

BNY Mellon Equity Income Fund

ANNUAL FINANCIALS AND OTHER INFORMATION

May 31, 2025

Class	Ticker
A	DQIAX
C	DQICX
I	DQIRX
Y	DQIYX

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THE FUND

Please note the Annual Financials and Other Information only contains Items 7-11 required in Form N-CSR. All other required items will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”).

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Item 7. Financial Statements and Financial Highlights for Open-End Management Investment Companies.

BNY Mellon Equity Income Fund
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS

May 31, 2025

Description	Shares	Value (\$)
Common Stocks — 99.0%		
Automobiles & Components — 2.0%		
Tesla, Inc. ^(a)	94,120	32,608,815
Banks — 7.6%		
Bank of America Corp.	651,001	28,728,674
Citigroup, Inc.	99,872	7,522,359
First Horizon Corp.	736,798	14,647,544
Huntington Bancshares, Inc.	234,788	3,669,737
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	210,285	55,515,240
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	50,848	8,837,891
U.S. Bancorp	159,438	6,949,902
		125,871,347
Capital Goods — 5.2%		
Cummins, Inc.	43,582	14,010,741
Emerson Electric Co.	125,696	15,005,588
Hubbell, Inc.	9,233	3,596,992
Illinois Tool Works, Inc.	15,972	3,914,418
Johnson Controls International PLC	67,461	6,838,522
Lockheed Martin Corp.	35,266	17,011,613
TransDigm Group, Inc.	17,309	25,417,055
		85,794,929
Commercial & Professional Services — 1.0%		
Paychex, Inc.	106,025	16,742,408
Consumer Discretionary Distribution & Retail — 4.6%		
Amazon.com, Inc. ^(a)	293,548	60,180,276
Best Buy Co., Inc.	65,611	4,348,697
The Home Depot, Inc.	31,580	11,630,598
		76,159,571
Consumer Durables & Apparel — .2%		
Ralph Lauren Corp.	10,496	2,905,398
Consumer Services — 1.6%		
Darden Restaurants, Inc.	111,313	23,844,358
The Wendy's Company ^(b)	270,448	3,083,107
		26,927,465
Consumer Staples Distribution & Retail — .4%		
Sysco Corp.	55,793	4,072,889
Target Corp.	21,663	2,036,539
		6,109,428
Energy — 4.6%		
Coterra Energy, Inc.	145,440	3,535,646
Diamondback Energy, Inc.	53,448	7,191,429
Exxon Mobil Corp.	101,564	10,389,997
Kinder Morgan, Inc.	272,405	7,638,236
ONEOK, Inc.	144,423	11,675,155
Phillips 66	142,736	16,197,681
The Williams Companies, Inc.	158,393	9,584,361
Valero Energy Corp.	81,171	10,468,624
		76,681,129
Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts — 1.5%		
AvalonBay Communities, Inc. ^(c)	18,366	3,797,538

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (continued)

Description	Shares	Value (\$)
Common Stocks — 99.0% (continued)		
Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts — 1.5% (continued)		
BXP, Inc. ^(c)	76,513	5,151,620
Equity Residential ^(c)	46,461	3,258,775
Essex Property Trust, Inc. ^(c)	14,296	4,058,634
Simon Property Group, Inc. ^(c)	52,499	8,561,012
		24,827,579
Financial Services — 5.4%		
Blackrock, Inc.	14,395	14,105,517
CME Group, Inc.	6,195	1,790,355
Morgan Stanley	98,400	12,598,152
Northern Trust Corp.	43,100	4,600,494
State Street Corp.	161,820	15,580,030
T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.	112,172	10,498,177
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	33,225	19,949,951
The Western Union Company	130,150	1,207,792
Visa, Inc., Cl. A	25,607	9,351,420
		89,681,888
Food, Beverage & Tobacco — 7.9%		
Altria Group, Inc.	779,663	47,255,374
Conagra Brands, Inc.	197,858	4,528,970
Molson Coors Beverage Co., Cl. B	145,073	7,774,462
Philip Morris International, Inc.	321,422	58,045,599
The J.M. Smucker Company	116,546	13,124,245
		130,728,650
Health Care Equipment & Services — 2.3%		
Medtronic PLC	455,692	37,813,322
Household & Personal Products — .7%		
Kimberly-Clark Corp.	71,628	10,297,241
The Procter & Gamble Company	8,880	1,508,623
		11,805,864
Insurance — 1.6%		
Prudential Financial, Inc.	20,428	2,122,265
The Allstate Corp.	112,168	23,540,698
		25,662,963
Materials — 3.1%		
Amcor PLC	394,518	3,594,059
CF Industries Holdings, Inc.	20,700	1,877,697
Dow, Inc.	106,487	2,953,949
Freeport-McMoRan, Inc.	196,216	7,550,392
International Paper Co.	144,687	6,917,485
LyondellBasell Industries NV, Cl. A ^(b)	279,400	15,783,306
Packaging Corp. of America	69,810	13,485,198
		52,162,086
Media & Entertainment — 6.7%		
Alphabet, Inc., Cl. A	183,788	31,563,751
Alphabet, Inc., Cl. C	156,724	27,089,743
Comcast Corp., Cl. A	87,413	3,021,868
Meta Platforms, Inc., Cl. A	56,457	36,555,343
Netflix, Inc. ^(a)	10,873	13,126,212
		111,356,917
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences — 6.2%		
Amgen, Inc.	29,244	8,427,536

Description	Shares	Value (\$)
Common Stocks — 99.0% (continued)		
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences — 6.2% (continued)		
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.	651,163	31,438,150
Gilead Sciences, Inc.	163,964	18,049,157
Johnson & Johnson	198,071	30,742,600
Merck & Co., Inc.	138,238	10,622,208
Pfizer, Inc.	183,150	4,302,193
		103,581,844
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment — 11.9%		
Broadcom, Inc.	302,010	73,107,561
NVIDIA Corp.	732,860	99,031,372
QUALCOMM, Inc.	148,966	21,629,863
Skyworks Solutions, Inc.	56,930	3,929,878
		197,698,674
Software & Services — 7.0%		
Dolby Laboratories, Inc., Cl. A	67,011	4,976,237
Microsoft Corp.	240,876	110,889,675
		115,865,912
Technology Hardware & Equipment — 8.9%		
Apple, Inc.	452,731	90,931,021
Cisco Systems, Inc.	458,753	28,919,789
Corning, Inc.	77,833	3,859,738
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co.	295,460	5,105,549
HP, Inc.	87,489	2,178,476
NetApp, Inc.	39,110	3,878,148
Seagate Technology Holdings PLC	104,706	12,349,026
		147,221,747
Telecommunication Services — 5.3%		
AT&T, Inc.	1,285,771	35,744,434
Verizon Communications, Inc.	1,171,767	51,510,877
		87,255,311
Utilities — 3.3%		
American Electric Power Co., Inc.	38,817	4,017,171
Consolidated Edison, Inc.	34,449	3,599,576
Constellation Energy Corp.	53,254	16,303,712
Dominion Energy, Inc. ^(b)	29,196	1,654,537
Edison International	27,900	1,552,635
Entergy Corp.	146,445	12,195,940
Exelon Corp.	42,559	1,864,935
FirstEnergy Corp.	81,208	3,405,864
NRG Energy, Inc.	16,600	2,587,940
OGE Energy Corp.	95,336	4,239,592
PPL Corp.	109,998	3,822,431
		55,244,333
Total Common Stocks (cost \$1,125,185,840)		1,640,707,580
	1-Day Yield (%)	
Investment Companies — .9%		
Registered Investment Companies — .9%		
Dreyfus Institutional Preferred Government Plus Money Market Fund, Institutional Shares ^(d) (cost \$14,562,624)	4.42	14,562,624
		14,562,624

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (continued)

Description	1-Day Yield (%)	Shares	Value (\$)
Investment of Cash Collateral for Securities Loaned — .0%			
Registered Investment Companies — .0%			
Dreyfus Institutional Preferred Government Plus Money Market Fund, Institutional Shares ^(d) (cost \$365,470)	4.42	365,470	365,470
Total Investments (cost \$1,140,113,934)		99.9%	1,655,635,674
Cash and Receivables (Net)		.1%	2,239,126
Net Assets		100.0%	1,657,874,800

^(a) Non-income producing security.

^(b) Security, or portion thereof, on loan. At May 31, 2025, the value of the fund's securities on loan was \$20,315,733 and the value of the collateral was \$21,450,990, consisting of cash collateral of \$365,470 and U.S. Government & Agency securities valued at \$21,085,520. In addition, the value of collateral may include pending sales that are also on loan.

^(c) Investment in real estate investment trust within the United States.

^(d) Investment in affiliated issuer. The investment objective of this investment company is publicly available and can be found within the investment company's prospectus.

Affiliated Issuers					
Description	Value (\$) 5/31/2024	Purchases (\$) [†]	Sales (\$)	Value (\$) 5/31/2025	Dividends/ Distributions (\$)
Registered Investment Companies - .9%					
Dreyfus Institutional Preferred Government Plus Money Market Fund, Institutional Shares - .9%	13,164,475	472,649,755	(471,251,606)	14,562,624	751,812
Investment of Cash Collateral for Securities Loaned - .0%					
Dreyfus Institutional Preferred Government Plus Money Market Fund, Institutional Shares - .0%	-	103,697,629	(103,332,159)	365,470	12,984 ^{††}
Total - .9%	13,164,475	576,347,384	(574,583,765)	14,928,094	764,796

[†] Includes reinvested dividends/distributions.

^{††} Represents securities lending income earned from the reinvestment of cash collateral from loaned securities, net of fees and collateral investment expenses, and other payments to and from borrowers of securities.

See notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

May 31, 2025

	Cost	Value		
Assets (\$):				
Investments in securities—See Statement of Investments (including securities on loan, valued at \$20,315,733)—Note 1(b):				
Unaffiliated issuers	1,125,185,840	1,640,707,580		
Affiliated issuers	14,928,094	14,928,094		
Receivable for shares of Beneficial Interest subscribed		4,397,678		
Dividends and securities lending income receivable		1,808,922		
Prepaid expenses		95,259		
		1,661,937,533		
Liabilities (\$):				
Due to BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. and affiliates—Note 3(c)		1,065,998		
Payable for shares of Beneficial Interest redeemed		2,395,467		
Liability for securities on loan—Note 1(b)		365,470		
Trustees’ fees and expenses payable		28,459		
Other accrued expenses		207,339		
		4,062,733		
Net Assets (\$)		1,657,874,800		
Composition of Net Assets (\$):				
Paid-in capital		1,141,496,840		
Total distributable earnings (loss)		516,377,960		
Net Assets (\$)		1,657,874,800		
Net Asset Value Per Share				
	Class A	Class C	Class I	Class Y
Net Assets (\$)	367,480,568	44,703,452	1,220,299,465	25,391,315
Shares Outstanding	11,834,813	1,465,969	39,194,100	809,991
Net Asset Value Per Share (\$)	31.05	30.49	31.13	31.35

See notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended May 31, 2025

Investment Income (\$):	
Income:	
Cash dividends:	
Unaffiliated issuers	35,526,452
Affiliated issuers	751,812
Affiliated income net of rebates from securities lending—Note 1(b)	12,984
Interest	571
Total Income	36,291,819
Expenses:	
Management fee—Note 3(a)	10,244,777
Shareholder servicing costs—Note 3(c)	1,695,228
Distribution Plan fees—Note 3(b)	376,892
Trustees' fees and expenses—Note 3(d)	178,586
Registration fees	133,033
Professional fees	116,947
Prospectus and shareholders' reports	33,065
Loan commitment fees—Note 2	31,516
Chief Compliance Officer fees—Note 3(c)	25,089
Custodian fees—Note 3(c)	22,520
Interest expense—Note 2	261
Miscellaneous	28,888
Total Expenses	12,886,802
Less—reduction in expenses due to undertaking—Note 3(a)	(100,912)
Less—reduction in fees due to earnings credits—Note 3(c)	(5,465)
Net Expenses	12,780,425
Net Investment Income	23,511,394
Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments—Note 4 (\$):	
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	44,210,923
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	97,518,467
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	141,729,390
Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations	165,240,784

See notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year Ended May 31,	
	2025	2024
Operations (\$):		
Net investment income	23,511,394	19,108,053
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	44,210,923	62,591,270
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	97,518,467	183,661,819
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Resulting from Operations	165,240,784	265,361,142
Distributions (\$):		
Distributions to shareholders:		
Class A	(25,451,477)	(12,352,164)
Class C	(3,291,956)	(1,798,583)
Class I	(76,179,821)	(27,695,844)
Class Y	(1,298,761)	(350,467)
Total Distributions	(106,222,015)	(42,197,058)
Beneficial Interest Transactions (\$):		
Net proceeds from shares sold:		
Class A	62,767,478	32,055,428
Class C	5,514,402	4,886,242
Class I	668,913,534	191,725,355
Class Y	15,880,749	5,007,788
Distributions reinvested:		
Class A	22,791,996	11,124,352
Class C	2,772,837	1,399,645
Class I	66,972,967	23,399,442
Class Y	1,297,586	349,855
Cost of shares redeemed:		
Class A	(60,352,921)	(46,172,018)
Class C	(16,469,725)	(17,017,096)
Class I	(280,318,830)	(164,121,360)
Class Y	(4,107,871)	(2,567,675)
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from Beneficial Interest Transactions	485,662,202	40,069,958
Total Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	544,680,971	263,234,042
Net Assets (\$):		
Beginning of Period	1,113,193,829	849,959,787
End of Period	1,657,874,800	1,113,193,829

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS (continued)

	Year Ended May 31,	
	2025	2024
Capital Share Transactions (Shares):		
Class A^{(a),(b)}		
Shares sold	2,019,968	1,225,408
Shares issued for distributions reinvested	729,123	436,381
Shares redeemed	(1,963,765)	(1,768,841)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Shares Outstanding	785,326	(107,052)
Class C^(a)		
Shares sold	179,214	189,858
Shares issued for distributions reinvested	90,099	55,921
Shares redeemed	(546,558)	(661,816)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Shares Outstanding	(277,245)	(416,037)
Class I^(b)		
Shares sold	21,701,010	7,302,276
Shares issued for distributions reinvested	2,138,683	914,711
Shares redeemed	(9,098,494)	(6,263,341)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Shares Outstanding	14,741,199	1,953,646
Class Y		
Shares sold	516,558	179,425
Shares issued for distributions reinvested	41,174	13,569
Shares redeemed	(133,695)	(94,566)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Shares Outstanding	424,037	98,428

^(a) During the period ended May 31, 2025, 1,213 Class C shares representing \$37,249 were automatically converted to 1,193 Class A shares and during the period ended May 31, 2024, 529 Class C shares representing \$12,578 were automatically converted to 521 Class A shares.

^(b) During the period ended May 31, 2025, 14,192 Class A shares representing \$434,704 were exchanged for 14,156 Class I shares.

See notes to financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables describe the performance for each share class for the fiscal periods indicated. All information (except portfolio turnover rate) reflects financial results for a single fund share. Net asset value total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value during the period, and redemption at net asset value on the last day of the period. Net asset value total return includes adjustments in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and as such, the net asset value for financial reporting purposes and the returns based upon those net asset values may differ from the net asset value and returns for shareholder transactions.

Class A Shares	Year Ended May 31,				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Per Share Data (\$):					
Net asset value, beginning of period	29.55	23.53	25.63	24.63	17.82
Investment Operations:					
Net investment income ^(a)	.45	.49	.54	.44	.46
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	3.28	6.65	(1.18)	1.22	6.80
Total from Investment Operations	3.73	7.14	(.64)	1.66	7.26
Distributions:					
Dividends from net investment income	(.43)	(.49)	(.53)	(.44)	(.45)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(1.80)	(.63)	(.93)	(.22)	-
Total Distributions	(2.23)	(1.12)	(1.46)	(.66)	(.45)
Net asset value, end of period	31.05	29.55	23.53	25.63	24.63
Total Return (%)^(b)	12.66	31.19	(2.37)	6.72	41.26
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.02	1.02	1.05	1.06	1.08
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.02 ^(c)	1.02 ^(c)	1.03 ^{(c),(d)}	1.03 ^(d)	1.03 ^(d)
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	1.46 ^(c)	1.87 ^(c)	2.26 ^{(c),(d)}	1.72 ^(d)	2.17 ^(d)
Portfolio Turnover Rate	28.38	28.63	28.06	33.14	49.94
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	367,481	326,531	262,479	285,782	268,897

^(a) Based on average shares outstanding.

^(b) Exclusive of sales charge.

^(c) Amount inclusive of reduction in fees due to earnings credits.

^(d) Amount inclusive of reduction in expenses due to undertaking.

See notes to financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Class C Shares	Year Ended May 31,				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Per Share Data (\$):					
Net asset value, beginning of period	29.06	23.15	25.24	24.27	17.57
Investment Operations:					
Net investment income ^(a)	.21	.29	.35	.25	.30
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	3.23	6.55	(1.15)	1.19	6.69
Total from Investment Operations	3.44	6.84	(.80)	1.44	6.99
Distributions:					
Dividends from net investment income	(.21)	(.30)	(.36)	(.25)	(.29)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(1.80)	(.63)	(.93)	(.22)	-
Total Distributions	(2.01)	(.93)	(1.29)	(.47)	(.29)
Net asset value, end of period	30.49	29.06	23.15	25.24	24.27
Total Return (%)^(b)	11.79	30.23	(3.09)	5.89	40.17
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.79	1.81	1.81	1.80	1.82
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets ^(c)	1.78 ^(d)	1.78 ^(d)	1.78 ^(d)	1.78	1.78
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets ^(c)	.70 ^(d)	1.12 ^(d)	1.52 ^(d)	.97	1.44
Portfolio Turnover Rate	28.38	28.63	28.06	33.14	49.94
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	44,703	50,658	49,987	60,485	64,982

^(a) Based on average shares outstanding.

^(b) Exclusive of sales charge.

^(c) Amount inclusive of reduction in expenses due to undertaking.

^(d) Amount inclusive of reduction in fees due to earnings credits.

See notes to financial statements.

Class I Shares	Year Ended May 31,				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Per Share Data (\$):					
Net asset value, beginning of period	29.63	23.59	25.69	24.69	17.86
Investment Operations:					
Net investment income ^(a)	.52	.55	.60	.51	.51
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	3.29	6.68	(1.18)	1.21	6.82
Total from Investment Operations	3.81	7.23	(.58)	1.72	7.33
Distributions:					
Dividends from net investment income	(.51)	(.56)	(.59)	(.50)	(.50)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(1.80)	(.63)	(.93)	(.22)	-
Total Distributions	(2.31)	(1.19)	(1.52)	(.72)	(.50)
Net asset value, end of period	31.13	29.63	23.59	25.69	24.69
Total Return (%)	12.91	31.51	(2.12)	6.97	41.63
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.79	.80	.81	.80	.81
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets ^(b)	.78 ^(c)	.78 ^(c)	.78 ^(c)	.78	.78
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets ^(b)	1.70 ^(c)	2.11 ^(c)	2.52 ^(c)	1.97	2.43
Portfolio Turnover Rate	28.38	28.63	28.06	33.14	49.94
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	1,220,299	724,496	530,671	670,154	630,801

^(a) Based on average shares outstanding.

^(b) Amount inclusive of reduction in expenses due to undertaking.

^(c) Amount inclusive of reduction in fees due to earnings credits.

See notes to financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Class Y Shares	Year Ended May 31,				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Per Share Data (\$):					
Net asset value, beginning of period	29.82	23.73	25.83	24.83	17.96
Investment Operations:					
Net investment income ^(a)	.54	.57	.61	.52	.51
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	3.31	6.71	(1.18)	1.21	6.86
Total from Investment Operations	3.85	7.28	(.57)	1.73	7.37
Distributions:					
Dividends from net investment income	(.52)	(.56)	(.60)	(.51)	(.50)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(1.80)	(.63)	(.93)	(.22)	-
Total Distributions	(2.32)	(1.19)	(1.53)	(.73)	(.50)
Net asset value, end of period	31.35	29.82	23.73	25.83	24.83
Total Return (%)	12.97	31.58	(2.09)	6.97	41.66
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.75	.75	.76	.75	.76
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	.75 ^(b)	.75 ^(b)	.76 ^(b)	.75	.76
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	1.73 ^(b)	2.13 ^(b)	2.54 ^(b)	2.00	2.40
Portfolio Turnover Rate	28.38	28.63	28.06	33.14	49.94
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	25,391	11,508	6,823	7,567	4,628

^(a) Based on average shares outstanding.

^(b) Amount inclusive of reduction in fees due to earnings credits.

See notes to financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1—Significant Accounting Policies:

BNY Mellon Equity Income Fund (the “fund”) is a separate diversified series of BNY Mellon Investment Funds III (the “Trust”), which is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Act”), as an open-end management investment company and operates as a series company currently offering four series, including the fund. The fund’s investment objective is to seek total return (consisting of capital appreciation and income). BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. (the “Adviser”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (“BNY”), serves as the fund’s investment adviser. Newton Investment Management North America, LLC (the “Sub-Adviser” or “NIMNA”), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of BNY and an affiliate of the Adviser, serves as the fund’s sub-adviser. NIMNA has entered into a sub-sub-investment advisory agreement with its affiliate, Newton Investment Management Limited (“NIM”), which enables NIM to provide certain advisory services to the Sub-Adviser for the benefit of the fund, including, but not limited to, portfolio management services. NIM is subject to the supervision of NIMNA and the Adviser. NIM is also an affiliate of the Adviser. NIM, located at 160 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V, 4LA, England, was formed in 1978. NIM is an indirect subsidiary of BNY.

BNY Mellon Securities Corporation (the “Distributor”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Adviser, is the distributor of the fund’s shares. The fund is authorized to issue an unlimited number of \$.001 par value shares of Beneficial Interest in each of the following classes of shares: Class A, Class C, Class I and Class Y. Class A and Class C shares are sold primarily to retail investors through financial intermediaries and bear Distribution and/or Shareholder Services Plan fees. Class A shares generally are subject to a sales charge imposed at the time of purchase. Class A shares bought without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of \$1 million or more may be charged a contingent deferred sales charge (“CDSC”) of 1.00% if redeemed within one year. Class C shares are subject to a CDSC imposed on Class C shares redeemed within one year of purchase. Class C shares automatically convert to Class A shares eight years after the date of purchase, without the imposition of a sales charge. Class I shares are sold primarily to bank trust departments and other financial service providers (including BNY and its affiliates), acting on behalf of customers having a qualified trust or an investment account or relationship at such institution, and bear no Distribution or Shareholder Services Plan fees. Class Y shares are sold at net asset value per share generally to institutional investors, and bear no Distribution or Shareholder Services Plan fees. Class I and Class Y shares are offered without a front-end sales charge or CDSC. Other differences between the classes include the services offered to and the expenses borne by each class, the allocation of certain transfer agency costs and certain voting rights. Income, expenses (other than expenses attributable to a specific class), and realized and unrealized gains or losses on investments are allocated to each class of shares based on its relative net assets.

The Trust accounts separately for the assets, liabilities and operations of each series. Expenses directly attributable to each series are charged to that series’ operations; expenses which are applicable to all series are allocated among them on a pro rata basis.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) is the exclusive reference of authoritative U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) recognized by the FASB to be applied by nongovernmental entities. Rules and interpretive releases of the SEC under authority of federal laws are also sources of authoritative GAAP for SEC registrants. The fund is an investment company and applies the accounting and reporting guidance of the FASB ASC Topic 946 Financial Services-Investment Companies. The fund’s financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP, which may require the use of management estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Trust enters into contracts that contain a variety of indemnifications. The fund’s maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. The fund does not anticipate recognizing any loss related to these arrangements.

(a) Portfolio valuation: The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., the exit price). GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs of valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

Additionally, GAAP provides guidance on determining whether the volume and activity in a market has decreased significantly and whether such a decrease in activity results in transactions that are not orderly. GAAP requires enhanced disclosures around valuation inputs and techniques used during annual and interim periods.

Various inputs are used in determining the value of the fund's investments relating to fair value measurements. These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

Level 1—unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical investments.

Level 2—other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar investments, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).

Level 3—significant unobservable inputs (including the fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

Changes in valuation techniques may result in transfers in or out of an assigned level within the disclosure hierarchy. Valuation techniques used to value the fund's investments are as follows:

The Trust's Board of Trustees (the "Board") has designated the Adviser as the fund's valuation designee to make all fair value determinations with respect to the fund's portfolio investments, subject to the Board's oversight and pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the Act.

Investments in equity securities are valued at the last sales price on the securities exchange or national securities market on which such securities are primarily traded. Securities listed on the National Market System for which market quotations are available are valued at the official closing price or, if there is no official closing price that day, at the last sales price. For open short positions, asked prices are used for valuation purposes. Bid price is used when no asked price is available. Registered investment companies that are not traded on an exchange are valued at their net asset value. All of the preceding securities are generally categorized within Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

Securities not listed on an exchange or the national securities market, or securities for which there were no transactions, are valued at the average of the most recent bid and asked prices. These securities are generally categorized within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Fair valuing of securities may be determined with the assistance of a pricing service using calculations based on indices of domestic securities and other appropriate indicators, such as prices of relevant American Depositary Receipts and futures. Utilizing these techniques may result in transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

When market quotations or official closing prices are not readily available, or are determined not to accurately reflect fair value, such as when the value of a security has been significantly affected by events after the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded, but before the fund calculates its net asset value, the fund may value these investments at fair value as determined in accordance with the procedures approved by the Board. Certain factors may be considered when fair valuing investments such as: fundamental analytical data, the nature and duration of restrictions on disposition, an evaluation of the forces that influence the market in which the securities are purchased and sold, and public trading in similar securities of the issuer or comparable issuers. These securities are either categorized within Level 2 or 3 of the fair value hierarchy depending on the relevant inputs used.

For securities where observable inputs are limited, assumptions about market activity and risk are used and such securities are generally categorized within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

The following is a summary of the inputs used as of May 31, 2025 in valuing the fund's investments:

	Level 1 - Unadjusted Quoted Prices	Level 2- Other Significant Observable Inputs	Level 3- Significant Unobservable Inputs	Total
Assets (\$)				
Investments in Securities: [†]				
Equity Securities - Common Stocks	1,640,707,580	—	—	1,640,707,580
Investment Companies	14,928,094	—	—	14,928,094
	<u>1,655,635,674</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,655,635,674</u>

[†] See Statement of Investments for additional detailed categorizations, if any.

(b) Securities transactions and investment income: Securities transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Realized gains and losses from securities transactions are recorded on the identified cost basis. Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date and

interest income, including, where applicable, accretion of discount and amortization of premium on investments, is recognized on the accrual basis.

Pursuant to a securities lending agreement with BNY, the fund may lend securities to qualified institutions. It is the fund's policy that, at origination, all loans are secured by collateral of at least 102% of the value of U.S. securities loaned and 105% of the value of foreign securities loaned. Collateral equivalent to at least 100% of the market value of securities on loan is maintained at all times. Collateral is either in the form of cash, which can be invested in certain money market mutual funds managed by the Adviser, or U.S. Government and Agency securities. Any non-cash collateral received cannot be sold or re-pledged by the fund, except in the event of borrower default, and is not reflected in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The securities on loan, if any, are also disclosed in the fund's Statement of Investments. The fund is entitled to receive all dividends, interest and distributions on securities loaned, in addition to income earned as a result of the lending transaction. Should a borrower fail to return the securities in a timely manner, BNY is required to replace the securities for the benefit of the fund or credit the fund with the market value of the unreturned securities and is subrogated to the fund's rights against the borrower and the collateral. Additionally, the contractual maturity of security lending transactions are on an overnight and continuous basis. During the period ended May 31, 2025, BNY earned \$1,781 from the lending of the fund's portfolio securities, pursuant to the securities lending agreement.

For financial reporting purposes, the fund elects not to offset assets and liabilities subject to a securities lending agreement, if any, in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Therefore, all qualifying transactions are presented on a gross basis in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. As of May 31, 2025, the fund had securities lending and the impact of netting of assets and liabilities and the offsetting of collateral pledged or received, if any, based on contractual netting/set-off provisions in the securities lending agreement are detailed in the following table:

Assets (\$)

Gross amount of securities loaned, at value, as disclosed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities	20,315,733
Collateral (received)/posted not offset in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities	(20,315,733)*

* The value of the related collateral received by the fund exceeded the value of the securities loaned by the fund pursuant to the securities lending agreement. In addition, the value of collateral may include pending sales that are also on loan. See Statement of Investments for detailed information regarding collateral received for open securities lending.

(c) Affiliated issuers: Investments in other investment companies advised by the Adviser are considered "affiliated" under the Act.

(d) Market Risk: The value of the securities in which the fund invests may be affected by political, regulatory, economic and social developments, and developments that impact specific economic sectors, industries or segments of the market. In addition, turbulence in financial markets and reduced liquidity in equity, credit and/or fixed-income markets may negatively affect many issuers, which could adversely affect the fund. Global economies and financial markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, and conditions and events in one country, region or financial market may adversely impact issuers in a different country, region or financial market. These risks may be magnified if certain events or developments adversely interrupt the global supply chain; in these and other circumstances, such risks might affect companies world-wide.

(e) Dividends and distributions to shareholders: Dividends and distributions are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Dividends from net investment income are normally declared and paid monthly. Dividends from net realized capital gains, if any, are normally declared and paid annually, but the fund may make distributions on a more frequent basis to comply with the distribution requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). To the extent that net realized capital gains can be offset by capital loss carryovers, it is the policy of the fund not to distribute such gains. Income and capital gain distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from GAAP.

(f) Federal income taxes: It is the policy of the fund to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company, if such qualification is in the best interests of its shareholders, by complying with the applicable provisions of the Code, and to make distributions of taxable income and net realized capital gain sufficient to relieve it from substantially all federal income and excise taxes.

As of and during the period ended May 31, 2025, the fund did not have any liabilities for any uncertain tax positions. The fund recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to uncertain tax positions as income tax expense in the Statement of Operations. During the period ended May 31, 2025, the fund did not incur any interest or penalties.

Each tax year in the four-year period ended May 31, 2025 remains subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing authorities.

At May 31, 2025, the components of accumulated earnings on a tax basis were as follows: undistributed capital gains \$3,830,092 and unrealized appreciation \$512,547,868.

The tax character of distributions paid to shareholders during the fiscal years ended May 31, 2025 and May 31, 2024 were as follows: ordinary income \$25,305,910 and \$21,952,649, and long-term capital gains \$80,916,105 and \$20,244,409, respectively.

(g) Operating segment reporting: In this reporting period, the fund adopted FASB Accounting Standards Update 2023-07, Segment Reporting (Topic 280) - Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures ("ASU 2023-07"). Adoption of the new standard impacted financial statement disclosures only and did not affect the fund's financial position or the results of its operations. The ASU 2023-07 is effective for public entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and requires retrospective application for all prior periods presented within the financial statements.

Since its commencement, the fund operates and is managed as a single reportable segment deriving returns in the form of dividends, interest and/or gains from the investments made in pursuit of its single stated investment objective as outlined in the fund's prospectus. The accounting policies of the fund are consistent with those described in these Notes to Financial Statements. The chief operating decision maker ("CODM") is represented by BNY Investments, the management of the Adviser, comprising Senior Management and Directors. The CODM considers net increase in net assets resulting from operations in deciding whether to purchase additional investments or to make distributions to fund shareholders. Detailed financial information for the fund is disclosed within these financial statements with total assets and liabilities disclosed on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, investments held on the Statement of Investments, results of operations and significant segment expenses on the Statement of Operations and other information about the fund's performance, including total return, portfolio turnover and ratios within the Financial Highlights.

NOTE 2—Bank Lines of Credit:

The fund participates with other long-term open-end funds managed by the Adviser in a \$738 million unsecured credit facility led by Citibank, N.A. (the "Citibank Credit Facility") and a \$300 million unsecured credit facility provided by BNY (the "BNY Credit Facility"), each to be utilized primarily for temporary or emergency purposes, including the financing of redemptions (each, a "Facility"). The Citibank Credit Facility is available in two tranches: (i) Tranche A is in an amount equal to \$618 million and is available to all long-term open-ended funds, including the fund, and (ii) Tranche B is an amount equal to \$120 million and is available only to BNY Mellon Floating Rate Income Fund, a series of BNY Mellon Investment Funds IV, Inc. In connection therewith, the fund has agreed to pay its pro rata portion of commitment fees for Tranche A of the Citibank Credit Facility and the BNY Credit Facility. Interest is charged to the fund based on rates determined pursuant to the terms of the respective Facility at the time of borrowing.

During the period ended May 31, 2025, the fund was charged \$261 for interest expense. These fees are included in Interest expense in the Statement of Operations. The average amount of borrowings outstanding under the Citibank Credit Facility during the period ended May 31, 2025 was approximately \$4,384 with a related weighted average annualized interest rate of 5.95%. As of May 31, 2025, the fund has no outstanding loan balance from either Facility.

NOTE 3—Management Fee, Sub-Advisory Fee and Other Transactions with Affiliates:

(a) Pursuant to a management agreement with the Adviser, the management fee is computed at the annual rate of .70% of the value of the fund's average daily net assets and is payable monthly. The Adviser has contractually agreed, from June 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, to waive receipt of its fees and/or assume the direct expenses of the fund so that the direct expenses of none of the fund's share classes (excluding Rule 12b-1 Distribution Plan fees, Shareholder Services Plan fees, taxes, interest expense, brokerage commissions, commitment fees on borrowings and extraordinary expenses) exceed .78% of the value of the fund's average daily net assets. On or after September 30, 2025, the Adviser may terminate this expense limitation agreement at any time. The reduction in expenses, pursuant to the undertaking, amounted to \$100,912 during the period ended May 31, 2025.

Pursuant to a sub-investment advisory agreement between the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, the Adviser pays the Sub-Adviser a monthly fee at an annual rate of .336% of the value of the fund's average daily net assets.

During the period ended May 31, 2025, the Distributor retained \$43,494 from commissions earned on sales of the fund's Class A shares and \$1,372 from CDSC fees on redemptions of the fund's Class C shares.

(b) Under the Distribution Plan adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Act, Class C shares pay the Distributor for distributing its shares at an annual rate of .75% of the value of its average daily net assets. The Distributor may pay one or more Service Agents in respect of advertising, marketing and other distribution services, and determines the amounts, if any, to be paid to Service Agents and the basis on which such payments are made. During the period ended May 31, 2025, Class C shares were charged \$376,892 pursuant to the Distribution Plan.

(c) Under the Shareholder Services Plan, Class A and Class C shares pay the Distributor at an annual rate of .25% of the value of their average daily net assets for the provision of certain services. The services provided may include personal services relating to shareholder accounts, such as answering shareholder inquiries regarding the fund, and services related to the maintenance of shareholder accounts. The Distributor may make payments to Service Agents (securities dealers, financial institutions or other industry professionals) with respect to these services. The Distributor determines the amounts to be paid to Service Agents. During the period ended May 31, 2025, Class A and Class C shares were charged \$892,346 and \$125,631, respectively, pursuant to the Shareholder Services Plan.

Under its terms, the Distribution Plan and Shareholder Services Plan shall remain in effect from year to year, provided such continuance is approved annually by a vote of a majority of those Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust and who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of or in any agreement related to the Distribution Plan or Shareholder Services Plan.

The fund has an arrangement with BNY Mellon Transfer, Inc., (the "Transfer Agent"), a subsidiary of BNY and an affiliate of the Adviser, whereby the fund may receive earnings credits when positive cash balances are maintained, which are used to offset Transfer Agent fees. For financial reporting purposes, the fund includes transfer agent net earnings credits, if any, as an expense offset in the Statement of Operations.

The fund has an arrangement with The Bank of New York Mellon (the "Custodian"), a subsidiary of BNY and an affiliate of the Adviser, whereby the fund will receive interest income or be charged overdraft fees when cash balances are maintained. For financial reporting purposes, the fund includes this interest income and overdraft fees, if any, as interest income in the Statement of Operations.

The fund compensates the Transfer Agent, under a transfer agency agreement, for providing transfer agency and cash management services for the fund. The majority of Transfer Agent fees are comprised of amounts paid on a per account basis, while cash management fees are related to fund subscriptions and redemptions. During the period ended May 31, 2025, the fund was charged \$34,295 for transfer agency services. These fees are included in Shareholder servicing costs in the Statement of Operations. These fees were partially offset by earnings credits of \$5,465.

The fund compensates the Custodian, under a custody agreement, for providing custodial services for the fund. These fees are determined based on net assets, geographic region and transaction activity. During the period ended May 31, 2025, the fund was charged \$22,520 pursuant to the custody agreement.

During the period ended May 31, 2025, the fund was charged \$25,089 for services performed by the fund's Chief Compliance Officer and his staff. These fees are included in Chief Compliance Officer fees in the Statement of Operations.

The components of "Due to BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. and affiliates" in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities consist of: Management fee of \$959,406, Distribution Plan fees of \$28,281, Shareholder Services Plan fees of \$85,530, Custodian fees of \$7,500, Chief Compliance Officer fees of \$2,963 and Transfer Agent fees of \$5,777, which are offset against an expense reimbursement currently in effect in the amount of \$23,459.

(d) Each board member of the fund also serves as a board member of other funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds complex. Annual retainer fees and attendance fees are allocated to each fund based on net assets.

NOTE 4—Securities Transactions:

The aggregate amount of purchases and sales of investment securities, excluding short-term securities, during the period ended May 31, 2025, amounted to \$814,079,573 and \$410,680,681, respectively.

At May 31, 2025, the cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was \$1,143,087,806; accordingly, accumulated net unrealized appreciation on investments was \$512,547,868, consisting of \$550,184,896 gross unrealized appreciation and \$37,637,028 gross unrealized depreciation.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders of BNY Mellon Equity Income Fund and Board of Trustees of BNY Mellon Investment Funds III:

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of BNY Mellon Equity Income Fund (the Fund), a series of BNY Mellon Investment Funds III, including the statement of investments, as of May 31, 2025, the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the related notes (collectively, the financial statements) and the financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended. In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of May 31, 2025, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and financial highlights, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and financial highlights. Such procedures also included confirmation of securities owned as of May 31, 2025, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers; when replies were not received from brokers, we performed other appropriate auditing procedures. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements and financial highlights. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

KPMG LLP

We have served as the auditor of one or more BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. investment companies since 1994.

New York, New York
July 23, 2025

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION (Unaudited)

For federal tax purposes, the fund reports the maximum amount allowable, but not less than \$25,305,910 as ordinary income dividends paid during the year ended May 31, 2025 as qualified dividend income in accordance with Section 854(b)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. Also, the fund reports the maximum amount allowable but not less than 100% of ordinary income dividends paid during the year ended May 31, 2025 as eligible for the corporate dividends received deduction provided under Section 243 of the Internal Revenue Code in accordance with Section 854(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code. Shareholders will receive notification in early 2026 of the percentage applicable to the preparation of their 2025 income tax returns. The fund also hereby reports \$1.7122 per share as a long-term capital gain distribution and \$.0885 per share as a short-term capital gain distribution paid December 11, 2024.

Item 8. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants for Open-End Management Investment Companies (Unaudited)

N/A

Item 9. Proxy Disclosures for Open-End Management Investment Companies (Unaudited)

N/A

Item 10. Remuneration Paid to Directors, Officers, and Others of Open-End Management Investment Companies (Unaudited)

Each board member also serves as a board member of other funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds complex, and annual retainer fees and meeting attendance fees are allocated to each fund based on net assets. The fund is charged for services performed by the fund's Chief Compliance Officer. Compensation paid by the fund during the period to the board members and the Chief Compliance Officer are within Item 7. Statement of Operations as Trustees' fees and expenses and Chief Compliance Officer fees, respectively. The aggregate amount of Trustees' fees and expenses and Chief Compliance Officer fees paid by the fund during the period was \$203,675.

Item 11. Statement Regarding Basis for Approval of Investment Advisory Contracts (Unaudited)

At a meeting of the fund's Board of Trustees (the "Board") held on February 26-27, 2025, the Board considered the renewal of the fund's Management Agreement, pursuant to which the Adviser provides the fund with investment advisory and administrative services, the Sub-Investment Advisory Agreement, pursuant to which Newton Investment Management North America, LLC (the "Sub-Adviser" or "NIMNA") provides day-to-day management of the fund's investments, and the Sub-Sub-Investment Advisory Agreement (collectively with the Management Agreement and Sub-Investment Advisory Agreement, the "Agreements"), between NIMNA and Newton Investment Management Limited ("NIM"), pursuant to which NIMNA may use the investment advisory personnel, resources and capabilities available at its sister company, NIM, in providing the day-to-day management of the fund's investments. The Board members, none of whom are "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended) of the fund, were assisted in their review by independent legal counsel and met with counsel in executive session separate from representatives of the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser. In considering the renewal of the Agreements, the Board considered several factors that it believed to be relevant, including those discussed below. The Board did not identify any one factor as dispositive, and each Board member may have attributed different weights to the factors considered.

Analysis of Nature, Extent, and Quality of Services Provided to the Fund. The Board considered information provided to it at the meeting and in previous presentations from representatives of the Adviser regarding the nature, extent, and quality of the services provided to funds in the BNY fund complex, including the fund. The Adviser provided the number of open accounts in the fund, the fund's asset size and the allocation of fund assets among distribution channels. The Adviser also had previously provided information regarding the diverse intermediary relationships and distribution channels of funds in the BNY fund complex (such as retail direct or intermediary, in which intermediaries typically are paid by the fund and/or the Adviser) and the Adviser's corresponding need for broad, deep, and diverse resources to be able to provide ongoing shareholder services to each intermediary or distribution channel, as applicable to the fund.

The Board also considered research support available to, and portfolio management capabilities of, the fund's portfolio management personnel and that the Adviser also provides oversight of day-to-day fund operations, including fund accounting and administration and assistance in meeting legal and regulatory requirements. The Board also considered the Adviser's extensive administrative, accounting and compliance infrastructures, as well as the Adviser's supervisory activities over the Sub-Adviser. The Board also considered portfolio management's brokerage policies and practices (including policies and practices regarding soft dollars) and the standards applied in seeking best execution.

Comparative Analysis of the Fund's Performance and Management Fee and Expense Ratio. The Board reviewed reports prepared by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge"), an independent provider of investment company data based on classifications provided by Thomson Reuters Lipper ("Lipper"), which included information comparing (1) the performance of the fund's Class I shares with the performance of a group of institutional equity income funds selected by Broadridge as comparable to the fund (the "Performance Group") and with a broader group of funds consisting of all retail and institutional equity income funds (the "Performance Universe"), all for various periods ended December 31, 2024, and (2) the fund's actual and contractual management fees and total expenses with those of the same group of funds in the Performance Group (the "Expense Group") and with a broader group of funds consisting of all institutional equity income funds, excluding outliers (the "Expense Universe"), the information for which was derived in part from fund financial statements available to Broadridge as of the date of its analysis. The Adviser previously had furnished the Board with a description of the methodology Broadridge used to select the Performance Group and Performance Universe and the Expense Group and Expense Universe.

Performance Comparisons. Representatives of the Adviser stated that the usefulness of performance comparisons may be affected by a number of factors, including different investment limitations and policies that may be applicable to the fund and comparison funds and the end date selected. The Board also considered the fund's performance in light of overall financial market conditions. The Board discussed with representatives of the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser the results of the comparisons and considered that the fund's total return performance was above the Performance Group and Performance Universe medians for all periods. The Adviser also provided a comparison of the fund's calendar year total returns to the returns of the fund's benchmark indices. The Board noted that the fund had a five star rating for each of the three-, five- and ten-year periods and a five star overall rating from Morningstar based on Morningstar's risk-adjusted return measures.

Management Fee and Expense Ratio Comparisons. The Board reviewed and considered the contractual management fee rate payable by the fund to the Adviser in light of the nature, extent and quality of the management services and the sub-advisory services provided by the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, respectively. In addition, the Board reviewed and considered the actual management fee rate paid by the fund over the fund's last fiscal year, which included reductions for an expense limitation arrangement in place that reduced the management fee paid to the Adviser. The Board also reviewed the range of actual and contractual management fees and total expenses as a percentage of average net assets of the Expense Group and Expense Universe funds and discussed the results of the comparisons.

The Board considered that the fund's contractual management fee was higher than the Expense Group median contractual management fee, the fund's actual management fee was approximately equivalent to the Expense Group median and higher than the Expense Universe median actual management fee and the fund's total expenses were approximately equivalent to the Expense Group median and were approximately equivalent to the Expense Universe median total expenses.

Representatives of the Adviser stated that the Adviser has contractually agreed, until September 30, 2025, to waive receipt of its fees and/or assume the direct expenses of the fund so that the direct expenses of none of the fund's share classes (excluding Rule 12b-1 fees, shareholder services fees, taxes, interest expense, brokerage commissions, commitment fees on borrowings and extraordinary expenses) exceed .78%.

Representatives of the Adviser reviewed with the Board the management or investment advisory fees paid and total expenses of the one fund advised by the Adviser that is in the same Lipper category as the fund (the "Similar Fund"), and explained the nature of the Similar Fund. They discussed differences in fees paid and the relationship of the fees paid in light of any differences in the services provided and other relevant factors. The Board considered the relevance of the fee information provided for the Similar Fund to evaluate the appropriateness of the fund's management fee. Representatives of the Adviser noted that there were no separate accounts and/or other types of client portfolios advised by the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser that are considered to have similar investment strategies and policies as the fund.

The Board considered the fee payable to the Sub-Adviser in relation to the fee payable to the Adviser by the fund and the respective services provided by the Sub-Adviser and the Adviser. The Board also took into consideration that the Sub-Adviser's fee is paid by the Adviser, out of its fee from the fund, and not the fund.

Analysis of Profitability and Economies of Scale. Representatives of the Adviser reviewed the expenses allocated and profit received by the Adviser and its affiliates and the resulting profitability percentage for managing the fund and the aggregate profitability percentage to the Adviser and its affiliates for managing the funds in the BNY fund complex, and the method used to determine the expenses and profit. The Board concluded that the profitability results were not excessive, given the services rendered and service levels provided by the Adviser and its affiliates. The Board also considered the expense limitation arrangement and its effect on the profitability of the Adviser and its affiliates. The Board also had been provided with information prepared by an independent consulting firm regarding the Adviser's approach to allocating costs to, and determining the profitability of, individual funds and the entire BNY fund complex. The consulting firm also had analyzed where any economies of scale might emerge in connection with the management of a fund.

The Board considered, on the advice of its counsel, the profitability analysis (1) as part of its evaluation of whether the fees under the Agreements, considered in relation to the mix of services provided by the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, including the nature, extent and quality of such services, supported the renewal of the Agreements and (2) in light of the relevant circumstances for the fund and the extent to which economies of scale would be realized if the fund grows and whether fee levels reflect these economies of scale for the benefit of fund shareholders. Representatives of the Adviser stated that, as a result of shared and allocated costs among funds in the BNY fund complex, the extent of economies of scale could depend substantially on the level of assets in the complex as a whole, so that increases and decreases in complex-wide assets can affect potential economies of scale in a manner that is disproportionate to, or even in the opposite direction from, changes in the fund's asset level. The Board also considered potential benefits to the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser from acting as investment adviser and sub-investment adviser, respectively, and took into consideration the soft dollar arrangements in effect for trading the fund's investments.

At the conclusion of these discussions, the Board agreed that it had been furnished with sufficient information to make an informed business decision with respect to the renewal of the Agreements. Based on the discussions and considerations as described above, the Board concluded and determined as follows.

- The Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser are satisfactory and appropriate.
- The Board was satisfied with the fund's performance.
- The Board concluded that the fees paid to the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser continued to be appropriate under the circumstances and in light of the factors and the totality of the services provided as discussed above.
- The Board determined that the economies of scale which may accrue to the Adviser and its affiliates in connection with the management of the fund had been adequately considered by the Adviser in connection with the fee rate charged to the fund pursuant to the Management Agreement and that, to the extent in the future it were determined that material economies of scale had not been shared with the fund, the Board would seek to have those economies of scale shared with the fund.

In evaluating the Agreements, the Board considered these conclusions and determinations and also relied on its previous knowledge, gained through meetings and other interactions with the Adviser and its affiliates and the Sub-Adviser, of the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser and the services provided to the fund by the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser. The Board also relied on information received on a routine and regular basis throughout the year relating to the operations of the fund and the investment management and other services provided under the Agreements, including information on the investment performance of the fund in comparison to similar mutual funds and benchmark performance indices; general market outlook as applicable to the fund; and compliance reports. In addition, the Board's consideration of the contractual fee arrangements for the fund had the benefit of a number of years of reviews of the Agreements for the fund, or substantially similar agreements for other BNY funds that the Board oversees, during which lengthy discussions took place between the Board and representatives of the Adviser. Certain aspects of the arrangements may receive greater scrutiny in some years than in others, and the Board's conclusions may be based, in part, on its consideration of the fund's arrangements, or substantially similar arrangements for other BNY funds that the Board oversees, in prior years. The Board determined to renew the Agreements.

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