the Fund), investors seek to buy and sell shares of closed-end funds in the secondary market.

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

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



## Residential and Commercial Debt Securities

The Fund may also invest in residential and commercial debt securities. These mortgage-backed securities include those issued by the Government National Mortgage Association (“GNMA”), Federal National Mortgage Association (“FNMA”), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“FHLMC”) or certain foreign issuers. Mortgage-backed securities represent direct or indirect participations in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans secured by real property. The mortgages backing these securities include, among other mortgage instruments, conventional 30-year fixed-rate mortgages, 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, graduated payment mortgages and adjustable rate mortgages. The government or the issuing agency typically guarantees the payment of interest and principal of these securities. However, the guarantees do not extend to the securities’ yield or value, which are likely to vary inversely with fluctuations in interest rates, nor do the guarantees extend to the yield or value of a Fund’s shares. These securities generally are “pass-through” instruments, through which the holders receive a share of all interest and principal payments from the mortgages underlying the securities, net of certain fees.

Yields on pass-through securities are typically quoted by investment dealers and vendors based on the maturity of the underlying instruments and the associated average life assumption. The average life of pass-through pools varies with the maturities of the underlying mortgage loans. A pool’s term may be shortened by unscheduled or early payments of principal on the underlying mortgages. The occurrence of mortgage prepayments is affected by various factors, including the level of interest rates, general economic conditions, the location, scheduled maturity and age of the mortgage and other social and demographic conditions. Because prepayment rates of individual pools vary widely, it is not possible to predict accurately the average life of a particular pool. For pools of fixed-rate 30-year mortgages in a stable interest rate environment, a common industry practice in the U.S. has been to assume that prepayments will result in a 12-year average life, although it may vary depending on numerous factors. At present, pools, particularly those with loans with other maturities or different characteristics, are priced on an assumption of average life determined for each pool. In periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayment tends to increase, thereby shortening the actual average life of a pool of mortgage-related securities. Conversely, in periods of rising rates the rate of prepayment tends to decrease, thereby lengthening the actual average life of the pool. However, these effects may not be present, or may differ in degree, if the mortgage loans in the pools have adjustable interest rates or other special payment terms, such as a prepayment charge. Actual prepayment experience may cause the yield of mortgage-backed securities to differ from the assumed average life yield. Reinvestment of prepayments may occur at higher or lower interest rates than the original investment, thus affecting a Fund’s yield.

The rate of interest on mortgage-backed securities is lower than the interest rates paid on the mortgages included in the underlying pool due to the annual fees paid to the servicer of the mortgage pool for passing through monthly payments to certificate holders and to any guarantor, such as GNMA, and due to any yield retained by the issuer. Actual yield to the holder may vary from the coupon rate, even if adjustable, if the mortgage-backed securities are purchased or traded in the secondary market at a premium or discount. In addition, there is normally some delay between the time the issuer receives mortgage payments from the servicer and the time the issuer makes the payments on the mortgage-backed securities, and this delay reduces the effective yield to the holder of such securities.

The Fund may invest in other types of residential and commercial debt securities such as FHLMC Structured Pass-Through Certificates, known as “K-Notes.” K-Notes are securitized interests in apartment mortgage notes that are assembled by the FHLMC and issued by special purpose trusts. K-Notes are issued with varying levels of maturity and seniority. Some K-Notes are repurchased and reissued by FHLMC with a FHLMC guarantee, while other K-Notes do not have a FHLMC guarantee. The Fund may invest in the privately offered subordinate classes of K-Notes. Because more-senior classes have payment priority over subordinate classes of K-Notes, the value of subordinate K-Notes is highly sensitive to the default rate and foreclosure recovery rate on the underlying apartment loans. Subordinate K-Notes are also subject to liquidity risk because they are not available to the investing public and have a limited secondary market composed of institutional investors.

## **Corporate Bonds**

The Fund may invest in corporate bonds, including corporate bonds of real estate-related companies. Corporate bonds include a wide variety of debt obligations of varying maturities issued by U.S. and foreign corporations (including banks) and other business entities. Bonds are fixed or variable rate debt obligations, including bills, notes, debentures and similar instruments and securities. The Fund will invest in U.S. dollar-denominated corporate bonds and may also invest in bonds denominated in foreign currencies in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies as described in the Prospectus.

The Fund has the flexibility to invest in corporate bonds that are below investment grade quality, see *Below Investment Grade ("High Yield" or "Junk") Securities* for additional information such bonds. Corporate bonds rated below investment grade quality are obligations of issuers that are considered predominately speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal according to the terms of the obligation and, therefore, carry greater investment risk, including the possibility of issuer default and bankruptcy and increased market price volatility. Corporate bonds rated below investment grade tend to be less marketable than higher-quality securities because the market for them is less broad. The market for corporate bonds unrated by any NRSRO is even narrower. During periods of thin trading in these markets, the spread between bid and asked prices is likely to increase significantly and the Fund may have greater difficulty selling its portfolio securities. The Fund will be more dependent on the Advisors' research and analysis when investing in these securities.

The ratings of Moody's, S&P and Fitch generally represent their opinions as to the quality of the bonds they rate. It should be emphasized, however, that such ratings are relative and subjective, are not absolute standards of quality, are subject to change and do not evaluate the market risk and liquidity of the securities. Consequently, bonds with the same maturity, coupon and rating may have different yields while obligations of the same maturity and coupon with different ratings may have the same yield.

Subject to rating agency guidelines, the Fund may invest a significant portion of its assets in broad segments of the bond market. If the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in one segment, the Fund will be more susceptible to economic, business, political, regulatory and other developments generally affecting issuers in such segment of the corporate bond market.

## **Zero Coupon Securities and Payment-In-Kind Securities**

The Fund may invest in zero coupon securities and payment-in-kind securities. Zero coupon securities are debt securities that pay no cash income and are sold at substantial discounts from their value at maturity. When a zero coupon security is held to maturity, its entire return, which consists of the amortization discount, comes from the difference between its purchase price and its maturity value. This difference is known at the time of purchase, so that investors holding zero coupon securities until maturity know at the time of their investment what the expected return on their investment will be, assuming full repayment of the bond. The Fund also may purchase payment-in-kind securities. Payment-in-kind securities pay all or a portion of their interest in the form of debt or equity securities rather than cash.

Zero coupon securities and payment-in-kind securities tend to be subject to greater price fluctuations in response to changes in interest rates than are ordinary interest-paying debt securities with similar maturities. The value of zero coupon securities appreciates more during periods of declining interest rates and depreciates more during periods of rising interest rates than ordinary interest-paying debt securities with similar maturities. Zero coupon securities and payment-in-kind securities may be issued by a wide variety of corporate and governmental issuers.

Current federal income tax law requires the holder of a zero coupon security, certain payment-in-kind securities, and certain other securities acquired at a discount to accrue income with respect to these securities prior to the receipt of cash payments. Accordingly, to avoid liability for federal income and excise taxes, the Fund may be required to distribute cash attributable to income accrued with respect to these securities and may have to dispose of portfolio securities under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate cash to satisfy these distribution requirements.

### **Variable Rate Obligations**

The Fund may invest in variable rate obligations. Variable rate obligations bear interest at rates that are not fixed, but vary with changes in specified market rates or indexes, such as the prime rate, and at specified intervals. Such obligations include, but are not limited to, variable rate master demand notes, which are unsecured instruments issued pursuant to an agreement between the issuer and the holder that permit the indebtedness thereunder to vary and provide for periodic adjustments in the interest rate.

Certain of the variable rate obligations that may be purchased by the Fund may carry a demand feature that would permit the holder to tender them back to the issuer of the instrument or to a third party at par value prior to maturity. Some of the demand instruments that may be purchased by the Fund may not trade in a secondary market and would derive their liquidity solely from the ability of the holder to demand repayment from the issuer or third party providing credit support. If a demand instrument is not traded in a secondary market, the Fund will nonetheless treat the instrument as “readily marketable” for the purposes of determining whether the instrument is an illiquid security unless the demand feature has a notice period of more than seven days in which case the instrument will be characterized as “not readily marketable” and therefore illiquid. The Advisor will monitor on an ongoing basis the ability of an issuer of a demand instrument to pay principal and interest on demand.

The Fund’s right to obtain payment at par on a demand instrument could be affected by events occurring between the date the Fund elects to demand payment and the date payment is due that may affect the ability of the issuer of the instrument or the third party providing credit support to make payment when due, except when

### **Below Investment Grade (“High Yield” or “Junk”) Securities**

Under rating agency guidelines, medium- and lower-rated securities and comparable unrated securities will likely have some quality and protective characteristics that are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions. Medium- and lower-rated securities may have poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing, may have a current identifiable vulnerability to default or be in default, may be unlikely to have the capacity to pay interest and repay principal when due in the event of adverse business, financial or economic conditions, and/or may be likely to be in default or not current in the payment of interest or principal. Such securities are considered speculative with respect to the issuer’s capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligations. Accordingly, it is possible that these types of factors could reduce the value of investments held by the Fund with a commensurate effect on the value of the Shares.

Changes by recognized rating services in their ratings of any security and in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal may also affect the value of these investments. The ratings of Moody’s, S&P and Fitch generally represent the opinions of those organizations as to the quality of the securities that they rate. Such ratings, however, are relative and subjective, are not absolute standards of quality, are subject to change and do not evaluate the market risk or liquidity of the securities.

The secondary markets for high yield securities are generally not as liquid as the secondary markets for higher rated securities. The secondary markets for high yield securities are concentrated in relatively few market makers and participants in the market are mostly institutional investors, including insurance companies, banks, other financial institutions and mutual funds. In addition, the trading volume for high yield securities is generally lower than that for higher-rated securities, and the secondary markets could contract under adverse market or economic conditions independent of any specific adverse changes in the condition of a particular issuer. These factors may have an adverse effect on the ability of the Fund to dispose of particular portfolio investments, may adversely affect the Fund's net asset value ("NAV") per Share and may limit the ability of the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing securities and calculating NAV. If the Fund is not able to obtain precise or accurate market quotations for a particular security, it will become more difficult to value the Fund's portfolio securities, and a greater degree of judgment may be necessary in making such valuations. Less liquid secondary markets may also affect the ability of the Fund to sell securities at their fair value. If the secondary markets for high yield securities contract due to adverse economic conditions or for other reasons, certain liquid securities in the Fund's portfolio may become illiquid and the proportion of the Fund's assets invested in illiquid securities may significantly increase.

Prices for high yield securities may be affected by legislative and regulatory developments. These laws could adversely affect the Fund's NAV and investment practices, the secondary market for high yield securities, the financial condition of issuers of these securities and the value of outstanding high yield securities. For example, federal legislation requiring the divestiture by federally insured savings and loan associations of their investments in high yield bonds and limiting the deductibility of interest by certain corporate issuers of high yield bonds adversely affected the market in recent years.

### **U.S. Government Obligations**

Securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies and instrumentalities include obligations that are supported by: (a) the full faith and credit of the Treasury (e.g., Ginnie Mae Certificates); (b) the limited authority of the issuer or guarantor to borrow from the Treasury (e.g., obligations of Federal Home Loan Banks); or (c) only the credit of the issuer or guarantor (e.g., Freddie Mac Certificates). In the case of obligations not backed by the full faith and credit of the Treasury, the agency issuing or guaranteeing the obligation is principally responsible for ultimate repayment.

Agencies and instrumentalities that issue or guarantee debt securities and that have been established or sponsored by the U.S. government include, in addition to those identified above, the Bank for Cooperatives, the Export-Import Bank, the Federal Farm Credit System, the Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, the Federal Land Banks, Fannie Mae and the Student Loan Marketing Association.

### **Reverse Repurchase Agreements**

The Fund may enter into reverse repurchase agreements, under which the Fund will effectively pledge its assets as collateral to secure a short-term loan. Generally, the other party to the agreement makes the loan in an amount equal to a percentage of the market value of the pledged collateral. At the maturity of the reverse repurchase agreement, the Fund will be required to repay the loan and correspondingly receive back its collateral. While used as collateral, the assets continue to pay principal and interest which are for the benefit of the Fund.

### **Repurchase Agreements**

A repurchase agreement is a transaction in which the seller of a security commits itself at the time of the sale to repurchase that security from the Fund, as the buyer, at a mutually agreed upon time and price.

The Fund will enter into repurchase agreements only with dealers, domestic banks or recognized financial institutions which, in the opinion of the Advisor, are deemed creditworthy. The Advisor will monitor the value of the securities underlying the repurchase agreement at the time the transaction is entered into and at all times during the term of the repurchase agreement to ensure that the value of the securities always equals or exceeds the repurchase price. The Fund requires that additional securities be deposited if the value of the securities purchased decreases below their resale price and does not bear the risk of a decline in the value of the underlying security unless the seller defaults under the repurchase obligation. In the event of default by the seller under the repurchase agreement, the Fund could experience losses and experience delays in connection with the disposition of the underlying security. To the extent that, in the meantime, the value of the securities that the Fund has purchased has decreased, the Fund could experience a loss. Repurchase agreements with maturities of more than seven days will be treated as illiquid securities by the Fund.

### **Loans of Portfolio Securities**

The Fund may lend portfolio securities to brokers or dealers or other financial institutions although it has no current intention to do so. The procedure for the lending of securities will include the following features and conditions. The borrower of the securities will deposit cash or liquid securities with the Fund in an amount equal to a minimum of 100% of the market value of the securities lent. The Fund will invest the cash collateral in short-term debt securities or cash equivalents and earn the interest thereon. A negotiated portion of the income so earned may be paid to the borrower and/or the broker who arranged the loan. If the Fund receives securities as collateral, the Fund will receive a fee from the borrower. If the value of the collateral drops below the required minimum at any time, the borrower may be called upon to post additional collateral. If the additional collateral is not paid, the loan will be immediately due and the Fund may use the collateral or its own cash to replace the securities by purchase in the open market charging any loss to the borrower. These will be “demand” loans and may be terminated by the Fund at any time. The Fund will receive any dividends and interest paid on the securities lent and the loans will be structured to assure that the Fund will be able to exercise its voting rights on the securities.

### **Rule 144A Securities**

The Fund may purchase Rule 144A securities for which there is a secondary market of qualified institutional buyers, as defined in Rule 144A promulgated under the Securities Act. Rule 144A provides an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act for the resale of certain restricted securities to qualified institutional buyers. The Board has determined that Rule 144A securities may be considered liquid securities if so determined by the Advisor. The Advisor has adopted policies and procedures for the purpose of determining whether securities that are eligible for resales under Rule 144A are liquid or illiquid. Pursuant to those policies and procedures, the Advisor may make the determination as to whether a particular security is liquid or illiquid with consideration to be given to, among other things, the frequency of trades and quotes for the security, the number of dealers willing to sell the security, the number of potential purchasers, dealer undertakings to make a market in the security, the nature of the security and the time needed to dispose of the security.

To the extent that liquid Rule 144A securities that the Fund holds become illiquid, due to the lack of sufficient qualified institutional buyers or market or other conditions, the percentage of the Fund’s assets invested in illiquid assets would increase. The Advisor will monitor Fund investments in Rule 144A securities and will consider appropriate measures to enable the Fund to meet any investment limitations and to maintain sufficient liquidity for operating purposes and to meet redemption requests.

## **Restricted Securities and Securities with Limited Trading Markets**

The Fund may purchase securities for which there is a limited trading market or which are subject to restrictions on resale to the public. If the Fund were to assume substantial positions in securities with limited trading markets, the activities of the Fund could have an adverse effect upon the liquidity and marketability of such securities and the Fund might not be able to dispose of its holdings in those securities at then current market prices. Circumstances could also exist (to satisfy redemptions, for example) when portfolio securities might have to be sold by the Fund at times which otherwise might be considered to be disadvantageous so that the Fund might receive lower proceeds from such sales than it had expected to realize. Investments in securities which are “restricted” may involve added expenses to the Fund should the Fund be required to bear registration costs with respect to such securities. The Fund could also be delayed in disposing of such securities which might have an adverse effect upon the price and timing of sales and the liquidity of the Fund. Restricted securities and securities for which there is a limited trading market may be significantly more difficult to value due to the unavailability of reliable market quotations for such securities, and investment in such securities may have an adverse impact on NAV. As more fully described above, the Fund may purchase Rule 144A securities for which there may be a secondary market of qualified institutional buyers as contemplated by Rule 144A under the Securities Act.

## **Convertible Securities and Synthetic Convertible Securities**

The Fund may invest in convertible securities. A convertible security is a bond, debenture, note, preferred stock or other security that may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of common stock or other equity security of the same or a different issuer within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. Before conversion, convertible securities have characteristics similar to nonconvertible income securities in that they ordinarily provide a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than those of common stocks of the same or similar issuers, but lower yields than comparable nonconvertible securities. Similar to traditional fixed income securities, the market values of convertible securities tend to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, to increase as interest rates decline. However, when the market price of the common stock underlying a convertible security exceeds the conversion price, the convertible security tends to reflect the market price of the underlying common stock. As the market price of the underlying common stock declines, the convertible security tends to trade increasingly on a yield basis and thus may not decline in price to the same extent as the underlying common stock. The credit standing of the issuer and other factors also may impact the market price of the convertible security.

## **Credit Linked Notes**

Credit linked notes are structured securities typically issued by banks whose principal and interest payments are contingent on the performance of the reference issuer. Credit linked notes are created using various derivatives to form an investment whose credit risk and cash flow characteristics resemble those of a bond or loan. These credit linked notes pay an enhanced coupon to the investor for taking on the added credit risk of the reference issuer.

## **Money Market Instruments**

The Fund may invest, for defensive or diversification purposes or otherwise, some or all of its assets in high quality fixed-income securities, money market instruments, and money market mutual funds, or hold cash or cash equivalents in such amounts as the Fund or the Public Sub-Adviser deems appropriate under the circumstances. Pending allocation of the offering proceeds of this offering and thereafter, from time to time, the Fund also may invest in these instruments and other investment vehicles. Money market instruments are high quality, short-term fixed-income obligations, which generally have remaining maturities of one year or less, and may include U.S. Government securities, commercial paper, certificates of deposit and bankers’ acceptances issued by domestic branches of U.S. banks that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “FDIC”), and repurchase agreements.

## Special Investment Techniques

The Fund may use a variety of special investment instruments and techniques to hedge against various risks or other factors and variables that may affect the values of the Fund's portfolio securities. The Fund may employ different techniques over time, as new instruments and techniques are introduced or as a result of regulatory developments. Some special investment techniques that the Fund may use may be considered speculative and involve a high degree of risk, even when used for hedging purposes. A hedging transaction may not perform as anticipated, and the Fund may suffer losses as a result of its hedging activities.

### Derivatives

The Fund may engage in transactions involving options and other derivative financial instruments. Derivatives can be volatile and involve various types and degrees of risk. By using derivatives, the Fund may be permitted to increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, to which the portfolio is exposed.

A small investment in derivatives could have a substantial impact on the Fund's performance. The market for many derivatives is, or suddenly can become, illiquid. Changes in liquidity may result in significant and rapid changes in the prices for derivatives. If the Fund were to invest in derivatives at an inopportune time, or the Advisor evaluates market conditions incorrectly, the Fund's derivative investment could negatively impact the Fund's return, or result in a loss. In addition, the Fund could experience a loss if its derivatives were poorly correlated with its other investments, or if the Fund were unable to liquidate its position because of an illiquid secondary market.

*Options.* The Fund may purchase call and put options on specific securities. The Fund may also write and sell covered or uncovered call options for both hedging purposes and to pursue the Fund's investment objectives. A put option gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, the underlying security at a stated price at any time before the option expires. Similarly, a call option gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and obligates the writer to sell, the underlying security at a stated price at any time before the option expires.

In a covered call option, the Fund owns the underlying security. The sale of such an option exposes the Fund to a potential loss of opportunity to realize appreciation in the market price of the underlying security during the term of the option. Using covered call options might expose the Fund to other risks, as well. For example, the Fund might be required to continue holding a security that the Fund might otherwise have sold to protect against depreciation in the market price of the security.

When writing options, the Fund may close its position by purchasing an option on the same security with the same exercise price and expiration date as the option that it has previously written on the security. If the amount paid to purchase an option is less or more than the amount received from the sale, the Fund will, accordingly, realize a profit or loss. To close out a position as a purchaser of an option, the Fund would liquidate the position by selling the option previously purchased.

*Options on Securities Indexes.* The Fund may purchase and sell call and put options on stock indexes listed on national securities exchanges or traded in the OTC market for hedging or speculative purposes. A stock index fluctuates with changes in the market values of the stocks included in the index. Accordingly, successful use of options on stock indexes will be subject to the Advisor's ability to correctly evaluate movements in the stock market generally, or of a particular industry or market segment.

*Swap Agreements.* The Fund may enter into a variety of swap agreements, including equity, interest rate, and index swap agreements. The Fund is not limited to any particular form of swap agreement if the Advisor determines that other forms are consistent with the Fund's investment objectives and policies. Swap agreements are contracts entered into by two parties (primarily institutional investors) for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than a year. In a standard swap transaction, the parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments, which may be adjusted for an interest factor. The gross returns to be exchanged or "swapped" between the parties are generally calculated with respect to a "notional amount," *i.e.*, the return on or increase in value of a particular dollar amount invested at a particular interest rate, in a particular foreign currency, or in a "basket" of securities representing a particular index. Additional forms of swap agreements include (i) interest rate caps, under which, in return for a premium, one party agrees to make payments to the other to the extent interest rates exceed a specified rate or "cap;" (ii) interest rate floors, under which, in return for a premium, one party agrees to make payments to the other to the extent interest rates fall below a specified level or "floor;" and (iii) interest rate collars, under which a party sells a cap and purchases a floor (or vice versa) in an attempt to protect itself against interest rate movements exceeding certain minimum or maximum levels.

Generally, the Fund's obligations (or rights) under a swap agreement will be equal only to the net amount to be paid or received under the agreement, based on the relative values of the positions held by the parties. The risk of loss is limited to the net amount of interest payments that a party is contractually required to make. As such, if the counterparty to a swap defaults, the Fund's risk of loss consists of the net amount of payments that it is entitled to receive.

*Government Regulation of Derivatives.* It is possible that government regulation of various types of derivative instruments, including swap agreements, may limit or prevent the Fund from using such instruments as a part of its investment strategy, and could ultimately prevent the Fund from being able to achieve its investment objective. It is impossible to predict fully the effects of legislation and regulation in this area, but the effects could be substantial and adverse.

Under recently adopted rules and regulations, transactions in some types of swaps (including interest rate swaps and credit default swaps on North American and European indices) are required to be centrally cleared, and additional types of swaps may be required to be centrally cleared in the future. In a transaction involving those swaps ("cleared derivatives"), the Fund's counterparty is a clearing house, rather than a bank or broker. Since the Fund is not a member of a clearing house and only clearing members can participate directly in the clearing house, the Fund will hold cleared derivatives through accounts at clearing members. In cleared derivatives transactions, the Fund will make payments (including margin payments) to and receive payments from a clearing house through its accounts at clearing members. Clearing members guarantee performance of their clients' obligations to the clearing house.

In addition, U.S. regulators, the European Union and certain other jurisdictions have adopted minimum margin and capital requirements for uncleared OTC derivatives transactions. It is expected that these regulations will have a material impact on the Fund's use of uncleared derivatives. These rules will impose minimum margin requirements on derivatives transactions between the Fund and its swap counterparties and may increase the amount of margin the Fund is required to provide. They will impose regulatory requirements on the timing of transferring margin, which may accelerate the Fund's current margin process. They will also effectively require changes to typical derivatives margin documentation. Such requirements could increase the amount of margin the Fund needs to provide in connection with uncleared derivatives transactions and, therefore, make such transactions more expensive.



## **When-Issued, Delayed Delivery and Forward Commitment Securities**

To reduce the risk of changes in securities prices and interest rates, the Fund may purchase securities on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed delivery basis. This means that delivery and payment occur a number of days after the date of the commitment to purchase. The payment obligation and the interest rate receivable with respect to such purchases are determined when the Fund enters into the commitment, but the Fund does not make payment until it receives delivery from the counterparty. The Fund may, if it is deemed advisable, sell the securities after it commits to a purchase but before delivery and settlement takes place.

Securities purchased on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed delivery basis are subject to changes in value based upon the public's perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and changes (either real or anticipated) in the level of interest rates. Purchasing securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis can present the risk that the yield available in the market when the delivery takes place may be higher than that obtained in the transaction itself. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed delivery basis when the Fund is fully, or almost fully invested, results in a form of leverage and may cause greater fluctuation in the value of the net assets of the Fund. In addition, there is a risk that securities purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis may not be delivered, and that the purchaser of securities sold by the Fund on a forward basis will not honor its purchase obligation. In such cases, the Fund may incur a loss.

## **Non-Diversified Status**

The Fund intends to operate as a "non-diversified" fund under the 1940 Act. This means the Fund may, with respect to 50% of its total assets, invest up to 25% of its total assets in the securities of any issuer. With respect to the remaining 50% of the Fund's total assets, (i) the Fund may not invest more than 5% of its total assets in the securities of any one issuer, and (ii) the Fund may not acquire more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer. These tests apply at the end of each quarter of the taxable year and are subject to certain conditions and limitations under the Code. These tests do not apply to investments in United States Government Securities and regulated investment companies. Because the Fund is "non-diversified," it can invest a greater percentage of its assets in a single issuer or a group of issuers, and, as a result, may be subject to greater credit, market, and other risks than a diversified fund. The poor performance by a single issuer may have a greater impact on the performance of a non-diversified fund. A non-diversified fund's shares tend to be more volatile than shares of a diversified fund and are more susceptible to the risks of focusing investments in a small number of issuers or industries, and the risks of a single economic, political or regulatory occurrence.

## ***Additional Risks***

### **Market Disruptions Risk.**

The Fund is subject to investment and operational risks associated with financial, economic and other global market developments and disruptions, including those arising from war, terrorism, market manipulation, government interventions, defaults and shutdowns, political changes or diplomatic developments, public health emergencies (such as the spread of infectious diseases, pandemics and epidemics) and natural/environmental disasters, which can all negatively impact the securities markets and cause the Fund to lose value. These events can also impair the technology and other operational systems upon which the Fund's service providers, including the Fund's investment adviser, rely, and could otherwise disrupt the Fund's service providers' ability to fulfill their obligations to the Fund.

The recent spread of an infectious respiratory illness caused by a novel strain of coronavirus (known as COVID-19) has caused volatility, severe market dislocations and liquidity constraints in many markets, including markets for the investments the Fund may hold, and may adversely affect the Fund's investments and operations. The transmission of COVID-19 and efforts to contain its spread have resulted in travel restrictions and disruptions, closed international borders, enhanced health screenings at ports of entry and elsewhere, disruption of and delays in healthcare service preparation and delivery, quarantines, event and service cancellations or interruptions, disruptions to business operations (including staff furloughs and reductions) and supply chains, and a reduction in consumer and business spending, as well as general concern and uncertainty that has negatively affected the economy. These disruptions have led to instability in the market-place, including equity and debt market losses and overall volatility, and the jobs market. The impact of COVID-19, and other infectious illness outbreaks, epidemics or pandemics that may arise in the future, could adversely affect the economies of many nations or the entire global economy, the financial well-being and performance of individual issuers, borrowers and sectors and the health of the markets generally in potentially significant and unforeseen ways. In addition, the impact of infectious illnesses, such as COVID-19, in emerging market countries may be greater due to generally less established healthcare systems. This crisis or other public health crises may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social and economic risks in certain countries or globally.

The foregoing could lead to a significant economic downturn or recession, increased market volatility, a greater number of market closures, higher default rates and adverse effects on the values and liquidity of securities or other assets. Such impacts, which may vary across asset classes, may adversely affect the performance of the Fund. In certain cases, an exchange or market may close or issue trading halts on specific securities or even the entire market, which may result in the Fund being, among other things, unable to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments or to accurately price the Fund's investments. These and other developments may adversely affect the liquidity of the Fund's investments.

### **Operational and Cybersecurity Risk**

The Fund, its service providers and other market participants increasingly depend on complex information technology and communications systems to conduct business functions. These systems are subject to various threats or risks that could adversely affect the Fund and its shareholders.

For instance, unauthorized third parties may attempt to improperly access, modify, disrupt the operations of or prevent access to these systems or data within them, whether systems of the Fund, the Fund's service providers, counterparties, or other market participants. Power or communication outages, acts of God, information technology equipment malfunctions, operational errors (both human and systematic) and inaccuracies within software or data processing systems may also disrupt business operations or impact critical data.

With the increased use of technologies such as the Internet and the dependence on computer systems to perform necessary business functions, investment companies such as the Fund and its service providers may be prone to operational and information security risks resulting from cyber-attacks. In general, cyber-attacks result from deliberate attacks but unintentional events may have effects similar to those caused by cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks include, among other behaviors, stealing or corrupting data maintained online or digitally, denial of service attacks on websites, the unauthorized release of confidential information and causing operational disruption. Successful cyber-attacks against, or security breakdowns of, the Fund or its advisers, custodians, fund accountant, fund administrator, transfer agent, pricing vendors and/or other third party service providers may adversely impact the Fund and its shareholders. For instance, cyber-attacks may interfere with the processing of shareholder transactions, cause the release of private shareholder information or confidential Fund information, impede trading, cause reputational damage, and subject the Fund to regulatory fines, penalties or financial losses, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund also may incur substantial costs for cybersecurity risk management in order to guard against any cyber incidents in the future. While the Fund or its service providers may have established business continuity plans and systems designed to guard against such cyber-attacks or adverse effects of such attacks, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified, in large part because different unknown threats may emerge in the future. Similar types of cybersecurity risks also are present for issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause the Fund's investment in such securities to lose value. In addition, cyber-attacks involving a counterparty to the Fund could affect such a counterparty's ability to meet its obligations to the Fund, which may result in losses to the Fund and its shareholders. The Fund cannot directly control any cyber-security plans or systems put in place by its service providers, Fund counterparties, issuers in which the Fund invests or securities markets and exchanges.

## **PORTFOLIO TURNOVER**

The Fund may dispose of securities without regard to the length of time they have been held when such actions, for defensive reasons or otherwise, appear advisable to the Advisor. The Fund's portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the particular fiscal year by the monthly average value of the portfolio securities owned by the Fund during the particular fiscal year. For purposes of determining this rate, all securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition are one year or less are excluded. A high portfolio turnover rate bears certain tax consequences and results in greater transaction costs, which are borne directly by the Fund or indirectly by the Shareholders. For the fiscal period/year ended March 31, 2022 and March 31, 2023 the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 2% and 7%, respectively.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND**

### **Board of Trustees**

The Fund is governed by its Board of Trustees, which has overall responsibility for monitoring and overseeing the Fund's investment program, its management and operations, and the Advisor on behalf of the Fund and the Shareholders. The Board of Trustees has approved the Fund's investment program as described in the Prospectus.

At least a majority of the Trustees are and will be persons who are not "interested persons," as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act, of the Fund (referred to as the "Independent Trustees"). Each investor, by purchasing Shares in the Fund, will become a Shareholder of the Fund and will be deemed to have voted for the election of each initial Trustee. Any vacancy on the Board of Trustees may be filled by a majority of the remaining Trustees, except to the extent the 1940 Act requires the election of trustees by Shareholders.

### **Trustees and Officers**

The tables below show, for each Trustee and executive officer of the Fund, his or her name, address and age, the position held with the Fund, the length of time served as Trustee or officer of the Fund, the Trustee's or officer's principal occupations during the last five (5) years, the number of portfolios in the fund complex overseen by the Trustee or for which a person served as an officer, and other directorships or trusteeships held by such Trustee.

## Information Regarding Trustees

Name and Year of Birth	Position with the Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) and Other Directorships/Trusteeships During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee
<i>Interested Trustees:</i>				
Lawrence S. Eiben (1972)	Secretary, Treasurer, Principal Accounting Officer and Principal Financial Officer	Indefinite; Since Inception	Owner Thirdline Capital Management, LLC, the investment adviser to the Fund from February 2021 to present; Managing Member of Patina Wealth GP, LLC (a General Partner for an entity used to manage personal assets); Owner of Davis Creek Associates, LLC (a firm providing private equity/private debt to early stage companies) from 2016 to December 2020. Director of Westcreek Financial, Inc. (a finance company) from December 2019 to March 2022.	1
Charles C. Hutchens (1980)	President and Chief Executive Officer	Since August 2021	Owner Thirdline Capital Management, LLC, the investment adviser to the Fund from February 2021 to present; Manager and Member of 5950 Harbour Lane, LLC from November 2022 to present; Member and Co-Manager of 590 Harbour Lane Manage, LLC from November 2022 to present; From 2005 to 2021 Mr. Hutchens worked at The Holladay Corporation, a commercial real estate development and investment firm, where he began as an Analyst, advanced to Director of Development and Acquisitions and completed his tenure in the role of Vice President.	1
<i>Independent Trustees:</i>				
Laura R. Markley, CPA, MBA (1985)	Trustee	Since August 2021	From 2013 to present, Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer New Richmond Ventures (NRV), an investment firm that invests in early-stage venture capital opportunities.	1
Joseph W. McDonald (1981)	Trustee	Since August 2021	Officer at Market Concepts, LLC, a Virginia registered investment advisory firm, from September 2008 to present; From June 2018 to present, serves in a business development role at Persevere Lending, a company that offers privately funded real estate loans.	1
Jonathan F. Wilson (1979)	Trustee	Since August 2021	Partner, Managing Director, Co-Portfolio Manager, and Investment Committee member of Small Buyout Opportunities Funds at Siguler Guff & Company, LP a multi-strategy private equity investment firm which, together with its affiliates, has approximately \$15 billion of assets under management, joined in 2005.	1

***Information Regarding Officers that are not Trustees***

<b>Name and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position with the Fund</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held By the Trustee</b>
Charles Black (1979)	Chief Compliance Officer	Indefinite; Since September 2022	Managing Director and Head of Compliance Services (February 2023 – Present) Vice President and Head of Compliance Services (April 2021 – January 2023) and was Director of Compliance Services (November 2019 – March 2021) at CCO Technology, LLC (d/b/a Joot). Previously, Mr. Black was a Senior Compliance Officer at Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (2015 - 2019), Chief Compliance Officer of Ultimus Managers Trust (January 2016 -2019).	N/A	N/A

**Trustee Share Ownership**

The table below shows for each Trustee, the amount of Fund equity securities beneficially owned by each Trustee, and the aggregate value of all investments in equity securities of the Fund, as of December 31, 2023, and stated as one of the following ranges: A = None; B = \$1-\$10,000; C = \$10,001-\$50,000; D = \$50,001-\$100,000; and E = over \$100,000.

Name of Trustee <sup>1</sup>	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund <sup>2</sup>	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Funds Overseen or to be Overseen in Family of Investment Companies
Lawrence S. Eiben <sup>2</sup> (Interested Trustee)	E	E
Charles C. Hutchens <sup>2</sup> (Interested Trustee)	None	None
Laura R. Markley	None	None
Joseph W. McDonald	None	None
Jonathan F. Wilson	E	E

<sup>1</sup> The address for each Trustee and officer is 1810 MacTavish Ave., Richmond, Virginia 23230.

<sup>2</sup> Considered to be an Interested Person within the meaning of the 1940 Act through his position or affiliation with the Advisor.

### ***Compensation of Trustees***

The following table shows information regarding the compensation received by the Independent Trustees for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023. No compensation is paid by the Fund to Trustees that are interested persons of the Advisor (as determined under the 1940 Act). In all cases, no pension or retirement benefits accrued as part of the Fund's expenses.

Name of Independent Trustee	Total Compensation from Fund and Fund Complex Paid to Trustees
Laura R. Markley <sup>1</sup>	\$5,500
Joseph W. McDonald <sup>1</sup>	\$5,500
Jonathan F. Wilson <sup>1</sup>	\$5,500

<sup>1</sup> Independent Trustees receive a fee of \$1,000 for each regular quarterly Board meeting attended, \$250 for any special Board meetings attended, and \$1,000 annual retainer for serving as a Trustee.

### **Leadership Structure and Qualification of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees consists of five Trustees, three of whom are Independent Trustees. The Board is responsible for the oversight of the Fund and responsible for overseeing the Advisor and the Fund's other service providers in the operations of the Fund in accordance with the 1940 Act, other applicable federal and state laws, and the Agreement and Declaration of Trust.

The Board meets in person or by telephone at regularly scheduled meetings at least four times per year. In addition, the Trustees may meet in person or by telephone at special meetings or on an informal basis at other times. The Independent Trustees also meet at least quarterly without the presence of any representatives of management. The Independent Trustees have the authority to engage independent legal counsel, consultants and other advisors to assist them in performing their duties.

Each Trustee was nominated to serve on the Board of Trustees based on their particular experiences, qualifications, attributes and skills. Generally, the Trust believes that each Trustee is competent to serve because of their individual overall merits including: (i) experience; (ii) qualifications; (iii) attributes; and (iv) skills. Mr. Eiben has extensive experience in the financial services industry that encompasses previous service on a mutual fund board, serving as a co-portfolio manager to three open-end mutual funds, serving as chief compliance officer, chief operating officer and president of an SEC registered investment adviser. Mr. Hutchens has experience in real estate development and investment through his 16 plus years of service at real estate development and investment firm. He also worked with a commercial real estate investment bank with debt, equity, and sales brokerage services where he helped arrange and close debt financings for office, retail, and multi-family properties, performed property and investment valuation, created financial models and managed financing due diligence, third party reports and the closing process. Ms. Markley has business experience as a managing director and chief financial officer of a firm that invests in venture capital opportunities. She is a certified public accountant, with prior experience at one of the big four accounting firms, where she was a senior associate in banking capital markets. Mr. McDonald has experience as an investor that focuses on the alternative investment space which includes alternative privately funded real estate loans. He has served as an analyst and in a number of different asset management roles. Mr. Wilson's service as a managing director at a multi-strategy private equity investment firm brings extensive research, due diligence, fund and direct investment experience to the Board. He also served as a senior analyst in investment banking providing mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, restructuring and private placement services to small and lower middle-market companies. The Trust does not believe any one factor is determinative in assessing a Trustee's qualifications, but that the collective experience of each Trustee makes them each highly qualified.

The Board of Trustees has determined that its leadership structure is appropriate given the business and nature of the Fund, the Fund's status as a new company with no performance history, the small size of the Board of Trustees and the Fund's relatively small initial capitalization. The Board is led by Messrs. Hutchens and Eiben, both are principals of the Advisor and interested Trustees of the Fund. Messrs. Hutchens and Eiben have served as interested Trustees since the Fund's inception and Mr. Eiben acted as the Fund's initial trustee and oversaw the organizational process. Messrs. Hutchens and Eiben serve in leadership capacities at the Advisor and presently work closely with the Board, reporting on the investment operations of the Fund. They also work closely with the Fund's service providers and legal counsel in setting the agenda for each Board meeting. The Board of Trustees does not have a lead independent trustee but considered that the Chairman role of each standing committee of the Board is led by an Independent Trustee and in the role of Chairman will serve as a key point person for dealings between management and the other Independent Trustees. The Independent Trustees also regularly meet outside the presence of management. The Board of Trustees has determined that its committees help ensure that the Fund has effective and independent governance and oversight. The Board of Trustees also believes that its leadership structure facilitates the orderly and efficient flow of information to the Independent Trustees from management of the Fund, including the Advisor. The Board of Trustees reviews its structure on an annual basis.

### **Board of Trustees Committees**

The Board of Trustees has an audit committee (the "Audit Committee"), a nominating and corporate governance committee (the "Nominating Committee"), and a qualified legal compliance committee (the "QLCC").

The Audit Committee is comprised of all the Independent Trustees. Laura R. Markley is chairperson of the Audit Committee and has been designated as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined under Item 407 of Regulation S-K of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). The Audit Committee has the responsibility, among other things, to: (i) oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Fund and its internal control over financial reporting; (ii) oversee the quality and integrity of the Fund's financial statements and the independent audit thereof; (iii) oversee or, as appropriate, assist the Board of Trustees in overseeing the Fund's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements that relate to the Fund's accounting and financial reporting, internal control over financial reporting and independent audit; (iv) approve prior to appointment the engagement of the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm and, in connection therewith, to review and evaluate the qualifications, independence and performance of the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm; and (v) act as a liaison between the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm and the full Board of Trustees. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 the Audit Committee met three times.

The Nominating Committee is comprised of all the Independent Trustees. The Nominating Committee's purposes, duties and powers are set forth in its written charter, which is described in Exhibit B. The charter also describes the process by which shareholders of the Trust may make nominations. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 the Nominating Committee did not meet.

The Qualified Legal Compliance Committee is comprised of all the Independent Trustees. The QLCC receives, investigates, and makes recommendations as to the appropriate remedial action in connection with any report of evidence of a material violation of the securities laws or breach of fiduciary duty or similar violation by the Trust, its officers, Trustees, or agents. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 the QLCC did not meet.

## **Risk Oversight**

As an integral part of its responsibility for oversight of the Fund in the interests of Shareholders, the Board of Trustees, as a general matter, oversees risk management of the Trust's investment programs and business affairs. The function of the Board of Trustees with respect to risk management is one of oversight and not active involvement in, or coordination of, day-to-day risk management activities for the Fund. The Board of Trustees recognizes that: (i) not all risks that may affect the Fund can be identified; (ii) it may not be practical or cost-effective to eliminate or mitigate certain risks; (iii) it may be necessary to bear certain risks (such as investment-related risks) to achieve the Fund's goals; and (iv) the processes, procedures and controls employed to address certain risks may be limited in their effectiveness. Moreover, reports received by the Trustees that may relate to risk management matters are typically summaries of the relevant information.

The Board of Trustees exercises oversight of the risk management process primarily through its committee structure, and through oversight by the Board of Trustees itself. The Fund faces a number of risks, such as investment-related and compliance risks. The Advisor's personnel seek to identify and address risks, i.e., events or circumstances that could have material adverse effects on the business, operations, shareholder services, investment performance or reputation of the Fund. Under the overall supervision of the Board of Trustees or the applicable Committee of the Board of Trustees, the Fund and the Advisor employ a variety of processes, procedures and controls to identify such possible events or circumstances, to lessen the probability of their occurrence and/or to mitigate the effects of such events or circumstances if they do occur. Different processes, procedures and controls are employed with respect to different types of risks. Various personnel, including the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer, as well as various personnel of the Advisor and other service providers such as the Fund's independent accountants, may report to the Trust's various committees and/or to the Board of Trustees with respect to various aspects of risk management, as well as events and circumstances that have arisen and responses thereto.



As of the date of this SAI, each Independent Trustee, and his or her immediate family members, did not beneficially or of record own securities in: (i) an investment adviser or principal underwriter of the Fund; or (ii) a person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with an investment adviser or principal underwriter of the Fund.

### **Shareholder Communications to the Board of Trustees**

Shareholders may send communications to the Board of Trustees by addressing the communications directly to the Board of Trustees (or individual Board of Trustees members) and/or otherwise clearly indicating in the salutation that the communication is for the Board of Trustees (or individual Board of Trustees members). The Shareholder may send the communication to either the Fund's office or directly to such Board of Trustees members at the address specified for each Trustee. Other Shareholder communications received by the Fund not directly addressed and sent to the Board of Trustees will be reviewed and generally responded to by management. Such communications will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees at management's discretion based on the matters contained therein.

### **The Advisor**

The Advisor is Thirdline Capital Management, LLC. The Advisor, a limited liability company organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, is registered as such with the SEC under the Advisers Act. As of the date of this SAI, the Fund is the Advisor's only client. The Advisor's standard mailing address and the address of its principal office, including its office for service for process and for purposes of overnight mail, is 1810 MacTavish Ave., Richmond, Virginia 23230.

### **Advisory Agreement**

The Advisor provides investment advisory services to the Fund, under the oversight of the Board of Trustees, pursuant to an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement"). Under the terms of the Advisory Agreement, the Fund pays the advisory fee and all other expenses incurred in the operation of the Fund including, among other things, (a) expenses for legal and independent accountants' services, (b) costs of printing proxies, share certificates, if any, and reports to shareholders, (c) charges of the custodian, transfer agent, fund accounting agent and administrator, (d) fees and expenses of independent Trustees, (e) printing costs, (f) membership fees in trade association, (g) fidelity bond coverage for the Fund's officers and Trustees, (h) errors and omissions insurance for the Fund's officers and Trustees, (i) brokerage costs, (j) taxes, (k) costs associated with the Fund's quarterly repurchase offers, (l) servicing fees and (m) investment related expenses, including, as applicable, brokerage commissions and other transaction expenses in connection with the Fund's purchase and sale of assets, borrowing charges on securities sold short (if any), clearing and settlement charges, recordkeeping, interest expense, line of credit fees, (n) fees and expenses associated with the selection, acquisition or origination of real estate properties, construction, real estate development, special servicing of non-performing assets (including, but not limited to, reimbursement of non-ordinary expenses and employee time required to special service a non-performing asset), and the sale of equity investments in real estate, (o) professional fees relating to investments, including expenses of consultants, investment bankers, attorneys, accountants, tax advisors and other experts, (p) legal expenses (including those expenses associated with preparing the Fund's public filings, attending and preparing for Board meetings, and generally serving as counsel to the Fund), (q) fees and expenses related to compliance with rules and regulations related to the federal securities laws and for maintaining the Fund's tax status as a REIT, and (r) other extraordinary or non-recurring expenses and other expenses properly payable by the Fund, including any expenses incurred outside of the ordinary course of business, including, without limitation, costs incurred in connection with any claim, litigation, arbitration, mediation, government investigation or similar proceeding and indemnification expenses as provided for in the Fund's organizational documents. The expenses incident to the offering and issuance of shares to be issued by the Fund will be recorded as a reduction of capital of the Fund attributable to the shares.

The Advisory Agreement is effective for an initial two (2) year term and may be continued in effect if the continuance is approved annually by the Board of Trustees, including a majority of Independent Trustees, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on approval. The Board of Trustees or the Shareholders may terminate the Advisory Agreement on sixty (60) days' prior notice to the Advisor. The Advisory Agreement provides that it will terminate automatically in the event of its "assignment," as defined by the 1940 Act and the rules under that Act. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's most recent approval of the Advisory Agreement, will be available in the Fund's semi-annual report to Shareholders dated September 30, 2023.

In consideration of the advisory services provided by the Advisor to the Fund, the Fund shall pay to the Advisor at the end of each calendar month an advisory fee at the annual rate of 0.98% of the Fund's average daily net assets, computed monthly (the "Advisory Fee"). The Advisory Fee is an expense paid out of the Fund's assets. For the fiscal period ended March 31, 2022 the Advisor earned \$68,069 of Advisory Fees under the Advisory Agreement with the Fund. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 the Advisor earned \$443,962 of Advisory Fees under the Advisory Agreement with the Fund.

The Advisory Agreement provides that, in the absence of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of its obligations to the Fund, the Advisor and any partner, director, officer or employee of the Advisor, or any of their affiliates, executors, heirs, assigns, successors or other legal representative, will not be liable to the Fund for any error of judgment, for any mistake of law or for any act or omission by the person in connection with the performance of services to the Fund. The Advisory Agreement also provides for indemnification, to the fullest extent permitted by law, by the Fund of the Advisor and its respective affiliates and controlling persons, for any liability or expense, including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, to which the person may be liable that arises in connection with the performance of services to the Fund, so long as the liability or expense is not incurred by reason of the person's willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, reckless disregard of duty, a material breach of a provision of the Advisory Agreement or violation of applicable law, including, without limitation, the federal and state securities laws.

### **Expense Limitation Agreement**

Pursuant to an Expense Limitation Agreement the Advisor has contractually agreed to waive its management fee and/or pay or reimburse the ordinary annual operating expenses of the Fund, which includes all expenses necessary or appropriate for the operation of the Fund, including expenses such as, but not limited to, administration, accounting, transfer agency, custody, filing and registration fees, audit, tax preparation, organization and offering expenses, shareholder servicing and advisory fees (the "Operating Expenses"). Items that are specifically excluded from Operating Expenses are brokerage commissions, dividend expense on securities sold short, borrowing costs related to short-selling securities, interest expense, acquired fund fees and expenses, and extraordinary or non-routine expenses such as litigation expenses, taxes related to a failure to qualify as a REIT or meet distribution requirements and IRS or federal agency fees or charges. Moreover, any fees related to directly-held property by the Fund, whether through a joint-venture or wholly-owned subsidiary entity will be excluded from the definition of Operating Expenses. The Fund's Operating Expenses are limited to 1.50% of the Fund's average daily net assets. The Advisor is entitled to seek reimbursement from the Fund of fees waived or expenses paid or reimbursed to the Fund for a period ending three years after the date of the waiver, payment or reimbursement, subject to the limitation that a reimbursement will not cause the Fund's Operating Expenses to exceed the lesser of (a) the expense limitation amount in effect at the time such fees were waived or expenses paid or reimbursed, or (b) the expense limitation amount in effect at the time of the reimbursement. The Expense Limitation Agreement will remain in effect at least through July 31, 2023, and thereafter shall continue in effect from year to year for successive one-year periods provided that such continuance is approved at least annually by the Board, unless sooner terminated. For the fiscal period ended March 31, 2022 the Advisor waived its entire Advisory Fee of \$68,069 and reimbursed the Fund an additional \$92,415 pursuant to the terms of the Expense Limitation Agreement with the Fund. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 the Advisor waived \$313,704 of its Advisory Fee. As of March 31, 2023, reimbursements that may potentially be made by the Fund to the Advisor totals \$501,793, which expire on or before March 31, 2026.

## Portfolio Manager

*Other Accounts Managed by Portfolio Manager.* The following table reflects information regarding accounts for which the portfolio manager has day-to-day management responsibilities (other than the Fund). Accounts are grouped into three categories: (i) registered investment companies, (ii) other pooled investment accounts, and (iii) other accounts. Information is shown as of March 31, 2023.

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Companies (excluding the Fund)		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts	
	Number of Accounts	Total Assets in the Accounts	Number of Accounts	Total Assets in the Accounts	Number of Accounts	Total Assets in the Accounts
Charles C. Hutchens	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0

## Compensation of the Portfolio Manager

Mr. Hutchens is Managing Member and Majority Owner of the Advisor and as such is compensated through distributions that are based primarily on the profits and losses of the Advisor.

## Securities Ownership of the Portfolio Manager

As of March 31, 2023 , the portfolio manager owns \$100,001 - \$500,000 securities issued by the Fund.

## Conflicts of Interest

The Advisor does not believe that any material conflicts of interest exist. The Portfolio Manager does not manage any other accounts for clients. The Advisor does have the ability to employ leverage in the Fund which could result in the Fund paying more compensation to the Advisor. However, for the Advisor to receive additional compensation that would indicate the Fund's use of leverage has been successful. The Advisor seeks to review conflicts on a case-by-case basis as they arise. Any review will take into consideration the interests of the relevant clients, the circumstances giving rise to the conflict, applicable Advisor policies and procedures, and applicable laws. There is no guarantee that all conflicts will be resolved in favor of the Fund.

## PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

The Advisor is responsible for, makes decisions with respect to and places orders for purchases and sales of portfolio securities and other assets for the Fund, under the general supervision of the Board of Trustees. Transactions on U.S. stock exchanges involve the payment of negotiated brokerage commissions, which vary among different brokers. Transactions in the over-the-counter market are generally principal transactions with dealers and the costs of such transactions involve dealer spreads rather than brokerage commissions. With respect to over-the-counter transactions, the Advisor normally deals directly with dealers who make a market in the securities involved, except in those circumstances where better prices and execution are available elsewhere or as described below. Purchases from underwriters include a commission or concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter and principal transactions placed through broker-dealers include a spread between the bid and asked prices. To the extent applicable, the Fund intends to execute portfolio transactions in Direct Real Estate Holdings (as defined in the Prospectus) in a manner consistent with the general principles described herein.

The Advisory Agreement between the Fund and Advisor generally provides that, in executing portfolio transactions and selecting brokers or dealers, the Advisor will seek to execute portfolio transactions at prices which, under the circumstances, result in total costs or proceeds being the most favorable to the Fund. When allocating transactions to broker-dealers, the Advisor will consider, in determining whether a particular broker-dealer will provide best execution, all factors it deems relevant, including the breadth of the market in the security, the price of the security, the financial condition and execution capability of the broker or dealer, research services provided, and the reasonableness of the commission, if any, both for the specific transaction and on a continuing basis. The Advisor need not pay the lowest spread or commission available if it determines in good faith that the amount of commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided by the broker-dealer, viewed either in terms of the particular transaction or the Advisor's overall responsibilities as to the accounts as to which it exercises investment discretion. Research services may be in written form or through direct contact with individuals and may include quotations on portfolio securities and information on particular issuers and industries, as well as on market, economic or institutional activities, and may also include comparisons of the performance of the Fund to the performance of various indices and investments for which reliable performance data is available and similar information prepared by recognized mutual fund statistical services. The Fund recognizes that no dollar value can be placed on such research services or on execution services, such research services may or may not be useful to the Fund. Supplementary research information so received is in addition to, and not in lieu of, services required to be performed by the Advisor and does not reduce the management fee payable to the Fund. The Advisor will periodically review the commissions paid by the Fund to consider whether the commissions paid over representative periods of time appear to be reasonable in relation to the benefits inuring to the Fund. For the fiscal period ended March 31, 2022, the Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$149. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023, the Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$69,901. Broker commissions paid increased during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 because the Fund began investing options and it included a full year of operations.

The Board of Trustees will periodically review the Advisor's performance of its responsibilities in connection with the placement of portfolio transactions on behalf of the Fund.

The Fund is required to identify the securities of its regular brokers or dealers (as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act) or their parent companies held by the Fund as of the close of its most recent fiscal year and state the value of such holdings. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023, the Fund did not hold any securities of its regular broker dealers.

## DESCRIPTION OF SHARES

### Shares

The Shares will be offered in a continuous offering thereafter at the Fund's then current net asset value per Common Share.

### Other Shares

The Board of Trustees (subject to applicable law and the Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust) may authorize an offering, without the approval of the holders of Shares, as they determine to be necessary, desirable or appropriate, having such terms, rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions as the Board of Trustees sees fit.

## CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

The following table sets forth the information concerning beneficial and record ownership as of June 30, 2023 of the Fund's shares by each person who owned of record, or who was known by the Trust to own beneficially, 5% or more of any class of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

Name and Address of Shareholder	Shares Owned	Percentage of Outstanding Shares
TD Ameritrade <sup>1</sup> P.O. Box 2226 Omaha, NE 68103	2,908,699	47%
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. <sup>1</sup> 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	2,607,674	43%

- (1) The Trust's shares are sold through channels including broker-dealer intermediaries that may establish single, omnibus accounts with the Fund's transfer agent. These firms are record owners of Fund shares and the beneficial owners of these shares are the individual investors who maintain accounts within these firms.

## TAX ASPECTS

The following is a summary of certain aspects of the U.S. federal income taxation of the Fund and the Shareholders that should be considered by a prospective Shareholder. The Fund has not sought a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") or any other U.S. federal, state or local agency with respect to any tax matters affecting the Fund, nor has it obtained an opinion of counsel with respect to any of those matters.

The summary of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the Fund and the Shareholders set out below is based upon the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"), judicial decisions, Treasury Regulations (proposed and final) (the "Regulations") and administrative rulings in existence as of the date of this SAI, all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. The summary does not discuss the effect, if any, of various proposals to amend the Code that could change certain of the tax consequences of an investment in the Fund; nor does the summary discuss all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a particular investor or to certain investors subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, such as insurance companies, financial institutions, tax-exempt organizations, dealers in securities, Shareholders who invest in the Fund through an IRA, or Shareholders subject to the alternative minimum tax. This summary assumes that Shareholders hold their Shares as capital assets (generally, for investment). This summary does not discuss any aspects of U.S. estate or gift tax or state, local or non-U.S. tax law. Each prospective Shareholder should consult with his, her or its own tax adviser in order to fully understand the U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences of an investment in the Fund.

For purposes of this summary, a “U.S. Shareholder” is a beneficial owner of Shares that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

(a) A citizen or individual resident of the United States;

(b) A corporation or other entity treated as a corporation created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

(c) An estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

(d) A trust, if (i) a court within the United States can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more U.S. persons (within the meaning of Section 7701(a)(30) of the Code) have the authority to control all its substantial decisions, or (ii) a valid election to be treated as a U.S. person is in effect under the relevant Regulations with respect to such trust.

A beneficial owner of Shares that is not a U.S. Shareholder or a partnership is referred to herein as a “non-U.S. Shareholder.”

If an entity or arrangement that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds Shares, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships considering an investment in the Shares and partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisers regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of acquiring, owning and disposing of the Shares.

## **Taxation of the Fund**

The Fund has and intends to continue to be taxed as a REIT under the Code. A REIT generally is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on the income that it distributes to its stockholders if it meets the applicable REIT distribution and other requirements for qualification. The Fund believes that it will be organized, owned and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification for taxation as a REIT under the Code, and that the Fund’s proposed ownership, organization and method of operation will enable the Fund to meet the requirements for qualification for taxation as a REIT under the Code. However, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing funds taxed as REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations (including with respect to matters that the Fund may not control or for which it is not possible to obtain all the relevant facts) and the possibility of future changes in the Fund’s circumstances or applicable law, no assurance can be given that the Fund will so qualify for any particular year or that the IRS will not challenge the Fund’s conclusions with respect to its satisfaction of the REIT tax requirements.

Qualification for taxation as a REIT depends on the Fund’s ability to meet, on a continuing basis, through actual results of operations, distribution levels, diversity of Share ownership and various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code. In addition, the Fund’s ability to qualify for taxation as a REIT may depend in part upon the operating results, organizational structure and entity classification for U.S. federal income tax purposes of certain entities in which the Fund invests, which the Fund may not control. The Fund’s ability to qualify for taxation as a REIT also requires that the Fund satisfy certain asset and income tests, some of which depend upon the fair market values of assets directly or indirectly owned by the Fund or which serve as security for loans made by the Fund. Such values may not be susceptible to a precise determination. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of the Fund’s operations for any taxable year will satisfy the requirements for qualification for taxation as a REIT.

## Taxation of REITs in General

Provided that the Fund continues to qualify for taxation as a REIT, the Fund will generally be entitled to a deduction for dividends that the Fund pays and, therefore, will not be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax on the Fund's net taxable income that is currently distributed to Shareholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the "double taxation" at the corporate and Shareholder levels that results generally from investment in a corporation. Rather, income generated by a REIT is generally taxed only at the Shareholder level, upon a distribution of dividends by the REIT.

Even if the Fund qualifies for taxation as a REIT, the Fund will be subject to U.S. federal income taxation as follows:

- The Fund will be subject to regular U.S. federal corporate tax on any undistributed income, including capital gain and undistributed cashless income such as accrued but unpaid interest.
- If the Fund has net income from "prohibited transactions," which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, other than foreclosure property, such income will be subject to a 100% tax.
- If the Fund elects to treat property that it acquires in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or from certain leasehold terminations as "foreclosure property," the Fund may thereby avoid (1) the 100% tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale would otherwise constitute a prohibited transaction) and (2) treating any income from such property as non-qualifying for purposes of the REIT gross income tests discussed below, provided however, that the gain from the sale of the property or net income from the operation of the property that would not otherwise qualify for the 75% income test but for the foreclosure property election will be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 21%).
- If the Fund fails to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test but nonetheless maintains its qualification for taxation as a REIT because other requirements are met, the Fund will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount equal to (1) the greater of (A) the amount by which the Fund fails the 75% gross income test or (B) the amount by which the Fund fails the 95% gross income test, as the case may be, multiplied by (2) a fraction intended to reflect profitability.
- If the Fund fails to satisfy any of the REIT asset tests, other than a failure of the 5% or 10% REIT asset tests that do not exceed a statutory *de minimis* amount as described more fully below, but the Fund's failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and the Fund nonetheless maintains its REIT tax qualification because of specified cure provisions, the Fund will be required to pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate tax rate of the net income generated by the non-qualifying assets during the period in which the Fund failed to satisfy the asset tests.
- If the Fund fails to satisfy any provision of the Code that would result in the Fund's failure to qualify for taxation as a REIT (other than a gross income or asset test requirement) and the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, the Fund may retain the Fund's REIT tax qualification but the Fund will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.

- If the Fund fails to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of the Fund's REIT ordinary income for such year, (2) 95% of the Fund's REIT capital gain net income for such year and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods (or the required distribution), the Fund will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of (A) the amounts actually distributed (taking into account excess distributions from prior years), plus (B) retained amounts on which income tax is paid at the corporate level.
- The Fund may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if the Fund fails to meet record-keeping requirements intended to monitor the Fund's compliance with rules relating to the composition of Shareholders.
- A 100% excise tax may be imposed on some items of income and expense that are directly or constructively paid between the Fund and any taxable REIT subsidiary, and any other taxable REIT subsidiaries the Fund may own if and to the extent that the IRS successfully adjusts the reported amounts of these items because the reported amounts were not consistent with arm's length amounts.
- If the Fund acquires appreciated assets from a corporation that is not a REIT in a transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the Fund's hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the hands of the non-REIT corporation, the Fund may be subject to tax on such appreciation at the highest U.S. federal corporate income tax rate then applicable if the Fund subsequently recognize gain on a disposition of any such assets during the 5-year period following their acquisition from the non-REIT corporation.
- The Fund may elect to retain and pay U.S. federal income tax on the Fund's net long-term capital gain. In that case, a Shareholder would include its proportionate share of the Fund's undistributed long-term capital gain in its income (to the extent the Fund makes a timely designation of such gain to the Shareholder), would be deemed to have paid the tax that it paid on such gain, and would be allowed a credit for its proportionate share of the tax deemed to have been paid, and an adjustment would be made to increase the Shareholder's basis in the Fund's Shares.
- The Fund may own subsidiaries that will elect to be treated as taxable REIT subsidiaries and the Fund may hold equity interests in the Fund's borrowers or other investments through such taxable REIT subsidiaries, the earnings of which will be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax.
- The Fund will generally be subject to tax on the portion of any excess inclusion income derived from an investment in residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs") or "taxable mortgage pools" to the extent the Fund's stock is held in record name by specified tax exempt organizations not subject to tax on unrelated business tax income ("UBTI") or non-U.S. sovereign investors.

In addition, the Fund may be subject to a variety of taxes other than U.S. federal income tax, including state, local, and non-U.S. income, franchise property and other taxes.

### **Requirements for Qualification as a REIT for U.S. Federal Income Tax Purposes**

The Fund has and intends to continue to be taxed as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In order to have so qualified, the Fund must meet and continue to meet the requirements relating to the Fund's organization, ownership, sources of income, nature of assets and distributions of income to stockholders.



The Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

1. that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
2. the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
3. that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for its election to be subject to tax as a REIT under Sections 856 through 860 of the Code;
4. that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to specific provisions of the Code;
5. commencing with its second REIT taxable year, the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months;
6. in which, commencing with its second REIT taxable year, during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer “individuals” as defined in the Code to include specified entities (the “5/50 Test”);
7. that makes an election to be a REIT for the current taxable year or has made such an election for a previous taxable year that has not been terminated or revoked and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the IRS that must be met to elect and maintain REIT tax status;
8. that has no earnings and profits from any non-REIT taxable year at the close of any taxable year;
9. that uses the calendar year for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and complies with the record-keeping requirements of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and
10. that meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions.

For purposes of condition (1), “directors” generally means persons treated as “directors” for purposes of the 1940 Act. The Fund’s Shares are generally freely transferable, and the Fund believes that the restrictions on ownership and transfers of the Shares do not prevent the Fund from satisfying condition (2). Although the Fund is organized as a statutory trust, for U.S. federal income tax purposes the Fund elected to be classified as a corporation in compliance with condition (3). The Fund believes that the Shares sold in this offering will allow the Fund to timely comply with condition (6). However, depending on the number of Shareholders who subscribe for Shares in the offering and the timing of subscriptions, the Fund may need to conduct an additional offering of Shares to timely comply with (5). For purposes of determining stock ownership under condition (6) above, a certain stock bonus, pension, or profit sharing plan, a supplemental unemployment compensation benefits plan, a private foundation and a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes generally are each considered an individual. A trust that is a qualified trust under Code Section 401(a) generally is not considered an individual, and beneficiaries of a qualified trust generally are treated as holding shares of a REIT in proportion to their actuarial interests in the trust for purposes of condition (6) above.

To monitor compliance with the Share ownership requirements, the Fund is generally required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of the Fund's Shares. Provided the Fund complies with these recordkeeping requirements and that the Fund would not otherwise have reason to believe the Fund fails the 5/50 Test after exercising reasonable diligence, the Fund will be deemed to have satisfied the 5/50 Test. In addition, the Trust Agreement provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfer of Shares, which are intended to assist the Fund in satisfying the Share ownership requirements described above.

For purposes of condition (9) above, the Fund will use a calendar year for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and the Fund intends to comply with the applicable recordkeeping requirements.

## **Effect of Subsidiary Entities**

### ***Ownership of Partnership Interests***

In the case of a REIT that is a partner in an entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the REIT is deemed to own its proportionate share of the partnership's assets and to earn its proportionate share of the partnership's gross income based on its *pro rata* share of capital interests in the partnership for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs, as described below. However, solely for purposes of the 10% value test, described below, the determination of a REIT's interest in partnership assets will be based on the REIT's proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership, excluding for these purposes, certain excluded securities as described in the Code. For purposes of determining the amount of the REIT's taxable income that must be distributed, or is subject to tax, the REIT's share of partnership income is determined under the partnership tax provisions of the Code and will reflect any special allocations of income or loss that are not in proportion to capital interests. Income earned through partnerships retains its character for U.S. federal income tax purposes when allocated among its partners. The Fund intends to obtain covenants from any partnerships in which the Fund invests but do not control to operate in compliance with the REIT tax requirements, but the Fund may not control any particular partnership into which the Fund invests, and thus no assurance can be given that any such partnerships will not operate in a manner that causes the Fund to fail an income or asset test requirement. In general, partnerships are not subject to U.S. federal income tax. However, if a partnership in which the Fund invests is audited, it may be required to pay the hypothetical increase in partner level taxes (including interest and penalties) resulting from an adjustment of partnership tax items on the audit, unless the partnership elects an alternative method under which the taxes resulting from the adjustment (and interest and penalties) are assessed at the partner level. It is possible that partnerships in which the Fund directly and indirectly invests may be subject to U.S. federal income tax, interest and penalties in the event of a U.S. federal income tax audit as a result of these law changes.

### ***Disregarded Subsidiaries***

If a REIT owns a corporate subsidiary that is a "qualified REIT subsidiary," that subsidiary is disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the subsidiary are treated as assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the REIT itself, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs, as summarized below. A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation, other than a taxable REIT subsidiary, that is wholly owned by a REIT, by other disregarded subsidiaries of a REIT or by a combination of the two. Single member limited liability companies or other domestic unincorporated entities that are wholly owned by a REIT are also generally disregarded as separate entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the REIT gross income and asset tests unless they elect taxable REIT subsidiary status. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with partnerships in which the Fund holds an equity interest, are sometimes referred to herein as "pass-through subsidiaries."

In the event that a disregarded subsidiary ceases to be wholly owned by the Fund (for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than the Fund or another disregarded subsidiary of the Fund), the subsidiary's separate existence would no longer be disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Instead, it would have multiple owners and would be treated as either a partnership or a taxable corporation. Such an event could, depending on the circumstances, adversely affect the Fund's ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs, including the requirement that REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the value or voting power of the outstanding securities of another corporation. See "—Asset Tests" and "—Gross Income Tests."

### ***Taxable REIT Subsidiaries***

A REIT, in general, may jointly elect with a subsidiary corporation, whether or not wholly owned, to treat the subsidiary corporation as a taxable REIT subsidiary. The separate existence of a taxable REIT subsidiary or other taxable corporation, unlike a disregarded subsidiary as discussed above, is not ignored for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, such an entity would generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income, which may reduce the cash flow generated by the Fund and its subsidiaries in the aggregate and the Fund's ability to make distributions to the Fund's Shareholders.

A REIT is not treated as holding the assets of a taxable REIT subsidiary or other taxable subsidiary corporation or as receiving any income that the subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by the subsidiary is an asset in the hands of the REIT, and the REIT generally recognizes dividend income when it receives distributions of earnings from the subsidiary. This treatment can affect the gross income and asset test calculations that apply to the REIT, as described below. Because a parent REIT does not include the assets and income of its taxable REIT subsidiary in determining the parent REIT's compliance with the REIT requirements, such entities may be used by the parent REIT to undertake indirectly activities that the REIT rules might otherwise preclude the parent REIT from doing directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. If dividends are paid to the Fund by one or more domestic taxable REIT subsidiaries the Fund may own, then a portion of the dividends that the Fund distributes to Shareholders who are taxed at individual rates generally will be eligible for taxation at preferential qualified dividend income tax rates rather than at ordinary income rates. See "U.S. Shareholders."

The Fund may hold any equity interests the Fund receives in the Fund's borrowers or certain other investments through one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries. While the Fund intends to manage the size of the taxable REIT subsidiaries and dividends from the taxable REIT subsidiaries in a manner that permits the Fund to qualify as a REIT, it is possible that the equity investments appreciate to the point where the taxable REIT subsidiaries exceed the thresholds mandated by the REIT rules. In such cases, the Fund could lose its REIT tax status if it is unable to satisfy certain exceptions for failing to satisfy the REIT income and asset tests. In any event, any earnings attributable to equity interests held in taxable REIT subsidiaries or origination activity conducted by taxable REIT subsidiaries will be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax.

### ***Taxable Mortgage Pools***

The Fund may enter into transactions that could result in the Fund being considered to own interests in one or more taxable mortgage pools. An entity, or a portion of an entity, is classified as a taxable mortgage pool under the Code if:

- substantially all of its assets consist of debt obligations or interests in debt obligations;
- more than 50% of those debt obligations are real estate mortgage loans or interests in real estate mortgage loans as of specified testing dates;

- the entity has issued debt obligations that have two or more maturities; and
- the payments required to be made by the entity on its debt obligations “bear a relationship” to the payments to be received by the entity on the debt obligations that it holds as assets.

A taxable mortgage pool generally is treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, special rules apply to a REIT, a portion of a REIT, or a qualified REIT subsidiary that is a taxable mortgage pool. If a REIT owns, directly or indirectly through one or more qualified REIT subsidiaries or other entities that are disregarded as a separate entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, 100% of the equity interests in the taxable mortgage pool, the taxable mortgage pool will be a qualified REIT subsidiary and, therefore, ignored as an entity separate from the REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes and would not generally affect the tax qualification of the REIT. Rather, the consequences of the taxable mortgage pool classification would generally, except as described below, be limited to the REIT’s shareholders. See “—Excess Inclusion Income.”

If the Fund owns less than 100% of the ownership interests in a subsidiary that is a taxable mortgage pool, the foregoing rules would not apply. Rather, the subsidiary would be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and could be subject to corporate income tax. In addition, this characterization would alter the Fund’s REIT income and asset test calculations and could adversely affect the Fund’s compliance with those requirements.

### ***Certain Equity Investments and Kickers***

The Fund expects to hold certain equity investments (with rights to receive preferred economic returns) in entities treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes and may hold “kickers” in entities treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes (and may hold such a kicker outside of a taxable REIT subsidiary). When the Fund holds investments treated as equity in partnerships, as discussed above, for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests the Fund is required to include its proportionate share of the assets and income of the partnership, based on the Fund’s share of partnership capital, as if the Fund owned such share of the issuer’s assets directly. As a result, any nonqualifying income generated, or nonqualifying assets held, by the partnerships in which the Fund holds such equity could jeopardize the Fund’s compliance with the REIT income and asset tests. The Fund intends to obtain covenants from its equity issuers (including a kicker issuer if the kicker is held outside of a taxable REIT subsidiary) to operate in compliance with the REIT tax requirements, but the Fund generally will not control such issuers, and thus no assurance can be given that any such issuers will not operate in a manner that causes the Fund to fail an income or asset test requirement. Moreover, at least one IRS internal memorandum would treat the preferred return on certain equity investments as interest income for purposes of the REIT income tests, which treatment would cause such amounts to be nonqualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Although the Fund does not believe that interest income treatment is appropriate, and that analysis was not followed in subsequent IRS private letter rulings, the IRS could re-assert that position. In addition, if the underlying property is dealer property and the Fund’s equity investment (with rights to receive preferred economic returns) is treated as equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Fund’s gains from the sale of the property would be subject to 100% tax.

In some cases, the proper characterization of certain equity investments (with rights to receive preferred economic returns) as unsecured indebtedness or as equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be unclear. Characterization of such an equity investment as unsecured debt for U.S. federal income tax purposes would subject the investment to the various asset test limitations on investments in unsecured debt, and the Fund’s preferred return would be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test (but the Fund would not have to include the Fund’s share of the underlying assets and income of the issuer in the Fund’s tests). Thus, if the IRS successfully challenged the Fund’s characterization of an investment as equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, or successfully treated a preferred return as interest income, the Fund could fail an income or asset test. In that event, the Fund could face substantial penalty taxes to cure the resulting violations, as described in “Failure to Qualify” below, or, if the Fund were deemed to have acted unreasonably in making the investment, lose the Fund’s REIT tax status. Conversely, the Fund also could fail an applicable income or asset test if the Fund has treated a preferred equity investment as indebtedness for U.S. federal income tax purposes and the IRS successfully characterizes the investment as equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

## **Gross Income Tests**

In order to maintain the Fund's qualification for taxation as a REIT, the Fund annually must satisfy two gross income tests. First, at least 75% of the Fund's gross income for each taxable year, excluding gross income from sales of inventory or dealer property in "prohibited transactions" and certain hedging and foreign currency transactions, must be derived from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including "rents from real property," dividends received from and gains from the disposition of other shares of REITs, interest income derived from mortgage loans secured by real property or by interests in real property, and gains from the sale of real estate assets, including personal property treated as real estate assets, as discussed below (but not including certain debt instruments of publicly-offered REITs that are not secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property), as well as income from certain kinds of temporary investments. Interest and gain on debt instruments issued by publicly offered REITs that are not secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property are not qualifying income for purposes of the 75% income test. Second, at least 95% of the Fund's gross income in each taxable year, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions and certain hedging and foreign currency transactions, must be derived from some combination of income that qualifies under the 75% income test described above, as well as other dividends, interest, and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, which need not have any relation to real property.

### ***Interest Income***

Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test to the extent that the obligation is secured by a mortgage on real property. If the Fund receives interest income with respect to a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and other property and the highest outstanding balance of the loan during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property on the date of the Fund's commitment to make or purchase the mortgage loan, the interest income will be apportioned between the real property and the other property, and the Fund's income from the arrangement will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test only to the extent that the interest is allocable to the real property. With respect to loans to develop or improve real property, the Fund is permitted to include as real property collateral for the foregoing apportionment purposes the sum of the fair market value of the undeveloped land plus the reasonably estimated cost of the improvements or developments (other than personal property) which will secure the loan and which are to be constructed from the proceeds of the loan. The failure of a loan to qualify as an obligation secured by a mortgage on real property within the meaning of the REIT tax rules could adversely affect the Fund's ability to qualify for taxation as a REIT. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a mortgage loan secured by both real property and personal property will be treated as a wholly qualifying real estate asset (as discussed below under "– Asset Tests") and all interest will be qualifying income for the purposes of the 75% income test if the fair market value of such personal property does not exceed 15% of the total fair market value of all such property, even if the real property collateral value is less than the outstanding principal balance of the loan.

In the event a mortgage loan is modified, with the exception of loans secured by both real property and personal property in which the fair market value of the personal property does not exceed 15% of the total fair market value of all such property, the Fund may be required to retest the loan under the apportionment rules discussed above by comparing the outstanding balance of the modified loan to the fair market value of the collateral real property at the time of modification. Even if a loan is not secured by real property or is under-secured, the income that it generates may nonetheless qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test.

To the extent that the terms of a loan provide for contingent interest that is based on the cash proceeds realized upon the sale of the property securing the loan (or a shared appreciation provision), income attributable to the participation feature will be treated as gain from sale of the underlying property for purposes of the income tests, and generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests, provided that the property is not inventory or dealer property in the hands of the borrower or the Fund.

To the extent that the Fund derives interest income from a loan where all or a portion of the amount of interest payable is contingent, such income generally will qualify for purposes of the gross income tests only if it is based upon the gross receipts or sales and not the net income or profits of any person. This limitation does not apply, however, to a mortgage loan where the borrower derives substantially all of its income from the property from the leasing of substantially all of its interest in the property to tenants, to the extent that the rental income derived by the borrower would qualify as rents from real property had it been earned directly by the Fund.

Any amount includible in the Fund's gross income with respect to a regular or residual interest in a REMIC generally is treated as interest on an obligation secured by a mortgage on real property. If, however, less than 95% of the assets of a REMIC consists of real estate assets (determined as if the Fund held such assets), the Fund will be treated as receiving directly its proportionate share of the income of the REMIC for purposes of determining the amount that is treated as interest on an obligation secured by a mortgage on real property.

Among the assets the Fund may hold are certain mezzanine loans secured by equity interests in a pass-through entity that directly or indirectly owns real property, rather than a direct mortgage on the real property. The IRS issued Revenue Procedure 2003-65, which provides a safe harbor pursuant to which a mezzanine loan, if it meets each of the requirements contained in the Revenue Procedure, will be treated by the IRS as a real estate asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests, and interest derived from it will be treated as qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Although the Revenue Procedure provides a safe harbor on which taxpayers may rely, it does not prescribe rules of substantive tax law. Structuring a mezzanine loan to meet the requirements of the safe harbor may not always be practical, and the mezzanine loans that the Fund acquires may not meet all of the requirements for reliance on this safe harbor. Hence, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not challenge the qualification of such assets as real estate assets or the interest generated by these loans as qualifying income under the 75% gross income test. To the extent the Fund makes corporate mezzanine loans or acquires other commercial real estate corporate debt, such loans will not qualify as real estate assets and interest income with respect to such loans will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test.

The Fund may hold indirect participation interests in some loans, rather than direct ownership of the loan. The borrower on the underlying loan is typically not a party to the participation agreement. The performance of this investment depends upon the performance of the underlying loan and, if the underlying borrower defaults, the participant typically has no recourse against the originator of the loan. The originator often retains a senior position in the underlying loan and grants junior participations which absorb losses first in the event of a default by the borrower. The Fund generally expects to treat its participation interests as an undivided ownership interest in the underlying loan, and thus as a qualifying real estate asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests that also generates qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test, to the extent that the loan underlying the participation is a qualifying real estate asset that generates qualifying income for such purposes. The appropriate treatment of participation interests for U.S. federal income tax purposes is not entirely certain, however, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge the Fund's treatment of the Fund's participation interests. In the event of a determination that such participation interests do not qualify as real estate assets, or that the income that the Fund derives from such participation interests does not qualify as mortgage interest for purposes of the REIT asset and income tests, the Fund could be subject to a penalty tax, or could fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT.

The Fund expects that any mortgage-backed securities that it invests in will be treated either as interests in a grantor trust or as interests in a REMIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes and that all interest income from such mortgage-backed securities will be qualifying income for the 95% gross income test. In the case of mortgage-backed securities treated as interests in grantor trusts, the Fund would be treated as owning an undivided beneficial ownership interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust. The interest on such mortgage loans, and any mortgage loans that the Fund owns directly, would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test to the extent that the obligation is adequately secured by real property, as discussed above. In the case of mortgage-backed securities treated as interests in a REMIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, income derived from REMIC interests will generally be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. However, if less than 95% of the assets of the REMIC are real estate assets, then only a proportionate part of the Fund's interest in the REMIC and income derived from the interest will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test. The Fund expects that any interest income from mortgage-backed securities that are not treated as an interest in a grantor trust or an interest in a REMIC will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Mortgage loans that may be held by a grantor trust or REMIC may not necessarily qualify as "real estate assets" for purposes of the REIT tax rules. As a result, it may be difficult, if not impossible, to determine whether income from certain CMBS investments will be qualifying 75% gross income. In addition, some REMIC securitizations include imbedded interest swap or cap contracts or other derivative instruments that potentially could produce non-qualifying income for the holder of the related REMIC securities.

### ***Fee Income***

Although not currently contemplated, the Fund may receive various fees and expense reimbursements from borrowers in connection with originating loans. Fees that are for entering into agreements to make loans are qualifying income for both gross income tests. Other fees that are treated as "points" are treated as additional interest on the loan and are qualifying or nonqualifying based on whether the loan is a real estate asset. However, fees for services will not be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. In addition, certain expense reimbursements received from the borrower, and even certain expenses paid by the borrower directly to a third-party service provider, may result in nonqualifying income for both gross income tests to the extent such amounts are reimbursements for expenses that benefit the Fund. Any fees earned by a taxable REIT subsidiary will not be included for purposes of the gross income tests but the use of a taxable REIT subsidiary to originate loans to avoid such nonqualifying income may increase the taxes paid by the taxable REIT subsidiary.

### ***Dividend Income***

The Fund may receive material distributions from the Fund's taxable REIT subsidiaries. These distributions are generally classified as dividend income to the extent of the earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. Such distributions generally constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not the 75% gross income test.

### ***Treatment of Certain Debt Instruments as Equity***

The Fund may hold loans with relatively high loan-to-value ratios and/or high yields. Additionally, the Fund may receive equity interests in the Fund's borrowers in connection with originating the Fund's loans. These features can cause a loan to be treated as equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Although the Fund intends to structure each of its loans so that the loan should be respected as debt for U.S. federal income tax purposes, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not challenge the Fund's treatment of one or more of the Fund's loans as debt for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the event the IRS were successful in such a challenge, all or a portion of the income from such loans could be viewed as guaranteed payments under the partnership tax rules, in which case such income may not be qualifying income for the REIT income tests. As a result, such a recharacterization could adversely affect the Fund's ability to qualify for taxation as a REIT. If the underlying activity was a prohibited transaction, the income from such loans, to the extent the loans were characterized as equity, would be subject to a 100% tax.

### ***Hedging Transactions***

The Fund may enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of the Fund's assets or liabilities. Hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including interest rate swap agreements, interest rate cap agreements, options, forward rate agreements or similar financial instruments. Except to the extent provided by Treasury regulations, any income from a hedging transaction, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction, will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test if (i) the Fund enters into the hedging transaction in the normal course of business primarily to manage risk of interest rate or price changes or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, and the hedge is clearly identified as specified in Treasury regulations before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, (ii) the Fund enters into the hedging transaction primarily to manage risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% gross income tests and the hedge is clearly identified as such before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, or (iii) the Fund enters into the hedging transaction that hedges against transactions described in clause (i) or (ii) and is entered into in connection with the extinguishment of debt or sale of property that are being hedged against by the transactions described in clauses (i) or (ii) and the hedge complies with certain identification requirements. To the extent that the Fund enters into other types of hedging transactions, including hedges of interest rates on debt the Fund acquires as assets, or do not make proper tax identifications, as applicable, the income from those transactions is likely to be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. The Fund intends to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize its qualification for taxation as a REIT. No assurances can be given, however, that the Fund's hedging activities will not give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of either or both of the gross income tests and that such income will not adversely affect the Fund's ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

### ***Rents from Real Property***

The Fund expects to acquire interests in real property (through majority-owned subsidiaries with rights to receive preferred economic returns) and may acquire other interests in real property (including equity participations). However, to the extent that the Fund owns real property or interests therein, rents the Fund receives qualify as "rents from real property" in satisfying the gross income tests described above, only if several conditions are met, including the following. If rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property is greater than 15% of the total rent received under any particular lease (determined based on the fair market values as of the beginning and end of the taxable year), then all of the rent attributable to such personal property will not qualify as rents from real property. The determination of whether an item of personal property constitutes real or personal property under the REIT tax provisions of the Code is subject to both legal and factual considerations and therefore can be subject to different interpretations.



In addition, in order for rents received by the Fund to qualify as “rents from real property,” the rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits derived by any person from such real property. However, an amount will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of sales or if it is based on the net income of a tenant which derives substantially all of its income with respect to such property from subleasing of substantially all of such property, to the extent that the rents paid by the subtenants would qualify as rents from real property, if earned directly by the Fund. Moreover, for rents received to qualify as “rents from real property,” the Fund generally must not furnish or render certain services to the tenants of such property, other than through an “independent contractor” who is adequately compensated and from which the Fund derives no income or through a taxable REIT subsidiary. The Fund is permitted, however, to perform services that are “usually or customarily rendered” in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not otherwise considered rendered to the occupant of the property. In addition, the Fund may directly or indirectly provide non-customary services to tenants of the Fund’s properties without disqualifying all of the rent from the property if the payment for such services or, if greater, 150% of the Fund’s cost of providing such services, does not exceed 1% of the total gross income from the property. In such a case, only the amounts for non-customary services are not treated as rents from real property and the provision of the services does not disqualify the related rent.

Rental income will qualify as rents from real property only to the extent that the Fund does not directly or constructively own, (1) in the case of any tenant which is a corporation, stock possessing 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote, or 10% or more of the total value of shares of all classes of stock of such tenant, or (2) in the case of any tenant which is not a corporation, an interest of 10% or more in the assets or net profits of such tenant.

### ***Phantom Income***

Due to the nature of the assets in which the Fund may invest, the Fund may be required to recognize taxable income from those assets in advance of the Fund’s receipt of cash flow on or proceeds from disposition of such assets, and may be required to report taxable income in early periods that exceeds the economic income ultimately realized on such assets. For example, the Fund may originate debt instruments or mortgage-backed securities at a discount from face value. To the extent the Fund originates any instruments at a discount or purchase such instruments at a discount in connection with their original issuance, the discount will be “original issue discount” if it exceeds certain de minimis amounts, which must be accrued on a constant yield method even though the Fund may not receive the corresponding cash payment until maturity. In such cases, the value of the equity interest would result in discount that must be accrued over the life of the loan. The Fund may also acquire debt instruments that provide for interest that accrues or is payable in kind, in which case the Fund will be required to include that income for tax purposes as it accrues rather than when it is paid in cash. To the extent the Fund purchases debt instruments at a discount after their original issuance, the discount may represent “market discount.” Unlike original issue discount, market discount is not required to be included in income on a constant yield method. However, the Fund will be required to treat a portion of any principal payments as ordinary income in an amount equal to the market discount that has accrued while the Fund held the debt instrument. If the Fund ultimately collects less on a debt instrument than the Fund’s purchase price and any original issue discount or accrued market discount that the Fund has included in income, there may be limitations on the Fund’s ability to use any losses resulting from that debt instrument.

The Fund may make loans that provide the Fund with rights to participate in the appreciation of the collateral real property securing the Fund’s debt instrument at specified times or that provide for other contingent payments based on the borrower’s performance. In circumstances where such equity features are part of the loan and not treated as a separate equity investment, the Fund generally will be required to accrue for tax purposes the projected increase in the yield on the loan attributable to the participation feature or contingent payments over the term of the loan, even though the Fund does not receive any cash attributable to the participation feature or contingent payments until some point in the future, if ever. In circumstances where the Fund’s equity participation is structured as a separate interest from the loans, the Fund will be required to allocate the amount the Fund pays for the loan and the equity interest between those securities and, depending on the circumstances, such allocation may result in additional discount on the loan that must be accrued for tax purposes over the life of the loan (even though no corresponding cash payment is made until later).

The Fund may also acquire debt instruments below par that are subsequently modified by agreement with the borrower. Under applicable Treasury Regulations, these modifications may be treated as a taxable event in which the Fund exchanges the old debt instrument for a new debt instrument, the value of which may be treated as equal to the face amount of the new debt instrument. Because the Fund's tax basis in such debt instruments may be substantially less than the face value, the Fund could have significant income without any corresponding receipt of cash. Such a modification also may require the Fund to retest the status of the modified loan for purposes of determining whether the loan is fully secured by real property.

In addition, in the event that any debt instruments acquired by the Fund are delinquent as to mandatory principal and interest payments, or in the event payments with respect to a particular debt instrument are not made when due, the Fund may nonetheless be required to continue to accrue the unpaid interest as taxable income.

Finally, the Fund may be required under the terms of the Fund's indebtedness to use cash received from interest payments to make nondeductible principal payments on that indebtedness, with the effect of recognizing income but not having a corresponding amount of cash available for distribution to the Fund's Shareholders.

Due to each of these potential timing differences between income recognition or expense deduction and cash receipts or disbursements, there is a significant risk that the Fund may have substantial taxable income in excess of cash available for distribution. In that event, the Fund may need to borrow funds or take other action to satisfy the REIT distribution requirements for the taxable year in which this "phantom income" is recognized. See "—Annual Distribution Requirements."

### ***Failure to Satisfy the Gross Income Tests***

The Fund intends to monitor the Fund's sources of income, including any non-qualifying income received by the Fund, and manage the Fund's assets so as to ensure the Fund's compliance with the gross income tests. The Fund cannot assure you, however, that the Fund will be able to satisfy the gross income tests. If the Fund fails to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, the Fund may still qualify for taxation as a REIT for the year if the Fund is entitled to relief under applicable provisions of the Code. These relief provisions will generally be available if the Fund's failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and, following the identification of such failure, the Fund sets forth a description of each item of the Fund's gross income that satisfies the gross income tests in a schedule for the taxable year filed in accordance with the Treasury Regulations. It is not possible to state whether the Fund would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions in all circumstances. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances involving the Fund, the Fund will not qualify for taxation as a REIT. As discussed above under "—Taxation of REITs in General," even where these relief provisions apply, a tax would be imposed upon the profit attributable to the amount by which the Fund fails to satisfy the particular gross income test.

## Asset Tests

At the close of each calendar quarter, the Fund must also satisfy five tests relating to the nature of the Fund's assets. First, at least 75% of the value of the Fund's total assets must be represented by some combination of "real estate assets," cash, cash items, and U.S. Government securities. For this purpose, real estate assets include loans secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property to the extent described below, certain mezzanine loans and mortgage-backed securities as described below, interests in real property (such as land, buildings, leasehold interests in real property and personal property leased with real property if the rents attributable to the personal property would be rents from real property under the income tests discussed above), shares in other qualifying REITs and stock or debt instruments held for less than one year purchased with the proceeds from an offering of Shares of the Fund's stock or certain debt. Second, not more than 25% of the Fund's assets may be represented by securities other than those in the 75% asset test. Third, of the assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% test and that are not securities of the Fund's taxable REIT subsidiaries: (i) the value of any one issuer's securities owned by the Fund may not exceed 5% of the value of the Fund's gross assets, and (ii) the Fund generally may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding securities, as measured by either voting power or value. Fourth, the aggregate value of all securities of taxable REIT subsidiaries held by the Fund may not exceed 20% of the value of the Fund's gross assets. Fifth, not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's gross assets may be represented by debt instruments of publicly offered REITs that are not secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property.

Securities for purposes of the asset tests may include debt securities that are not fully secured by a mortgage on real property (or treated as such). However, the 10% value test does not apply to certain "straight debt" and other excluded securities, as described in the Code, including any loan to an individual or an estate, any obligation to pay rents from real property and any security issued by a REIT. In addition, (1) a REIT's interest as a partner in a partnership is not considered a security for purposes of applying the 10% value test; (2) any debt instrument issued by a partnership (other than straight debt or other excluded security) will not be considered a security issued by the partnership if at least 75% of the partnership's gross income is derived from sources that would qualify for the 75% REIT gross income test; and (3) any debt instrument issued by a partnership (other than straight debt or other excluded security) will not be considered a security issued by the partnership to the extent of the REIT's interest as a partner in the partnership.

For purposes of the 10% value test, "straight debt" means a written unconditional promise to pay on demand on a specified date a sum certain in money if (1) the debt is not convertible, directly or indirectly, into stock and (2) the interest rate and interest payment dates are not contingent on profits, the borrower's discretion, or similar factors other than certain contingencies relating to the timing and amount of principal and interest payments, as described in the Code. In the case of an issuer which is a corporation or a partnership, securities that otherwise would be considered straight debt will not be so considered if we, and any of the Fund's "controlled taxable REIT subsidiaries" as defined in the Code, hold any securities of the corporate or partnership issuer which (A) are not straight debt or other excluded securities (prior to the application of this rule), and (B) have an aggregate value greater than 1% of the issuer's outstanding securities (including, for the purposes of a partnership issuer, the Fund's interest as a partner in the partnership). As a result, the straight debt exception would not be available to the Fund with respect to a loan where the Fund also holds an equity participation in the borrower through a taxable REIT subsidiary.

Except as provided below, a real estate mortgage loan that the Fund owns generally will be treated as a real estate asset for purposes of the 75% REIT asset test if, on the date that the Fund acquires or originates the mortgage loan, the value of the real property securing the loan is equal to or greater than the principal amount of the loan. Existing IRS guidance provides that certain rules described above that are applicable to the gross income tests may apply to determine what portion of a mortgage loan will be treated as a real estate asset if the mortgage loan is secured both by real property and other assets. Under special guidance issued by the IRS, if the value of the mortgage loan exceeds the greater of the current value of the real property securing the loan and the value of the real property securing the loan at the time the Fund committed to acquire the loan, such excess will not be a qualifying real estate asset. Furthermore, the Fund may be required to retest modified loans to determine if the modified loan is adequately secured by real property as of the modification date if the modification results in a taxable exchange. However, under special guidance issued by the IRS, if a loan modification occurred as a result of default or the Fund reasonably believed that there was a significant risk of default and the modification reduced such risk, the Fund generally would not be required to retest such modified loan. Notwithstanding the foregoing, as discussed above under "– Gross Income Tests – Interest Income," a mortgage loan secured by both real property and personal property will be treated as a wholly qualifying real estate asset if the fair market value of such personal property does not exceed 15% of the total fair market value of all such property, even if the real property collateral is less than the outstanding principal balance on the loan.

As discussed above under “—Gross Income Tests,” certain loans that the Fund might originate could be at risk of being treated as equity interests in the borrower for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In such cases, the Fund would likely be treated as owning the Fund’s proportionate share of the borrower’s assets (if the borrower is a pass-through entity) or as owning corporate stock (if the borrower is a corporation), which could adversely affect the Fund’s ability to comply with the asset tests.

As discussed above under “—Gross Income Tests,” there may be circumstances in which the Fund’s mezzanine loans do not comply with the safe harbor under Revenue Procedure 2003-65. To the extent that any of the Fund’s mezzanine loans do not meet all of the requirements for reliance on the safe harbor set forth in the Revenue Procedure, such loans may not be real estate assets and could adversely affect the Fund’s REIT tax status.

As discussed above under “—Gross Income Tests,” participation interests in loans that the Fund acquires may not be treated as direct interests in the underlying mortgage loan, which may cause the participation interest to not qualify as a real estate asset. While the Fund intends that any such participation interests will be structured in a manner so as to be treated for REIT tax purposes as equivalent to a direct interest in the loan, and therefore, as a real estate asset, there can be no guarantee that such treatment is respected by the IRS.

Regular or residual interests in REMICs are generally treated as a real estate asset. If, however, less than 95% of the assets of a REMIC consists of real estate assets (determined as if the Fund held such assets), the Fund will be treated as owning the Fund’s proportionate share of the assets of the REMIC. The IRS has issued guidance providing that, among other things, if a REIT holds a regular or residual interest in an “eligible REMIC” that informs the REIT that at least 80% of the REMIC’s assets constitute real estate assets, then the REIT may treat 80% of the value of the interest in the REMIC as a real estate asset for the purpose of the REIT asset tests. The remaining 20% of the value of the REIT’s interest in the REMIC would not qualify as a real estate asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests and could adversely affect the Fund’s ability to qualify for taxation as a REIT. In the case of interests in grantor trusts, the Fund will be treated as owning an undivided beneficial interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust. Such mortgage loans will generally qualify as real estate assets for purposes of the 75% asset test to the extent they are secured by real property. Investments in mortgage backed securities that are not interests in a grantor trust or REMIC or government securities will not be treated as qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test and will be subject to the 5% asset test, the 10% value test, the 10% vote test and the 25% securities test described above.

The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements under which the Fund will nominally sell certain of the Fund's assets to a counterparty and simultaneously enter into an agreement to repurchase the sold assets. The Fund generally believes that the Fund will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as the owner of the assets that are the subject of any such repurchase agreement and the repurchase agreement will be treated as a secured lending transaction notwithstanding that the Fund may transfer record ownership of the assets to the counterparty during the term of the agreement. It is possible, however, that the IRS could successfully assert that the Fund did not own the assets during the term of the repurchase agreement, which could impact the Fund's REIT tax status.

The Fund believes that its loan holdings and other assets will be structured in a manner that will comply with the foregoing REIT asset requirements and the Fund intends to monitor compliance on an ongoing basis. There can be no assurance, however, that the Fund will be successful in this effort. In this regard, to determine compliance with these requirements, the Fund will need to estimate the value of the Fund's assets (or the value of the collateral securing the Fund's loans). The Fund may not obtain independent appraisals to support the Fund's conclusions concerning the values of the Fund's assets, or in many cases, the values may not be susceptible to a precise determination and are subject to change in the future. In some cases, the Fund may rely on its own valuation that differs from the value determined by an appraiser. There can be no assurance that the IRS will not disagree with the determinations and assert that a different value is applicable, in which case the Fund might not satisfy the 75% asset test and the other asset tests and could fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT.

### ***Failure to Satisfy Asset Tests***

After initially meeting the asset tests at the close of any quarter, the Fund will not lose its qualification for taxation as a REIT for failure to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a later quarter solely by reason of changes in asset values. If the Fund fails to satisfy the asset tests because the Fund acquires assets during a quarter, the Fund can cure this failure by disposing of sufficient non-qualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. If the Fund fails the 5% asset test, or the 10% vote or value asset tests at the end of any quarter and such failure is not cured within 30 days thereafter, the Fund may dispose of sufficient assets (generally within six months after the last day of the quarter in which the identification of the failure to satisfy these asset tests occurred) to cure such a violation that does not exceed the lesser of 1% of the Fund's assets at the end of the relevant quarter or \$10,000,000. If the Fund fails any of the other asset tests or the Fund's failure of the 5% and 10% asset tests is in excess of the de minimis amount described above, as long as such failure was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, the Fund is permitted to avoid disqualification for taxation as a REIT, after the 30 day cure period, by taking steps, including the disposition of sufficient assets to meet the asset test (generally within six months after the last day of the quarter in which the Fund identified the failure to satisfy the REIT asset test) and paying a tax equal to the greater of (x) \$50,000 or (y) the amount determined by multiplying the net income generated during a specified period by the assets that cause the failure by the highest U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to corporations.

### **Annual Distribution Requirements**

In order to continue to qualify for taxation as a REIT, the Fund is required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to the Fund's Shareholders in an amount at least equal to: (i) the sum of: (a) 90% of the Fund's "REIT taxable income" (computed without regard to its deduction for dividends paid and its net capital gains); and (b) 90% of the net income (after tax), if any, from foreclosure property (as described below); minus (ii) the sum of specified items of non-cash income that exceeds a percentage of the Fund's income.

These distributions must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate or in the following taxable year if such distributions are declared in October, November or December of the taxable year, are payable to Shareholders of record on a specified date in any such month and are actually paid before the end of January of the following year. Such distributions are treated as both paid by the Fund and received by each Shareholder on December 31 of the year in which they are declared. In addition, at the Fund's election, a distribution for a taxable year may be declared before the Fund timely files its tax return for the year and be paid with or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration, provided that such payment is made during the 12-month period following the close of such taxable year. These distributions are taxable to the Fund's Shareholders in the year in which paid, even though the distributions relate to the Fund's prior taxable year for purposes of the 90% distribution requirement.

In order for distributions to be counted towards the Fund's distribution requirement and to give rise to a tax deduction by the Fund, they must not be "preferential dividends." A dividend is not a preferential dividend if it is *pro rata* among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class and is in accordance with the preferences among different classes of stock as set forth in the organizational documents. To avoid paying preferential dividends, the Fund must treat every Shareholder of the class of Shares with respect to which the Fund makes a distribution the same as every other Shareholder of that class, and the Fund must not treat any class of Shares other than according to its dividend rights as a class. Under certain technical rules governing deficiency dividends, the Fund could lose its ability to cure an under-distribution in a year with a subsequent year deficiency dividend if the Fund pays preferential dividends. Preferential dividends potentially include "dividend equivalent redemptions." Accordingly, the Fund intends to pay dividends *pro rata* within each class, and to abide by the rights and preferences of each class of the Fund's Shares if there is more than one, and will seek to avoid dividend equivalent redemptions. (See "— Taxation of U.S. Shareholders — Redemptions of the Fund's Common Shares" below for a discussion of when redemptions are dividend equivalent and measures the Fund intends to take to avoid them.) If, however, the Fund qualifies as a "publicly offered REIT" (within the meaning of Section 562(c) of the Code) in the future, the preferential dividend rules will cease to apply to the Fund. In addition, the IRS is authorized to provide alternative remedies to cure a failure to comply with the preferential dividend rules, but as of the date hereof, no such authorized procedures have been promulgated.

To the extent that the Fund distributes at least 90%, but less than 100%, of the Fund's "REIT taxable income," as adjusted, the Fund will be subject to tax at ordinary U.S. federal corporate tax rates on the retained portion. In addition, the Fund may elect to retain, rather than distribute, the Fund's net long-term capital gains and pay tax on such gains. In this case, the Fund could elect to have the Fund's Shareholders include their proportionate share of such undistributed long-term capital gains in income and receive a corresponding credit or refund, as the case may be, for their proportionate share of the tax paid by the Fund. The Fund's Shareholders would then increase the adjusted basis of their stock in the Fund by the difference between the designated amounts included in their long-term capital gains and the tax deemed paid with respect to their proportionate Shares.

If the Fund fails to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of the Fund's REIT ordinary income for such year, (2) 95% of the Fund's REIT capital gain net income for such year and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, the Fund will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the sum of (x) the amounts actually distributed (taking into account excess distributions from prior periods) and (y) the amounts of income retained on which the Fund has paid corporate income tax. The Fund intends to make timely distributions so that the Fund is not subject to the 4% excise tax.

It is possible that the Fund, from time to time, may not have sufficient cash from operations to meet the distribution requirements, for example, due to timing differences between the actual receipt of cash and the inclusion of the corresponding items in income by the Fund for U.S. federal income tax purposes prior to receipt of such income in cash or non-deductible expenditures. See "—Gross Income Tests—Phantom Income" above. In the event that such shortfalls occur, to meet the Fund's distribution requirements it might be necessary to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings, use cash reserves, liquidate non-cash assets at rates or times that the Fund regards as unfavorable or pay dividends in the form of taxable stock dividends. In the case of a taxable stock dividend, Shareholders would be required to include the dividend as income and would be required to satisfy the tax liability associated with the distribution with cash from other sources.

The Fund may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirements for a year by paying “deficiency dividends” to Shareholders in a later year, which may be included in the Fund’s deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. In this case, the Fund may be able to avoid losing the Fund’s qualification for taxation as a REIT or being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. However, the Fund will be required to pay interest and a penalty based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

In the event that the Fund undertakes a transaction (such as a tax-free merger) in which the Fund succeeds to earnings and profits of a taxable corporation, in addition to the distribution requirements above the Fund also must distribute such non-REIT earnings and profits to its Shareholders by the close of the taxable year of the transaction. Such additional dividends are not deductible against the Fund’s REIT taxable income. The Fund may be able to rectify a failure to distribute any such non-REIT earnings and profits by making distributions in a later year comparable to deficiency dividends noted above and paying an interest charge.

Liquidating distributions generally will be treated as dividends for purposes of the above rules to the extent of current earnings and profits in the year paid provided the Fund completes its liquidation within 24 months following the Fund’s adoption of a plan of liquidation. Compliance with this 24 month requirement could require the Fund to sell assets at unattractive prices, distribute unsold assets to a “liquidating trust” for the benefit of the Fund’s Shareholders, or terminate the Fund’s tax status as a REIT. The U.S. federal income tax treatment of a beneficial interest in a liquidating trust would vary significantly from the U.S. federal income treatment of ownership of the Fund’s Shares.

### **Excess Inclusion Income**

If the Fund directly or indirectly acquires a residual interest in a REMIC or equity interests in a taxable mortgage pool, a portion of its income from such arrangements may be treated as “excess inclusion income.” See “—Effect of Subsidiary Entities—Taxable Mortgage Pools.” The Fund is required to allocate any excess inclusion income to the Fund’s Shareholders in proportion to their dividends. The Fund would be subject to U.S. corporate tax to the extent of any excess inclusion income from the REMIC residual interest or taxable mortgage pool that is allocable to the percentage of the Fund’s Shares held in record name by “disqualified organizations,” which are generally certain cooperatives, governmental entities and tax-exempt organizations that are exempt from tax on UBTI. The Fund may deduct such taxes from the distributions otherwise payable to the responsible disqualified organizations. Because this tax would be imposed on the Fund, however, unless the Fund can recover the tax out of distributions to the disqualified holders, all of the Fund’s investors, including investors that are not disqualified organizations, would bear a portion of the tax cost associated with the classification of the Fund or a portion of the Fund’s assets as a taxable mortgage pool.

Shareholders who are not disqualified organizations will have to treat the Fund’s dividends as excess inclusion income to the extent of their allocable shares of the Fund’s excess inclusion income. This income cannot be offset by net operating losses of the Fund’s Shareholders. If the Shareholder is a tax-exempt entity and not a disqualified organization, then this income is fully taxable as UBTI under Section 512 of the Code. If the Shareholder is a foreign person, it would be subject to U.S. federal income tax withholding on this income without reduction or exemption pursuant to any otherwise applicable income tax treaty. If the Shareholder is a REIT, a regulated investment company, common trust fund or other pass-through entity, the Shareholder’s allocable share of the Fund’s excess inclusion income could be considered excess inclusion income of such entity.

## **Prohibited Transactions**

Net income the Fund derives from a prohibited transaction outside of a taxable REIT subsidiary is subject to a 100% tax unless the transaction qualifies for a statutory safe harbor discussed below. The term “prohibited transaction” generally includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property) that is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers, in the ordinary course of a trade or business by a REIT. For purposes of this 100% tax, income earned from a shared appreciation provision in a mortgage loan (see below) is treated as if the REIT sold an interest in the underlying property (thus subjecting such income to 100% tax if the Fund holds the shared appreciation mortgage outside of a taxable REIT subsidiary and the underlying property is inventory or held for sale). The 100% tax will not apply to gains from the sale of property held through a taxable REIT subsidiary or other taxable corporations (which are taxed at regular corporate rates). Thus, the Fund intends to conduct the Fund’s operations so that loans or other assets owned by the Fund (or assets that are the subject of a shared appreciation provision that the Fund owns) that are inventory or held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business are held through a taxable REIT subsidiary. However, whether property is held as inventory or “primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business” depends on the particular facts and circumstances, and no assurance can be given that the Fund will be successful in isolating all investments subject to the 100% tax in the Fund’s taxable REIT subsidiaries or that the Fund will not engage in prohibited transactions outside of the Fund’s taxable REIT subsidiaries. With respect to kickers treated as equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as well as any loans treated as equity interests in the Fund’s borrowers for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Fund’s income from such interests may be income from a prohibited transaction subject to the 100% tax if the underlying real property is treated as held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers.

## **Foreclosure Property**

Foreclosure property is real property and any personal property incident to such real property (1) that is acquired by a REIT as a result of the REIT having bid on the property at foreclosure or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law after there was a default (or default was imminent) on a lease of the property or a mortgage loan held by the REIT and secured by the property, (2) for which the related loan or lease was acquired by the REIT at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated and (3) for which such REIT makes a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property. REITs generally are subject to tax at the highest U.S. federal corporate rate on any net income from foreclosure property, including any gain from the disposition of the foreclosure property, other than income that would otherwise be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any gain from the sale of property for which a foreclosure property election is in effect will not be subject to the 100% tax on gains from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property would otherwise constitute inventory or property held for sale in the hands of the selling REIT.

## **Shared Appreciation Mortgages/Equity Participations**

In connection with the Fund’s acquisition and/or origination of loans, the Fund could obtain rights to share in the appreciation of the underlying collateral real property securing the mortgage loan. These participation features may be structured as “shared appreciation provisions” that are in connection with the loan itself or as a severable contingent right on the collateral. The participation features are sometimes referred to as “kickers.” To the extent the shared appreciation provision is in connection with the loan secured by real property, any income derived from the shared appreciation provision will be treated as gain from the sale of the collateral property for REIT income test purposes and for purposes of determining whether such income is income from a prohibited transaction. However, this treatment will not impact the character of the shared appreciation payment as contingent interest for other tax purposes. To the extent a participation feature is structured as a severable contingent right in the collateral property, or otherwise does not meet the definition of “shared appreciation provision,” the Fund may either be treated as owning an equity interest in the collateral property for the REIT income and asset tests or as holding a loan that provides for interest based on net profits, which would not be qualifying income for both the 75% and 95% REIT income tests. The Fund may hold severable contingent rights through a taxable REIT subsidiary, in which case they will be subject to corporate tax but will not generate non-qualifying income (except to the extent of taxable REIT subsidiary dividends for the 75% income test) or non-qualifying assets (except to the extent of the additional value in the taxable REIT subsidiary stock).



## **Failure to Qualify**

In the event that the Fund violates a provision of the Code that would result in the Fund's failure to qualify as a REIT, the Fund may nevertheless continue to qualify as a REIT under specified relief provisions available to the Fund to avoid such disqualification if (i) the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, (ii) the Fund pays a penalty of \$50,000 for each failure to satisfy a requirement for qualification for taxation as a REIT and (iii) the violation does not include a violation under the gross income or asset tests described above (for which other specified relief provisions are available). This cure provision reduces the instances that could lead to the Fund's disqualification for taxation as a REIT for violations due to reasonable cause. If the Fund fails to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year and none of the relief provisions of the Code apply, the Fund will be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax. Distributions to the Fund's Shareholders in any year in which the Fund is not a REIT for tax purposes will not be deductible by the Fund, nor will they be required to be made. In this situation, to the extent of current or accumulated earnings and profits, and, subject to limitations of the Code, distributions to the Fund's Shareholders will generally be taxable as qualified dividend income. Subject to certain limitations, dividends in the hands of the Fund's corporate U.S. Shareholders may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless the Fund is entitled to relief under the specific statutory provisions, the Fund will also be disqualified from re-electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following a year during which qualification was lost. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, the Fund will be entitled to statutory relief.

## **U.S. Shareholders**

*Distributions.* Distributions paid by the Fund from its ordinary income or from its excess of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses (together referred to as "ordinary income dividends") are taxable to U.S. Shareholders as ordinary income to the extent paid from the Fund's current or accumulated earnings and profits. Distributions made from the Fund's excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses, or "net capital gain" ("capital gain dividends"), if properly reported by the Fund, are taxable to U.S. Shareholders as long-term capital gains, regardless of the length of time the U.S. Shareholder has owned Shares. Ordinary income and capital gain dividends are taxable to Shareholders even if they are reinvested in additional Shares of the Fund. Distributions in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits (which represent a return of capital, meaning a return to Shareholders of the money they originally invested in the Fund) will first reduce the adjusted tax basis of a Shareholder's Shares and, after such adjusted tax basis is reduced to zero, will constitute capital gain to such Shareholder. The Fund will provide the Shareholders with a written notice reporting the amount of dividends paid during the year that qualify as capital gain dividends, as qualified dividend income (discussed below), and as ordinary income dividends.

A portion of the Fund's ordinary income dividends attributable to the dividends received from domestic corporations, and reported as such, may be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code if certain requirements are met. In addition, ordinary income dividends that are properly reported by the Fund and are derived from qualified dividend income are taxed to individuals at the rates applicable to long-term capital gains. Qualified dividend income generally includes dividends from domestic corporations and dividends from foreign corporations that meet certain specified criteria. Certain holding period and other requirements must be met by both the Shareholder and the Fund for distributions to be eligible for the corporate dividends received deduction or the preferential individual tax rates that apply to qualified dividend income, as the case may be. There can be no assurance as to what portion, if any, of the Fund's distributions will be eligible for the dividends received deduction or will constitute qualified dividend income.

If the Fund pays a dividend in January that was declared in the previous October, November or December to Shareholders of record on a specified date in one of such months, then such dividend will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as being paid by the Fund and received by the Shareholders on December 31 of the year in which the dividend was declared.

The Fund may elect to retain its net capital gain or a portion thereof for investment and be taxed at corporate rates (currently at a maximum of thirty-five percent (35%)) on the amount retained. In such case, it may report the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to the Shareholders, who will be treated as if each received a distribution of its pro rata common share of such gain, with the result that each Shareholder will: (i) be required to report its pro rata common share of such gain on its tax return as long-term capital gain; (ii) receive a refundable tax credit for its pro rata common share of tax paid by the Fund on the gain; and (iii) increase the tax basis for its Shares by an amount equal to the deemed distribution less the tax credit.

If an investor buys Shares just before the record date of a dividend declared by the Fund, the investor will receive that dividend. Such dividends, although in effect a return of capital, will be treated as ordinary income or capital gain dividends to the extent described above. Accordingly, the timing of the purchase of the Shares may result in a return of a portion of the investment as taxable income. Therefore, prior to purchasing Shares, an investor should carefully consider the impact of ordinary income or capital gains dividends that are expected to be or have been announced.

*Sale, Redemptions Other Disposition of Shares.* Upon the sale, exchange, repurchase or other disposition of Shares (including upon dissolution of the Fund), the Shareholder generally will realize a capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the Shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the Shares sold. Such gain or loss will be long-term or short-term, depending upon the Shareholder's holding period for the Shares. Generally, a Shareholder's gain or loss will be a long-term gain or loss if the Shares have been held for more than one year. However, any loss upon the sale or exchange of Shares held for six (6) months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss generally to the extent of any capital gain dividends received (or undistributed capital gains deemed received) by the Shareholder. For non-corporate U.S. Shareholders (including individuals), long-term capital gains may be subject to preferential rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code. A loss realized on a sale or exchange of Shares will be disallowed if any Shares are acquired (whether through the automatic reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) within a sixty-one (61) day period beginning thirty (30) days before and ending thirty (30) days after the date on which the Shares are disposed of. In such case, the basis of the Shares acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss.

*Medicare Tax.* Certain U.S. Shareholders who are individuals, estates or trusts and whose income exceeds certain thresholds will be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax on all or a portion of their "net investment income," which includes dividends received from the Fund and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of the Fund's stock.

## Non-U.S. Shareholders

*Distributions.* Ordinary income dividends paid to non-U.S. Shareholders generally will be subject to a thirty percent (30%) U.S. withholding tax (or possibly a lower rate provided by an applicable tax treaty) to the extent paid from the Fund's current or accumulated earnings and profits unless the dividends are effectively connected with the non-U.S. Shareholder's U.S. trade or business and, if an income tax treaty applies, attributable to the non-U.S. Shareholder's permanent establishment (as described below). However, for taxable years of a regulated investment company beginning before January 1, 2014 (and, if extended as has happened in the past, for taxable years covered by such extension), certain "interest-related dividends" and "short-term capital gain dividends" paid by the Fund to a non-U.S. Shareholder and reported by the Fund as such are eligible for an exemption from the thirty percent (30%) U.S. withholding tax. Interest-related dividends generally are dividends derived from certain interest income earned by the Fund that would not be subject to such tax if earned by a foreign Shareholder directly. Short-term capital gain dividends generally are dividends derived from the excess of the Fund's net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses. Both "interest-related dividends" and "short-term capital gain dividends" must be reported as such by a written statement furnished to Shareholders. There can be no assurance as to whether this provision will be extended or, even if extended, what portion of the Fund's distributions would qualify for favorable treatment as interest related dividends or short-term capital gain dividends. Non-U.S. Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisers concerning the applicability of U.S. withholding tax.

*Sale or Other Disposition of Shares.* A non-U.S. Shareholder will generally be exempt from U.S. federal income tax on capital gain dividends, any amounts retained by the Fund that are reported as undistributed capital gains and any gains realized upon the sale or other disposition of Shares of the Fund (including upon dissolution of the Fund), except in the case of: (i) an individual non-U.S. Shareholder that is present in the United States for one hundred and eighty-three (183) days or more in the taxable year of such distribution, sale or other disposition and for which certain other conditions are met; or (ii) a non-U.S. Shareholder for which such gains are effectively connected with the non-U.S. Shareholder's U.S. trade or business and, if an income tax treaty applies, attributable to the non-U.S. Shareholder's permanent establishment (as described below).

*Effectively Connected Income.* If income from the Fund is effectively connected with a non-U.S. Shareholder's U.S. trade or business and, if an income tax treaty applies, attributable to the non-U.S. Shareholder's U.S. permanent establishment, then ordinary income dividends, capital gain dividends, undistributed capital gains, and any gains realized from the sale or other disposition of Shares generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in substantially the same manner as if received by a U.S. Shareholder. Corporate non-U.S. Shareholders may also be subject to an additional branch profits tax.

*FATCA.* Under U.S. legislation enacted in 2010 and existing guidance thereunder, commonly known as the "Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act" or "FATCA," a thirty percent (30.00%) withholding tax on dividends paid by the Fund, and, on or after January 1, 2017, on certain capital gains distributions and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of Shares generally applies if paid to a foreign entity unless: (i) if the foreign entity is a "foreign financial institution" as defined under FATCA, the foreign entity undertakes certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligations; (ii) if the foreign entity is not a "foreign financial institution," it identifies certain of its U.S. investors; or (iii) the foreign entity is otherwise excepted under FATCA. If withholding is required under FATCA on a payment related to any Fund distribution, investors that otherwise would not be subject to withholding (or that otherwise would be entitled to a reduced rate of withholding) on such payment generally will be required to seek a refund or credit from the IRS to obtain the benefit of such exemption or reduction. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and an applicable foreign country, or future Treasury regulations or other guidance, may modify the foregoing requirements. The Fund will not pay any additional amounts in respect of amounts withheld under FATCA. Each investor should consult its tax adviser regarding the effect of FATCA based on its individual circumstances.

## **Backup Withholding**

Under certain provisions of the Code, some Shareholders may be subject to a withholding tax on ordinary income dividends, capital gain dividends and redemption payments (“backup withholding”). Generally, Shareholders subject to backup withholding will be those for whom no certified taxpayer identification number is on file with the Fund, who fails to establish an exemption from backup withholding or who, to the Fund's knowledge, have furnished an incorrect number. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules for payments made to a Shareholder may be refunded or credited against such Shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

## **Tax Treatment of Investments**

*Hedging and Derivative Transactions.* The transactions of the Fund are subject to special tax rules of the Code that may, among other things: (i) affect the character of gains and losses realized (for example, by converting lower taxed long-term capital gains or qualified dividend income into higher taxed short-term capital gains or ordinary income and converting an ordinary loss or deduction into capital loss (the deductibility of which is more limited)); (ii) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, (iii) accelerate the recognition of income without a corresponding receipt of cash (with which to make the necessary distributions to satisfy distribution requirements applicable to regulated investment companies); (iv) adversely affect the time as to when a purchase or sale of stock or securities is deemed to occur; (v) adversely alter the characterization of certain complex financial transactions; and (vi) produce income that will not be “qualified” income for purposes of the ninety percent (90.00%) annual gross income requirement described above. Operation of these rules could, therefore, affect the character, amount and timing of distributions to Shareholders. Special tax rules also may require the Fund to mark-to-market certain types of positions in its portfolio (i.e., treat them as sold on the last day of the taxable year), and may result in the recognition of income without a corresponding receipt of cash. If the Fund engages in transactions affected by these provisions, it intends to monitor its transactions, make appropriate tax elections and make appropriate entries in its books and records to mitigate, to the extent reasonably feasible, the effect of these tax rules and avoid any possible disqualification for the special treatment afforded regulated investment companies under the Code.

The Fund's gains and losses on the sale, lapse, or termination of options that it holds will generally have the same character as gains and losses from the sale of the security to which the option relates. Upon the exercise of a put held by the Fund, the premium initially paid for the put is offset against the amount received for the security sold pursuant to the put thereby decreasing any gain (or increasing any loss) realized on the sale. Generally, such gain or loss is capital gain or loss, the character of which as long-term or short-term depends on the holding period of the security. However, the purchase of a put option may be subject to the short sale rules or straddle rules for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The Fund may invest in securities or derivative transactions the U.S. federal income tax treatment of which is uncertain. The timing or character of income received by the Fund may be affected to the extent that the U.S. federal income tax treatment of such securities or transactions differs from the treatment anticipated by the Fund. In such case, the Fund may be required to purchase or sell securities or otherwise change its portfolio in order to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company.

**THE FOREGOING IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX MATTERS THAT ARE PERTINENT TO PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS. THE SUMMARY IS NOT, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE, A COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF ALL PROVISIONS OF THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAW WHICH MAY HAVE AN EFFECT ON SUCH INVESTMENTS. THIS ANALYSIS IS NOT INTENDED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR CAREFUL TAX PLANNING. ACCORDINGLY, PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN RESPECTIVE TAX ADVISERS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR OWN RESPECTIVE TAX SITUATIONS AND THE EFFECTS OF THIS INVESTMENT THEREON.**

### **CODE OF ETHICS**

Each of the Fund's and the Advisor's codes of ethics (the "Codes of Ethics") have been adopted in compliance with Section 17(j) of the 1940 Act and Rule 17j-1 thereunder. Each Code of Ethics establishes procedures for personal investing and restricts certain transactions. Employees subject to a Code of Ethics may invest in securities for their personal investment accounts, including making investments in the securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund.

The Codes of Ethics may be viewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Information about the SEC's Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 202.551.8090. The Codes of Ethics also may be available on the Edgar Database on the SEC's Website, <http://www.sec.gov>, or be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to: SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549-0102.

### **PROXY VOTING POLICY AND PROXY VOTING RECORD**

The Board of Trustees of the Fund has delegated the voting of proxies for Fund securities to the Advisor pursuant to the Advisor's proxy voting policies and procedures. Under these policies and procedures, the Advisor will vote proxies related to Fund securities in the best interests of the Fund and the Shareholders. A copy of the proxy voting policies and procedures of the Fund and of the Advisor is attached as Appendix A to this SAI.

Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 will be available without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund at (877) 771-7715, and on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

### **FISCAL YEAR**

For accounting purposes, the Fund's fiscal year is the 12-month period ending on March 31.

### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

RSM US LLP, 80 City Square, Boston, MA 02129("RSM") serves as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Fund.

### **LEGAL COUNSEL**

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

### **ADMINISTRATOR**

The Fund has contracted with UMB Fund Services, Inc. (the "Administrator") to provide it with certain administrative and accounting services. For the fiscal period ended March 31, 2022 the Fund paid the Administrator \$28,230, in administration fees, \$12,603 in accounting fees and \$17,286 in transfer agent fees. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 the Fund paid the Administrator \$55,583, in administration fees, \$24,813 in accounting fees and \$52,557 in transfer agent fees.

## **CUSTODIAN**

UMB Bank, n.a. (the “Custodian”), serves as the primary custodian of the assets of the Fund, and may maintain custody of such assets with U.S. and non-U.S. sub-custodians (which may be banks, trust companies, securities depositories and clearing agencies) in accordance with the requirements of Section 17(f) of the 1940 Act. Assets of the Fund are not held by the Advisor, or commingled with the assets of other accounts other than to the extent that securities are held in the name of the Custodian or U.S. or non-U.S. sub-custodians in a securities depository, clearing agency or omnibus customer account of such custodian. The Custodian’s principal business address is 1010 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. The Custodian is an affiliate of the Administrator.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

The Fund has entered into a distribution agreement with UMB Distribution Services, LLC (the “Distributor”). Under the Distribution Agreement, the Distributor serves as the Fund’s principal underwriter and acts as exclusive agent for the Fund in selling its shares to the public. The Distributor is an affiliate of the Administrator and Custodian.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Fund’s audited financial statements and financial highlights for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 (including the report of RSM US LLP, the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm) (the “Annual Report”) are incorporated by reference into this SAI. No other parts of the Annual Report are incorporated by reference herein. You may obtain the Annual Report free of charge by writing to the Fund, c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc., 235 West Galena Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212, by calling the Fund toll-free at (877) 771-7715.

## **APPENDIX A:**

### **PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE FUND AND THE ADVISOR**

#### **PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Fund has adopted a Proxy Voting Policy used to determine how the Fund votes proxies relating to its portfolio securities. Under the Fund’s Proxy Voting Policy, the Fund has, subject to the oversight of the Trust’s Board, delegated to the Advisor the following duties: (i) to make the proxy voting decisions for the Fund, subject to the exceptions described below; and (ii) to assist the Fund in disclosing their respective proxy voting record as required by Rule 30b1-4 under the 1940 Act.

In cases where a matter with respect to which the Fund was entitled to vote presents a conflict between the interest of the Fund’s shareholders on the one hand, and those of the Fund’s investment adviser, principal underwriter, or an affiliated person of the Fund, its investment adviser, or principal underwriter on the other hand, the Fund shall always vote in the best interest of the Fund’s shareholders. For purposes of this Policy a vote shall be considered in the best interest of the Fund’s shareholders when a vote is cast consistent with a specific voting policy as set forth in the Advisor’s Proxy Voting Policy (described below), provided such specific voting policy was approved by the Board.

The Fund CCO shall ensure that the Advisor has adopted a Proxy Voting Policy, which it uses to vote proxies for its clients, including the Fund.

#### **A. General**

The Fund believes that the voting of proxies is an important part of portfolio management as it represents an opportunity for shareholders to make their voices heard and to influence the direction of a company. The Fund is committed to voting corporate proxies in the manner that best serves the interests of the Fund's shareholders.

#### **B. Delegation to the Advisor**

The Fund believes that the Advisor is in the best position to make individual voting decisions for the Fund consistent with this Policy. Therefore, subject to the oversight of the Board, the Advisor is hereby delegated the following duties:

- (1) to make the proxy voting decisions for the Fund, in accordance with the Advisor's Proxy Voting Policy, except as provided herein; and
- (2) to assist the Fund in disclosing its respective proxy voting record as required by Rule 30b1-4 under the 1940 Act, including providing the following information for each matter with respect to which the Fund is entitled to vote: (a) information identifying the matter voted on; (b) whether the matter was proposed by the issuer or by a security holder; (c) whether and how the Fund casts its vote; and (d) whether the Fund casts its vote for or against management.

The Board, including a majority of the independent trustees of the Board, must approve the Advisor's Proxy Voting and Disclosure Policy (the "Advisor Voting Policy") as it relates to the Fund. The Board must also approve any material changes to the Advisor Voting Policy no later than six (6) months after adoption by an Advisor.

#### **C. Conflicts**

In cases where a matter with respect to which the Fund was entitled to vote presents a conflict between the interest of the Fund's shareholders on the one hand, and those of the Fund's investment adviser, principal underwriter, or an affiliated person of the Fund, its investment adviser, or principal underwriter on the other hand, the Fund shall always vote in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders. For purposes of this Policy a vote shall be considered in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders when a vote is cast consistent with the specific voting policy as set forth in the Advisor Voting Policy, provided such specific voting policy was approved by the Board.

## **THIRDLINE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC**

#### **Voting Client Securities**

Under Section 206 of the Advisers Act, an investment adviser has a fiduciary duty to vote proxies in the best interests of the client and to treat clients fairly. In cases where Thirdline Capital Management, LLC ("Thirdline") exercises discretion over the purchase of securities Thirdline shall vote proxies related to securities held by any client's account over which it maintains discretionary authority consistent with its proxy voting policy. Proxy votes generally will be cast in a manner that is in the best interest of the client.

In exercising its voting discretion, Thirdline shall seek to avoid any direct or indirect conflict of interest raised by such voting decision. If the Chief Compliance Officer believes that there is any potential material conflict of interest for the Firm on a particular proxy vote, it is to be turned over to the Investment Management Committee for the voting decision.

Consistent with Rule 206(4)-6 of the Advisers Act, Thirdline will retain certain records required by applicable law in connection with its proxy voting activities for clients and shall provide proxy-voting information to clients upon their written or oral request. A copy of Thirdline's proxy voting policies and procedures is available to clients upon request.

### **Proxy Voting Delegation**

Thirdline's policy will require that proxies received will be voted in a manner consistent with the best interests of the investment portfolio and its clients. As required, Thirdline may present to Thirdline's clients, at least annually, their policies and a record of each proxy voted by the sub-advisers on behalf of clients, including a report on the resolution of all proxies identified by the Advisor as involving a conflict of interest.

When a material conflict of interest between Thirdline's interests and its Clients' interests appears to exist, Thirdline may choose among the following options to eliminate such conflict: (1) for routine matters, voting in accordance with Thirdline's policies and procedures and the guidelines, where doing so involves little or no discretion; (2) if possible, erect information barriers around the person or persons making voting decisions sufficient to insulate the decision from the conflict; (3) notify affected Clients of the conflict of interest and seek a waiver of the conflict; (4) if agreed upon in writing with the Client, forward the proxies to affected Clients allowing them to vote their own proxies; or (5) may convene an ad-hoc committee of no fewer than two senior executives with the portfolio manager to debate the conflict and to give ruling on the preferred course of action. In all instances, Thirdline will seek to resolve the conflict in a manner that is acceptable to all affected parties and is in the best interests of any affected Client(s).