

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

December 31, 2025

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), which is not a prospectus, supplements and should be read in conjunction with the current prospectuses dated December 31, 2025, of each fund listed below, each a series of BNY Mellon ETF Trust II (the "Trust"), as such prospectuses may be revised from time to time. To obtain a copy of a fund's prospectus, annual report or semi-annual report to shareholders, or Form N-CSR, please call your financial adviser, or write to the fund at 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286, visit at www.bny.com/investments, or call 1-833-ETF-BNYM (383-2696) (inside the U.S. only).

The most recent annual report and semi-annual report to shareholders and Form N-CSR for each fund's corresponding Predecessor Fund are separate documents, and the financial statements, accompanying notes and report of the independent registered public accounting firm appearing in each Predecessor Fund's Form N-CSR are incorporated by reference into this SAI and can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Capitalized but undefined terms used in this SAI are defined in the Glossary at the end of this SAI.

Fund	Principal U.S. Listing Exchange	Ticker	Fiscal Year End	Prospectus Date	Predecessor Fund
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	NYSE Arca, Inc.	BCPL	August 31	December 31, 2025	BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	NYSE Arca, Inc.	BKFI	August 31	December 31, 2025	BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC	BKMS	August 31	December 31, 2025	BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC	BKMI	August 31	December 31, 2025	BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC	BMOP	August 31	December 31, 2025	BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund

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PART I**BOARD INFORMATION**Information About Each Board Member's Experience, Qualifications, Attributes or Skills

Board members for the funds, together with information as to their positions with the funds, principal occupations and other board memberships during the past five years, are shown below. All of the board members are Independent Board Members. The address of each board member is 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286.

Name (Age) Position	Year Joining the Board	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Investment Companies in Fund Complex² Overseen by Trustee	Other Public Company Board Memberships During Past 5 Years
J. Charles Cardona (69) Chairman of the Board ¹	2024	BNY Mellon Family of Funds, <i>Interested Director</i> (2014 – 2018), <i>Independent Director</i> (since 2019); BNY Mellon Liquidity Funds, <i>Director</i> (2004 – 2024) and <i>Chairman</i> (2019 – 2021).	37	N/A
Kristen M. Dickey (56) Board Member ¹	2024	Independent board director of Marstone, Inc., a financial technology company (since 2018); Lead non-executive director for Aperture Investors, LLC, an investment management firm (since 2018).	18	N/A

Name (Age) Position	Year Joining the Board	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Investment Companies in Fund Complex² Overseen by Trustee	Other Public Company Board Memberships During Past 5 Years
F. Jack Liebau, Jr. (61) Board Member ¹	2024	Corporate director (since 2015); Managing Director at Beach Investment Counsel, a financial advisory firm (2020 – 2024).	18	Myers Industries, an industrial company, <i>Director</i> (since 2015) and <i>Chairman of the Board</i> (since 2016); STRATTEC Security Corp., an automotive power and security solutions company, <i>Director</i> (since 2023) and <i>Chairman of the Board</i> (since 2024); and Motorcar Parts of America, an automotive parts company, <i>Director</i> (2024-2025).
Jill I. Mavro (53) Board Member ¹	2024	Founder and President of Spoondrift Advisory, LLC, an investment management consulting company (since 2018); Managing Director at Transaction Strategies, LLC (formerly CapWGlobal, LLC), a financial technology consulting company (2020 – 2025).	18	GoldenTree Opportunistic Credit Fund, <i>Trustee</i> (since 2025); and Investment Managers Series Trust, <i>Trustee</i> (since 2025).

Name (Age) Position	Year Joining the Board	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Investment Companies in Fund Complex ² Overseen by Trustee	Other Public Company Board Memberships During Past 5 Years
Kevin W. Quinn (66) Board Member ¹	2024	Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC (until 2019).	18	N/A
Stacy L. Schaus (65) Board Member ¹	2024	Chief Executive Officer of the Schaus Group LLC, a consulting firm (since 2019); Advisory board member of A&P Capital, a consulting firm (2019 – 2021).	18	N/A

¹ Serves on the board's audit committee and nominating committee.

² Represents the number of separate portfolios comprising the investment companies in the "Fund Complex," including the funds, for which the board member served as of the date of this SAI. "Fund complex" comprises registered investment companies for which the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser serves as investment adviser.

Additional information about each board member follows (supplementing the information provided in the table above) that describes some of the specific experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that each board member possesses which the board believes has prepared them to be effective board members. The board believes that the significance of each board member's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills is an individual matter (meaning that experience that is important for one board member may not have the same value for another) and that these factors are best evaluated at the board level, with no single board member, or particular factor, being indicative of board effectiveness. However, the board believes that board members need to have the ability to critically review,

evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, and to interact effectively with fund management, service providers and counsel, in order to exercise effective business judgment in the performance of their duties; the board believes that its members satisfy this standard. Experience relevant to having this ability may be achieved through a board member's educational background; business, professional training or practice (e.g., medicine, accounting or law), public service or academic positions; experience from service as a board member or as an executive of investment funds, public companies or significant private or not-for-profit entities or other organizations; and/or other life experiences.

J. Charles Cardona – Mr. Cardona has served as the Chairman of the Board for the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust since 2020 and the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust II since 2024. He currently also serves as an independent board member for certain funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds. Mr. Cardona was the President and a Director of The Dreyfus Corporation, the predecessor company of BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc., and the Chief Executive Officer of Cash Investment Strategies, a division of Dreyfus Corp., until he retired in 2016. From 2013 to 2016, Mr. Cardona served as Chairman of MBSC Securities Corporation, a predecessor firm to the Distributor, and he previously served as an Executive Vice President from 1997 to 2013. He also served as President of the Institutional Services Division of MBSC Securities Corporation. He joined the Institutional Services Division in 1985 with management responsibility for all Institutional Operations and Client Service units. Prior to joining the Institutional Services Division, he served as Assistant Director of Sales and Services in the Dreyfus Retail Division of MBSC Securities Corporation (formerly, Dreyfus Service Corporation), which he joined in 1981.

Kristen M. Dickey – Ms. Dickey has served as an Independent Board Member for the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust since 2020 and the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust II since 2024. Ms. Dickey's career spans over 20 years of experience in the investment management industry, before her retirement in 2017. She served in various roles at BlackRock, Inc. over the course of her career, including as Managing Director—Global Head of Index Strategy from 2014 to 2017, Managing Director—Head of Corporate Investor Relations from 2012 to 2014 and Managing Director—Global Head of Financial Institutions Group from 1996 to 2011. Ms. Dickey has served as the lead non-executive director for Aperture Investors, LLC, an investment management firm, since 2018. She has also served as an independent board director of Marstone, Inc., a financial technology company, since 2018, and as a non-executive director of AIMIA, Inc. since 2022. Ms. Dickey has served as a trustee for the New York City park nonprofits Friends of the High Line from 2006, where she is also the head of the investment committee, and the Battery Conservancy, where she is also the treasurer, since 2005 and 2011, respectively. She has served as an advisory board member for the nonprofits Girls Who Invest and the Council for Economic Education since 2018 and 2017, respectively.

F. Jack Liebau, Jr. – Mr. Liebau has served as an Independent Board Member for the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust since 2020 and the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust II since 2024. Mr. Liebau has over 30 years of experience in the investment management industry. He has served in various roles over the course of his career, including as a partner, portfolio manager and head of compliance at Primecap Management Co. from 1986 to 2003, president, portfolio manager and head of compliance at Liebau Asset Management from 2003 to 2011, portfolio manager and partner at Davis Advisors from 2011 to 2013, President and Chief Executive Officer at Roundwood Asset Management from 2013 to 2015, Managing Director at Beach Investment Counsel from 2020 to 2024, and a private investor and corporate director since 2015. Mr. Liebau has served as a board member of numerous organizations, including as a director of media company Media General from 2008 to 2009, a director of defense firm Herley Industries from 2010 to 2011, a corporate director of automotive aftermarket retailer Pep Boys from 2015 to 2016, a director of industrial company Myers Industries since 2015 and the Chairman of the Board of Myers Industries since 2016, the Non-Executive Chairman of the Board of information technology and investigations firm Special Investigations Limited Company since 2017, an independent director of S3 Software, an unlisted software company serving media companies, since 2020, a director of automotive power and security solutions company STRATTEC Security Corp. since 2023 and the Chairman of the Board of STRATTEC Security Corp. since 2024, and a director of automotive parts company Motorcar Parts of America from 2024 to 2025.

Jill I. Mavro – Ms. Mavro has served as an Independent Board Member for the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust since 2020 and the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust II since 2024. She brings over 30 years of experience in the asset management industry, having held a variety of leadership roles throughout her career. From 1995 to 2018, Ms. Mavro was with State Street Global Advisors (SSGA), where she initially worked in the

asset servicing division from 1995 to 1997 before transitioning to the asset management division from 1997 to 2018. During her tenure, she held several senior positions, ultimately serving as Senior Managing Director, responsible for developing and managing strategic relationships with the firm's largest clients. Ms. Mavro is currently President and Founder of Spoondrift Advisory, LLC, an investment management consulting firm, since 2018. She also currently serves as an independent trustee for GoldenTree Opportunistic Credit Fund and Investment Managers Series Trust, each since 2025. From 2020 to 2025, she was a Managing Director at Transaction Strategies, LLC (formerly CapWGlobal, LLC). Her board service includes past and present roles with several organizations: Sectoral Asset Management from 2013 to 2015, Women in ETFs, Inc. since 2013, and the Overseers Board of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center since 2014. She also served on the SPDR Executive Committee at SSGA from 2014 to 2018.

Kevin W. Quinn – Mr. Quinn has served as an Independent Board Member for the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust since 2020 and the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust II since 2024. Mr. Quinn gained over 35 years of experience in the audit, tax and accounting field before his retirement in 2019. He served as a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC from 1997 to 2019. He is a Certified Public Accountant and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation from the CFA Institute. Mr. Quinn has also served as trustee as part of the Catholic Charities – Archdiocese of Boston, MA from 2001 to 2013, Mutual Funds Against Cancer from 2003 to 2008 and INROADS, an organization that seeks to promote ethnic and racial diversity in the corporate workplace, from 1997 to 2000.

Stacy L. Schaus – Ms. Schaus has served as an Independent Board Member for the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust since 2020 and the funds in the BNY Mellon ETF Trust II since 2024. Ms. Schaus has over 37 years of experience in the financial and investment management industries. She served as a vice president at Merrill Lynch Capital Markets from 1981 to 1989, as the founder and Chief Executive Officer/Chief Operating Officer of Hewitt Financial Services, a registered investment adviser and brokerage, from 1992 to 2006, as the President of the Hewitt Series Trust from 1992 to 2006, as Executive Vice President—Defined Contribution Practice Founder at PIMCO Investment Management from 2006 to 2018, and has served as the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Schaus Group LLC, a consulting firm, since 2019. Ms. Schaus has served as a board member of several organizations, including as a board member of the nonprofit Financial Planning Association from 2005 to 2007, the founder and chairwoman of the nonprofit Defined Contribution Institutional Investment Association from 2010 to 2012 and the chairwoman (from 2018 to 2020) and executive committee member (from 2018 to 2021) of the nonprofit Employee Benefit Research Institute. She has served as a member of the financial technology committee of the nonprofit Society of Actuaries since 2019 and as an advisory board member of A&P Capital, a consulting firm, from 2019 until 2021.

Committee Meetings

The board has the following standing committees: audit committee and nominating committee. Because the funds have not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI, there have been no committee meetings with respect to the funds.

Board Members' Fund Share Ownership

The funds have not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI, and therefore, as of the date of this SAI, no board member owned any shares of a fund. As of the date of this SAI, no board member owned shares in any Predecessor Fund.

As of December 31, 2024, none of the independent board members or their immediate family members owned securities of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, the Distributor or any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, or the Distributor.

Board Members' Compensation

The Independent Board Members are not compensated directly by the funds. The Independent Board Members are paid by the Adviser from the unitary management fee paid to the Adviser by the funds. The Independent Board Members are also reimbursed for their covered expenses.

The below is an estimate of the aggregate amount of fees to be paid to each current Independent Board Member for the funds' fiscal period ending August 31, 2026.

Name of Independent Board Member	Aggregate Compensation from the Trust ⁽¹⁾	Pension of Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Trust Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation From the Trust and Fund Complex Paid to Independent Board Members ⁽²⁾
J. Charles Cardona	\$61,770	N/A	N/A	\$402,250
Kristen M. Dickey	\$49,416	N/A	N/A	\$115,000
F. Jack Liebau, Jr.	\$49,416	N/A	N/A	\$115,000
Jill I. Mavro	\$49,416	N/A	N/A	\$115,000
Kevin W. Quinn	\$56,736	N/A	N/A	\$132,250
Stacy L. Schaus	\$49,416	N/A	N/A	\$115,000

⁽¹⁾ Represents an estimate of the aggregate amount of fees to be paid to each current Independent Board Member for the funds' fiscal period ending August 31, 2026.

⁽²⁾ Represents the total compensation from all investment companies in the fund complex, including the funds, for which the board member served as of the date of this SAI. "Fund complex" comprises registered investment companies for which the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser serves as investment adviser.

OFFICERS

Name Year of Birth Position	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Investment Companies (and Portfolios) in the Fund Complex¹ for which Officer serves as an Officer
David DiPetrillo 1978 President 2024	Vice President and Director of BNYIA since February 2021; Head of North America Distribution, BNY Investments since February 2023; and Head of North America Product BNY Investments from January 2018 to February 2023.	44 (89 portfolios)
Sarah S. Kelleher 1975 Vice President and Secretary 2024	Vice President of BNY Mellon ETF Investment Adviser, LLC since February 2020; Senior Managing Counsel of BNY since September 2021; and Managing Counsel of BNY from December 2017 to September 2021.	45 (102 portfolios)
Amanda Quinn 1985 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2024	Managing Counsel of BNY since March 2024; and Counsel of BNY from June 2019 to February 2024.	45 (102 portfolios)
Deirdre Cunnane 1990 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2024	Managing Counsel of BNY since December 2021; and Counsel of BNY from August 2018 to December 2021.	45 (102 portfolios)
Lisa M. King 1968 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2024	Counsel of BNY since June 2023; and Regulatory Administration Group Manager at BNY Asset Servicing from February 2016 to June 2023.	45 (102 portfolios)
Lisa Zeller 1982 Chief Compliance Officer 2025	Chief Compliance Officer since December 2025 of BNY Mellon ETF Investment Adviser, LLC and BNY Mellon ETF Trust; Deputy Chief Compliance Officer of BNY Mellon ETF Investment Adviser, LLC, BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. and BNY Mellon Securities Corporation's investment advisory business from July 2023 to December 2025; Head of Funds Compliance at Pagaya Investments US LLC from January 2022 to July 2023; and Senior Compliance Officer/Chief Compliance Officer at Nordea Investment Management North America, Inc. from 2016 to January 2022.	2 (19 portfolios)

Name Year of Birth Position	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Investment Companies (and Portfolios) in the Fund Complex¹ for which Officer serves as an Officer
Jeff S. Prusnofsky 1965 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2024	Senior Managing Counsel of BNY.	45 (102 portfolios)
Peter M. Sullivan 1968 Chief Legal Officer, Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2024	Chief Legal Officer of BNYIA and Associate General Counsel of BNY since July 2021; Senior Managing Counsel of BNY from December 2020 to July 2021; and Managing Counsel of BNY from March 2009 to December 2020.	45 (102 portfolios)
Daniel Goldstein 1969 Vice President 2024	Head of Product Development of North America Distribution, BNY Investments since January 2018; Executive Vice President of North America Product, BNY Investments since April 2023; and Senior Vice President, Development & Oversight of North America Product, BNY Investments from 2010 to March 2023.	44 (89 portfolios)
Joseph Martella 1976 Vice President 2024	Vice President of the BNYIA since December 2022; Head of Product Management of North America Distribution, BNY Investments since January 2018; Executive Vice President North America Product, BNY Investments since April 2023; and Senior Vice President of North America Product, BNY Investments from 2010 to March 2023.	44 (89 portfolios)
James Windels 1958 Treasurer 2024	Director of BNYIA since February 2023; Vice President of BNYIA since September 2020; and Director – BNY Fund Administration.	45 (102 portfolios)
Roberto G. Mazzeo 1980 Assistant Treasurer 2024	Financial Reporting Manager – BNY Fund Administration.	45 (102 portfolios)
Gavin C. Reilly 1968 Assistant Treasurer 2024	Tax Manager - BNY Fund Administration.	45 (102 portfolios)

Name Year of Birth Position	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Investment Companies (and Portfolios) in the Fund Complex¹ for which Officer serves as an Officer
Robert Salviolo 1967 Assistant Treasurer 2024	Senior Accounting Manager – BNY Fund Administration.	45 (102 portfolios)
Robert Svagna 1967 Assistant Treasurer 2024	Senior Accounting Manager – BNY Fund Administration.	45 (102 portfolios)
Caridad M. Carosella 1968 Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer 2024	Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the BNY Mellon Family of Funds and BNY Mellon Funds Trust.	41 (98 portfolios)

¹ "Fund complex" comprises registered investment companies for which the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser serves as investment adviser.

The address of each officer is 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286.

CERTAIN PORTFOLIO MANAGER INFORMATION

The following table lists the number and types of accounts advised by each fund's primary portfolio managers and assets under management in those accounts as of August 29, 2025.

Primary Portfolio Managers	Registered Investment Companies	Total Assets Managed (in millions)	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Total Assets Managed (in millions)	Other Accounts	Total Assets Managed (in millions)
Jeffrey Burger	11	\$2,641	0	\$0	524	\$1,034
Thomas Casey	6	\$3,888	0	\$0	623	\$2,837
Gregory J. Conant	0	\$0	0	\$0	288	\$2,398
James DiChiaro	2	\$2,657	0	\$0	10	\$1,156
John F. Flahive	7	\$6,558	0	\$0	0	\$0
Mary Collette O'Brien	2	\$8,440	0	\$0	483	\$6,097
Scott Zaleski	4	\$6,194	1	\$103	44	\$9,323

The following table provides information on accounts managed (included within the table above) by each primary portfolio manager that are subject to performance-based advisory fees.

Primary Portfolio Managers	Registered Investment Companies	Total Assets Managed (in millions)	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Total Assets Managed (in millions)	Other Accounts	Total Assets Managed (in millions)
Jeffrey Burger	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Thomas Casey	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Gregory J. Conant	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
James DiChiaro	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
John F. Flahive	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Mary Collette O'Brien	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Scott Zaleski	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0

Because the funds have not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI, the portfolio managers did not own any shares in any fund.

The following table lists the dollar range of shares of the Predecessor Funds beneficially owned by the primary portfolio managers as of August 29, 2025.

Primary Portfolio Managers	Fund	Dollar Range of Predecessor Fund Shares Beneficially Owned
Jeffrey Burger	BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	\$0
Thomas Casey	BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	\$0
	BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	\$0
Gregory J. Conant	BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	\$0
	BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	\$0
James DiChiaro	BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	\$0
	BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	\$0
John F. Flahive	BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	\$0
	BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	\$0
	BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	\$0
	BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	\$0
	BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	\$0
Mary Collette O'Brien	BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	\$0
Scott Zaleski	BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	\$0
	BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	\$0

ADVISER'S AND SUB-ADVISER'S COMPENSATION; COMPLIANCE SERVICES

Adviser's Compensation

The funds will pay a monthly management fee to the Adviser at the annual rate set forth in the table below (stated as a percentage of each fund's average daily net assets).

Fund	Fee Rate
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	0.40%
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	0.40%
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF	0.24%
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF	0.35%
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF	0.50%

For each Predecessor Fund's last three fiscal years ended August 31, the investment advisory fees payable by the Predecessor Fund, the reduction, if any, in the amount of the fee paid due to fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements by the investment adviser to the Predecessor Fund and the net fees paid by the Predecessor Fund were as follows:

Fund	2025 Fiscal Year			2024 Fiscal Year			2023 Fiscal Year		
	Fee payable	Fee reduction	Net fee paid	Fee payable	Fee reduction	Net fee paid	Fee payable	Fee reduction	Net fee paid
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	\$1,620,360	\$0	\$1,620,360	\$1,673,069	\$0	\$1,673,069	\$1,869,636	\$0	\$1,869,636
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	\$1,778,321	\$0	\$1,778,321	\$1,955,848	\$0	\$1,955,848	\$2,271,296	\$0	\$2,271,296
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	\$1,405,917	\$(459,168)	\$946,749	\$1,434,133	\$445,033	\$989,100	\$2,210,118	\$582,665	\$1,627,453
BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	\$6,035,981	\$0	\$6,035,981	\$6,626,102	\$0	\$6,626,102	\$6,626,781	\$0	\$6,626,781
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	\$10,408,075	\$0	\$10,408,075	\$9,610,292	\$0	\$9,610,292	\$9,196,834	\$0	\$9,196,834

Sub-Adviser's Compensation

The Adviser will pay a monthly sub-advisory fee to Insight North America LLC ("INA"), as Sub-Adviser, at the annual rate set forth in the table below (stated as a percentage of the fund's average daily net assets). The Adviser, and not the funds, pays the Sub-Adviser's fee rate. The Predecessor Funds did not have a sub-investment adviser.

Fund	Fee Rate
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	0.20%
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	0.20%
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF	0.175%
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF	0.175%
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF	0.25%

Compliance Services

The funds' compliance program is developed, implemented and maintained by the funds' CCO and his staff. The CCO's staff works on the compliance program and related matters for the funds. There will be no allocation to the funds of compensation expenses for the CCO and his staff. Because the funds are unitary fee funds, such compliance compensation and expenses are borne by the Adviser.

The portion of the compensation of the Predecessor Funds' CCO (which was approved by the Predecessor Funds' board), as well as the compensation of the CCO's staff and the expenses of the CCO and staff (including administrative expenses) are borne by the Predecessor Funds. The Predecessor Funds' CCO and his staff work exclusively on the compliance program and related matters for the funds in the BNY Mellon Funds Trust and funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds, and compensation and expenses of the CCO and the CCO staff generally are allocated among such funds based on an equal amount per fund with incremental amounts allocated to funds with more service providers (including a sub-adviser). Such compensation and expenses for the Predecessor Funds for their last fiscal year ended August 31, 2025 were as follows:

Fund	CCO and Staff Compensation and Expenses
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	\$ 24,051
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	\$ 24,051
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	\$ 23,989
BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	\$ 24,051
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	\$ 24,051

ADMINISTRATION COMPENSATION

The funds do not have a separate administration fee.

Administration fees paid by the Predecessor Funds to The Bank of New York Mellon for the last three fiscal years were as follows:

Fund	2025 Fiscal Year			2024 Fiscal Year			2023 Fiscal Period		
	Fee payable	Reduction in fee	Net fee paid	Fee payable	Reduction in fee	Net fee paid	Fee payable	Reduction in fee	Net fee paid
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	\$570,157	\$0	\$570,157	\$578,716	\$0	\$578,716	\$631,728	\$0	\$631,728
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	\$625,588	\$0	\$625,588	\$673,883	\$0	\$673,883	\$767,836	\$0	\$767,836
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	\$565,920	\$0	\$565,920	\$564,639	\$0	\$564,639	\$852,606	\$0	\$852,606
BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	\$2,427,209	\$0	\$2,427,209	\$2,609,239	\$0	\$2,609,239	\$2,559,950	\$0	\$2,559,950
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	\$2,929,729	\$0	\$2,929,729	\$2,649,466	\$0	\$2,649,466	\$2,487,291	\$0	\$2,487,291

SECURITIES LENDING ACTIVITIES

The board has approved participation in a securities lending program for the funds. Under the securities lending program, The Bank of New York Mellon serves as the fund's securities lending agent ("Securities Lending Agent"). As the funds were not operational as of the date of this SAI, the funds have not earned any income from securities lending nor paid any fees to the Securities Lending Agent.

The dollar amounts of income and fees and compensation paid to all service providers (including fees, if any, paid to the corresponding Predecessor Fund's investment adviser for cash collateral management and fees paid to The Bank of New York Mellon as securities lending agent), related to the corresponding Predecessor Fund's securities lending activities during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2025 were as follows:

Fund	BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund
Gross income from securities lending activities (including income from cash collateral reinvestment)	\$644,550	\$244,814
<i>Fees and/or compensation for securities lending activities and related services</i>		
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$10,615	\$7,647

Fund	BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service (including fees deducted from a pooled cash collateral reinvestment vehicle) that are not included in the revenue split	\$0	\$0
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0	\$0
Indemnification fees not included in revenue split	\$0	\$0
Rebate (paid to borrower)	\$556,067	\$181,071
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$0	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	\$566,682	\$188,718
Net income from securities lending activities	\$77,868	\$56,096

The services to be provided by The Bank of New York Mellon as Securities Lending Agent are as follows: selection of securities to be loaned; utilization of borrowers previously approved by the funds' board; negotiation of loan terms; monitoring daily the value of the loaned securities and collateral; requiring additional collateral as necessary; investing cash collateral in accordance with the funds' instructions; marking to market non-cash collateral; maintaining custody of non-cash collateral; recordkeeping and account servicing; monitoring dividend activity and material proxy votes relating to loaned securities; transferring loaned securities; recalling loaned securities in accordance with the funds' instructions; and arranging for return of loaned securities to the fund at loan termination.

BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund, BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund, and BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund did not engage in securities lending activity during the most recent fiscal year ended August 31, 2025.

DISTRIBUTOR'S COMPENSATION

The amounts paid by each Predecessor Fund to the Distributor under the Predecessor Fund's shareholder services plan for the Investor share class for the Predecessor Fund's last fiscal year were as follows:

Fund	Distributor Payments	Amount Reimbursed to Fund Pursuant to Undertaking in Effect	Total Amount
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	\$13,089	N/A	\$13,089
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	\$17,450	N/A	\$17,450
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	\$29,600	N/A	\$29,600
BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	\$162,315	N/A	\$162,315
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	\$159,925	N/A	\$159,925

OFFERING PRICE

Each fund offers and issues its shares at their net asset value ("NAV") only in aggregations of a specified number of shares (each, a "Creation Unit"). Each fund generally offers and issues its shares either in exchange for (i) a basket of securities designated by the fund ("Deposit Securities") together with the deposit of a specified cash payment ("Cash Component") or (ii) a cash payment equal in value to the Deposit Securities ("Deposit Cash") together with the Cash Component. The primary consideration accepted by a fund (i.e., Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash) is set forth under "Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units" later in this SAI. The Trust reserves the right to permit or require the substitution of a "cash in lieu" amount to be added to the Cash Component to replace any Deposit Security and reserves the right to permit or require the substitution of Deposit Securities in lieu of Deposit Cash (subject to applicable legal requirements). The Trust also reserves the right to deviate from a representative selection of a fund's portfolio holdings as part of the Deposit Securities if such deviation is in the best interests of the fund and its shareholders. The shares have been approved for listing and secondary trading on a national securities exchange ("Exchange"). The shares will trade on the Exchange at market prices. These prices may differ from the shares' NAVs. The shares are also redeemable only in Creation Unit aggregations, and generally in exchange either for (i) portfolio securities and a specified cash payment or (ii) cash (subject to applicable legal requirements). For the preceding, the Trust reserves the right to deviate from a representative selection of a fund's portfolio holdings if such deviation is in the best interests of the fund and its shareholders.

Shares may be issued in advance of receipt of Deposit Securities subject to various conditions including a requirement to maintain on deposit with the Trust cash at least equal to a specified percentage of the market value of the missing Deposit Securities as set forth in the Participant Agreement. See "Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units." The Trust may impose a transaction fee for each creation or redemption. In all cases, such fees will be limited in accordance with the requirements of the SEC applicable to management investment companies offering redeemable securities. In addition to the fixed creation or redemption transaction fee, an additional transaction fee of up to three times the fixed creation or redemption transaction fee and/or an additional variable charge may apply as discussed in the section "Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units" in Part II of this SAI below.

CONTINUOUS OFFERING

The method by which Creation Units of shares are created and traded may raise certain issues under applicable securities laws. Because new Creation Units of shares are issued and sold by the Trust on an ongoing basis, at any point a "distribution," as such term is used in the Securities Act, may occur. Broker-dealers and other persons are cautioned that some activities on their part may, depending on the circumstances, result in their being deemed participants in a distribution in a manner which could render them statutory underwriters and subject them to the prospectus delivery and liability provisions of the Securities Act.

For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Units after placing an order with the Distributor, breaks them down into constituent shares, and sells such shares directly to customers, or if it chooses to couple the creation of a supply of new shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for shares. A determination of whether one is an underwriter for purposes of the Securities Act must take into account all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the activities of the broker-dealer or its client in the particular case, and the examples mentioned above should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could lead to a categorization as an underwriter.

Broker-dealer firms should also note that dealers who are not "underwriters" but are effecting transactions in shares, whether or not participating in the distribution of shares, are generally required to deliver a prospectus. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act is not available in respect of such transactions as a result of Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act. Firms that incur a prospectus-delivery obligation with respect to shares of a fund are reminded that under Securities Act Rule 153, a prospectus-delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Act owed to an exchange member in connection with a sale on an exchange is satisfied by the fact that a fund's prospectus is available at the exchange upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is only available with respect to transactions on an exchange.

The Adviser or its affiliates (the "Selling Shareholder") may purchase Creation Units through a broker-dealer to "seed" (in whole or in part) funds as they are launched, or may purchase shares from broker-dealers or other

investors that have previously provided "seed" for funds when they were launched or otherwise in secondary market transactions, and because the Selling Shareholder may be deemed an affiliate of such funds, the fund shares are being registered to permit the resale of these shares from time to time after purchase. The funds will not receive any of the proceeds from the resale by the Selling Shareholders of these fund shares.

The Selling Shareholder intends to sell all or a portion of the fund shares owned by it and offered hereby from time to time directly or through one or more broker-dealers, and may also hedge such positions. The fund shares may be sold on any national securities exchange on which the fund shares may be listed or quoted at the time of sale, in the over-the-counter market or in transactions other than on these exchanges or systems at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of the sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices. These sales may be effected in transactions, which may involve cross or block transactions.

The Selling Shareholder may also loan or pledge fund shares to broker-dealers that in turn may sell such fund shares, to the extent permitted by applicable law. The Selling Shareholder may also enter into options or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of fund shares, which fund shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell.

The Selling Shareholder and any broker-dealer or agents participating in the distribution of fund shares may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. In such event, any commissions paid to any such broker-dealer or agent and any profit on the resale of the fund shares purchased by them may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act. The Selling Shareholder who may be deemed an "underwriter" within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act will be subject to the applicable prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act.

EXCHANGE LISTING AND TRADING

A discussion of exchange listing and trading matters associated with an investment in each fund is contained in the fund's prospectus under "Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares" and "Additional Purchase and Sale Information." The discussion below supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, such sections of the prospectus.

Shares are approved for listing and trading on the Exchange, subject to notice of issuance. Shares trade on the Exchange at prices that may differ to some degree from their NAV. There can be no assurance that the requirements of the Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of shares of a fund will continue to be met.

The Exchange may consider the suspension of trading in, and may initiate delisting proceedings of, the shares of a fund under any of the following circumstances: (i) if the Exchange becomes aware that the fund is no longer eligible to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 under the 1940 Act; (ii) if the fund no longer complies with the applicable listing requirements set forth in the Exchange's rules; (iii) if, following the initial twelve-month period after commencement of trading on the Exchange of a fund, there are fewer than 50 beneficial holders of such fund; or (iv) if such other event shall occur or condition exists which, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable. The Exchange will remove the shares from listing and trading upon termination of a fund. The Trust reserves the right to adjust the share price of a fund in the future to maintain convenient trading ranges for investors. Any adjustments would be accomplished through stock splits or reverse stock splits, which would have no effect on the net assets of a fund.

As in the case of other publicly traded securities, brokers' commissions on transactions will be based on negotiated commission rates at customary levels.

The base and trading currencies of each fund is the U.S. dollar. The base currency is the currency in which a fund's NAV per share is calculated and the trading currency is the currency in which shares of a fund are listed and traded on the Exchange.

BOOK ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the prospectus entitled "Additional Purchase and Sale Information."

The DTC acts as securities depository for the shares. Shares of each fund are represented by securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., and deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC. Except in the limited circumstance provided below, certificates will not be issued for shares. DTC, a limited-purpose trust company, was created to hold securities of its participants (the "DTC Participants") and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among the DTC Participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the DTC Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. DTC Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of whom (and/or their representatives) own DTC. More specifically, DTC is owned by a number of its DTC Participants and by the NYSE and FINRA. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC Participant, either directly or indirectly (the "Indirect Participants").

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

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

Share distributions shall be made to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., as the registered holder of all shares. DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any such distributions, shall credit immediately DTC Participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in shares of a fund as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. Payments by DTC Participants to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners of shares held through such DTC Participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in a "street name," and will be the responsibility of such DTC Participants.

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

DTC may determine to discontinue providing its service with respect to shares at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Trust and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law. Under such circumstances, the Trust shall take action either to find a replacement for DTC to perform its functions at a comparable cost or, if such a replacement is unavailable, to issue and deliver printed certificates representing ownership of shares, unless the Trust makes other arrangements with respect thereto satisfactory to the Exchange.

SECURITIES OF REGULAR BROKERS OR DEALERS

A fund may acquire securities issued by one or more of its "regular brokers or dealers," as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act. Rule 10b-1 provides that a "regular broker or dealer" is one of the ten brokers or dealers that, during the fund's last fiscal year: (1) received the greatest dollar amount of brokerage commissions from

participating, either directly or indirectly, in the fund's portfolio transactions, (2) engaged as principal in the largest dollar amount of the fund's portfolio transactions or (3) sold the largest dollar amount of the fund's securities. As the funds were not operational as of the date of this SAI, there is no information with respect to ownership of any securities of any "regular broker or dealer" as of that date.

The following is a list of the issuers of the securities, and the aggregate value per issuer, of each Predecessor Fund's regular brokers or dealers held by the Predecessor Fund as of the end of the fiscal year ended August 31, 2025:

Fund	Regular Broker or Dealer	Aggregate Value Per Issuer Held By the Predecessor Fund
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	GOLDMAN SACHS & CO. LLC	\$3,335,912
	WELLS FARGO SECURITIES, LLC	\$3,278,695
	BARCLAYS CAPITAL INC.	\$4,045,122
	J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES LLC	\$3,596,416
	MORGAN STANLEY & CO. LLC	\$3,637,963
	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	\$3,543,570
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	HSBC SECURITIES (USA) INC.	\$ 3,114,579
	WELLS FARGO SECURITIES, LLC	\$2,624,584
	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	\$4,651,438
	BMO CAPITAL MARKETS CORP.	\$3,093,564
	BARCLAYS CAPITAL INC.	\$3,819,649
	GOLDMAN SACHS & CO. LLC	\$3,539,411
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	N/A	N/A
BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	N/A	N/A
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	N/A	N/A

COMMISSIONS

As the funds were not operational as of the date of this SAI, there is no information with respect to brokerage transactions or commissions as of that date.

The approximate aggregate amounts of commissions paid by the Predecessor Funds for brokerage commissions during the last three fiscal years ended August 31, none of which was paid to Affiliated Brokers*, were as follows:

Fund	2025 Fiscal Year Commissions	2024 Fiscal Year Commissions	2023 Fiscal Year Commissions
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
BNY Mellon National	\$323	\$860	\$4,209

Fund	2025 Fiscal Year Commissions	2024 Fiscal Year Commissions	2023 Fiscal Year Commissions
Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund			
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	\$7,432	\$5,830	\$14,897

* Although no commissions were paid to Affiliated Brokers directly, unaffiliated brokers cleared transactions through clearing brokers affiliated with BNY. The Predecessor Funds paid no fees directly to affiliated clearing brokers.

The following table provides an explanation of any material difference in the commissions paid by the Predecessor Funds in either of the two fiscal years preceding the last fiscal year.

Fund	Reason for Any Material Difference in Commissions
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	N/A
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	N/A
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	N/A
BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	N/A
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	N/A

The aggregate amount of transactions during each Predecessor Fund's last fiscal year in securities effected on an agency basis through a broker-dealer for, among other things, research services and the commissions related to such transactions were as follows:

Fund	Transactions	Related Commissions
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	N/A	N/A
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	N/A	N/A
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	N/A	N/A
BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	N/A	N/A
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	N/A	N/A

PORTFOLIO TURNOVER VARIATION

As the funds were not operational as of the date of this SAI, there is no information with respect to the fund's portfolio turnover rates as of that date.

Each Predecessor Fund's portfolio turnover rate for up to five fiscal years is shown in the prospectus. The following table provides an explanation of any significant variation in a Predecessor Fund's portfolio turnover rates over the last two fiscal years (or any anticipated variation in the portfolio turnover rate from that reported for the last fiscal year).

Fund	Reason for Any Significant Portfolio Turnover Rate Variation of the Predecessor Fund, or Anticipated Variation
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	N/A
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	N/A
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	N/A
BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	N/A
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	N/A

SHARE OWNERSHIP

The funds had not yet commenced operations as of the date of this SAI, and therefore did not have any beneficial owners that owned greater than 5% of the outstanding voting securities as of the date of this SAI. The following persons are known by the Predecessor Funds to own of record 5% or more of the indicated class of the Predecessor Fund's outstanding voting securities. All information is as of December 2, 2025.

Fund	Class	Name and Address	Percent Owned
BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund	Class M	SEI Private Trust Mutual Fund Administrator One Freedom Valley Drive Oaks, PA 19456-9989	94.6497%
		MAC & CO C/O The Bank Of New York Mellon 500 Grant Street Room 151-1010 Pittsburgh, PA 15258	5.1600%
BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund	Class M	SEI Private Trust Mutual Fund Administrator One Freedom Valley Drive Oaks, PA 19456-9989	94.3010%
		MAC & CO C/O The Bank Of New York Mellon 500 Grant Street Room 151-1010 Pittsburgh, PA 15258	5.4232%
BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund	Class M	SEI Private Trust Mutual Fund Administrator One Freedom Valley Drive Oaks, PA 19456-9989	99.4859%
BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	Class M	SEI Private Trust Mutual Fund Administrator One Freedom Valley Drive Oaks, PA 19456-9989	99.9420%
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund	Class M	SEI Private Trust Mutual Fund Administrator One Freedom Valley Drive Oaks, PA 19456-9989	99.6953%

A shareholder who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, more than 25% of a fund's voting securities may be deemed to "control" (as defined in the 1940 Act) the fund. An Authorized Participant may hold of record more than 25% of the outstanding shares of a fund. From time to time, Authorized Participants may be a beneficial and/or legal owner of a fund, may be deemed to have control of the fund and/or may be able to affect the outcome of matters presented for a vote of the shareholders of the fund. Authorized Participants may execute an irrevocable proxy granting the Distributor or an affiliate of the Distributor (the "Agent") power to vote or abstain from voting such Authorized Participant's beneficially or legally owned shares of a fund. In such cases, the Agent shall mirror vote (or abstain from voting) such shares in the same proportion as all other beneficial owners of a fund.

Board members and officers, as a group, owned less than 1% of each fund's voting securities outstanding as of the date of this SAI.

Certain shareholders of a fund may from time to time own or control a significant percentage of the fund's shares ("Large Shareholders"). Large Shareholders may include, for example, institutional investors, funds of funds, affiliates of the Adviser, and discretionary advisory clients whose buy-sell decisions are controlled by a single decision-maker, including separate accounts and/or funds managed by the Adviser or its affiliates. Large Shareholders may sell all or a portion of their shares of a fund at any time or may be required to sell all or a portion of their shares in order to comply with applicable regulatory restrictions (including, but not limited to, restrictions that apply to U.S. banking entities and their affiliates, such as the Adviser). Sales by Large Shareholders of their shares of a fund may cause Authorized Participants to engage in redemption requests, which in turn may force the fund to sell securities at an unfavorable time and/or under unfavorable conditions, or sell more liquid assets of the fund, in order to meet redemption requests for any redemptions in cash as opposed to in-kind. These sales for any cash redemption baskets may adversely affect both the fund's market price and NAV and may result in increasing the fund's liquidity risk, transaction costs and/or taxable distributions.

From time to time, BNY Investments' managers and the Adviser may sponsor and/or manage a fund in which a BNY affiliate invests seed capital ("Seed Capital"). Such investments may raise potential conflicts of interest because a BNY affiliate, as an investor in the fund, may possess material information about the fund that may not be available to other fund investors. This informational advantage could be perceived as enabling a BNY affiliate to invest or redeem Seed Capital in a manner that conflicts with the interests of other fund investors and/or benefits BNY or its affiliates. In order to mitigate such conflicts, BNY has implemented a policy (the "Seed Capital Investment and Redemption Policy") that governs its affiliates' investment and redemption of Seed Capital in the funds. The Seed Capital Investment and Redemption Policy includes specific parameters that govern the timing and extent of the investment and redemption of Seed Capital, which may be set according to one or more objective factors expressed in terms of timing, asset level, investment performance goals or other criteria approved by BNY. In extraordinary circumstances and subject to certain conditions, BNY will have the authority to modify the application of the Seed Capital Investment and Redemption Policy to a particular investment of Seed Capital after the investment has been made. The Seed Capital Investment and Redemption Policy does not apply (i) in cases where Seed Capital is invested in a fund that has no third party investors and (ii) to investments or redemptions that are required in order to comply with applicable regulatory restrictions (including, but not limited to, restrictions that apply to U.S. banking entities and their affiliates, such as the Adviser).

PART II

PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION OF CREATION UNITS

Each fund issues and redeems its shares on a continuous basis, at NAV, only in a large specified number of shares called a "Creation Unit." The value of each fund is determined once each business day. The Creation Unit size for a fund may change. Authorized Participants will be notified of such change. Creation Unit transactions may be made in-kind, for cash, or for a combination of securities and cash. The principal consideration for creations and redemptions for the BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF and BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF is in-kind, and for the BNY Mellon Short Duration ETF, BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF, and BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF is cash, although this may be revised at any time without notice.

PURCHASE (CREATION). The Trust issues and sells shares of each fund only: in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load (but subject to transaction fees), at their NAV per share next determined after receipt of an order, on any Business Day, in proper form pursuant to the terms of the Authorized Participant Agreement ("Participant Agreement").

FUND DEPOSIT. The consideration for purchase of a Creation Unit of a fund generally consists of either (i) the Deposit Securities and the Cash Component (defined below), computed as described below; or (ii) the cash value of the Deposit Securities and the Cash Component, computed as described below. When accepting purchases of Creation Units for cash, a fund may incur additional costs associated with the acquisition of Deposit Securities that would otherwise be provided by an in-kind purchaser.

Together, the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable, and the Cash Component constitute the "Fund Deposit," which represents the minimum initial and subsequent investment amount for a Creation Unit of a fund. The Cash Component, which may include a Dividend Equivalent Payment, is an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of the shares (per Creation Unit) and the market value of the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable. The "Dividend Equivalent Payment" enables a fund to make a complete distribution of dividends on the day preceding the next dividend payment date, and is an amount equal, on a per Creation Unit basis, to the dividends on all the portfolio securities of the fund ("Dividend Securities") with ex-dividend dates within the accumulation period for such distribution (the "Accumulation Period"), net of expenses and liabilities for such period, as if all of the Dividend Securities had been held by the fund for the entire Accumulation Period. The Accumulation Period begins on the ex-dividend date for each fund and ends on the day preceding the next ex-dividend date. If the Cash Component is a positive number (i.e., the NAV per Creation Unit exceeds the market value of the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable), the Cash Component shall be such positive amount. If the Cash Component is a negative number (i.e., the NAV per Creation Unit is less than the market value of the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable), the Cash Component shall be such negative amount and the creator will be entitled to receive cash in an amount equal to the Cash Component. The Cash Component serves the function of compensating for any differences between the NAV per Creation Unit and the market value of the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable. Computation of the Cash Component excludes any stamp duty or other similar fees and expenses payable upon transfer of beneficial ownership of the Deposit Securities, if applicable, which shall be the sole responsibility of the Authorized Participant (as defined below).

The Custodian, through NSCC, makes available on each Business Day, prior to the opening of business on the Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern time), the list of the names and the required number of shares of each Deposit Security or the required amount of Deposit Cash, as applicable, to be included in the current standard Fund Deposit (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day) for a fund. Such standard Fund Deposit is subject to any applicable adjustments as described below, in order to effect purchases of Creation Units of a fund until such time as the next-announced composition of the Deposit Securities or the required amount of Deposit Cash, as applicable, is made available.

The identity and number of shares of the Deposit Securities or the amount of Deposit Cash, as applicable, required for a Fund Deposit for each fund may be changed from time to time with a view to the investment objective of the fund. Information regarding the Fund Deposit necessary for the purchase of a Creation Unit is made available to Authorized Participants and other market participants seeking to transact in Creation Unit aggregations.

With respect to in-kind purchases, the Trust intends to require the substitution of an amount of cash (i.e., a "cash in lieu" amount) to replace any Deposit Security that is a TBA transaction. The amount of cash contributed will be equivalent to the price of the TBA transaction listed as a Deposit Security. As noted above, the Trust reserves the right to permit or require the substitution of Deposit Cash to replace any Deposit Security, which shall be added to the Cash Component, including, without limitation, in situations where the Deposit Security: (i) may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery, (ii) may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC for corporate securities and municipal securities or the Federal Reserve System for U.S. Treasury securities; (iii) may not be eligible for trading by an Authorized Participant or the investor for which it is acting; (iv) would be restricted under the securities laws or where the delivery of the Deposit Security to the Authorized Participant would result in the disposition of the Deposit Security by the Authorized Participant becoming restricted under the securities laws; or (v) in certain other situations (collectively, "non-standard orders"). The Trust also reserves the right to: (i) permit or require the substitution of Deposit Securities in lieu of Deposit Cash; and (ii) include or remove Deposit Securities from the basket in anticipation of portfolio changes.

PROCEDURES FOR PURCHASE OF CREATION UNITS. To be eligible to place orders with the Distributor, as facilitated via the Transfer Agent, to purchase a Creation Unit of a fund, an entity must be (i) a "Participating Party", i.e., a broker-dealer or other participant in the clearing process through the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC (the "Clearing Process"), a clearing agency that is registered with the SEC; or (ii) a DTC Participant (see "Book Entry Only System"), and, with respect to fixed income, must have the ability to clear through the Federal Reserve System. In addition, each Participating Party or DTC Participant (each, an "Authorized Participant") must execute a Participant Agreement that has been agreed to by the Distributor and the Transfer Agent, and that has been accepted by the Trust, with respect to purchases and redemptions of Creation Units. Each Authorized Participant will agree, pursuant to the terms of a Participant Agreement, on behalf of itself or any investor on whose behalf it will act, to certain conditions, including that it will pay to the Trust, an amount of cash sufficient to pay the Cash Component together with the creation transaction fee (described below) and any other applicable fees, taxes and additional variable charge.

All orders to purchase shares directly from a fund, including non-standard orders, must be placed for one or more Creation Units and in the manner and by the time set forth in the Participant Agreement and/or the applicable order form. The date on which an order to purchase Creation Units (or an order to redeem Creation Units, as set forth below) is received and accepted is referred to as the "Order Placement Date."

An Authorized Participant may require an investor to make certain representations or enter into agreements with respect to the order (e.g., to provide for payments of cash, when required). Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed a Participant Agreement and that, therefore, orders to purchase shares directly from a fund in Creation Units have to be placed by the investor's broker through an Authorized Participant that has executed a Participant Agreement. In such cases there may be additional charges to such investor. At any given time, there may be only a limited number of broker-dealers that have executed a Participant Agreement and only a small number of such Authorized Participants may have international capabilities.

On days when the Exchange or the bond markets close earlier than normal, a fund may require orders to create Creation Units to be placed earlier in the day. In addition, if a market or markets on which a fund's investments are primarily traded is closed, the fund will also generally not accept orders on such day(s). Orders must be transmitted by an Authorized Participant by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Distributor pursuant to procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement and in accordance with the applicable order form. Those placing orders through an Authorized Participant should allow sufficient time to permit proper submission of the purchase order by the cut-off time. Economic or market disruptions or changes, or telephone or other communication failure may impede the ability to reach the Distributor or an Authorized Participant.

Fund Deposits must be delivered by an Authorized Participant through the Federal Reserve System (for cash and U.S. government securities), or through DTC (for corporate securities and municipal securities), through a subcustody agent (for foreign securities) and/or through such other arrangements allowed by the Trust or its agents. With respect to foreign Deposit Securities, the Custodian shall cause the subcustodian of a fund to maintain an account into which the Authorized Participant shall deliver, on behalf of itself or the party on whose behalf it is acting, such Deposit Securities. Foreign Deposit Securities must be delivered to an account maintained at the applicable local subcustodian. The Fund Deposit transfer must be ordered by the Authorized Participant in a timely fashion so as to ensure the delivery of the requisite number of Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable, to

the account of a fund or its agents by no later than the Settlement Date. The "Settlement Date" for orders to create shares is generally the first Business Day ("T+1") after the Order Placement Date. All questions as to the number of Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash to be delivered, as applicable, and the validity, form and eligibility (including time of receipt) for the deposit of any tendered securities or cash, as applicable, will be determined by the Trust, whose determination shall be final and binding. The amount of cash represented by the Cash Component must be transferred directly to the Custodian through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system in a timely manner so as to be received by the Custodian no later than the Settlement Date. If the Cash Component and the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable, are not received in a timely manner by the Settlement Date, the creation order may be cancelled. Upon written notice to the Distributor, such canceled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day using a Fund Deposit as newly constituted to reflect the then current NAV of the fund. The delivery of Creation Units so created generally will occur no later than the first Business Day following the day on which the purchase order is deemed received by the Distributor.

The order shall be deemed to be received on the Business Day on which the order is placed provided that the order is placed in proper form prior to the applicable cut-off time and the federal funds in the appropriate amount are deposited with the Custodian on the Settlement Date per applicable instructions. If the order is not placed in proper form as required, or federal funds in the appropriate amount are not received on the Settlement Date per applicable instructions, then the order may be deemed to be rejected and the Authorized Participant shall be liable to the fund for losses, if any, resulting therefrom. A creation request is considered to be in "proper form" if all procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement, order form and this SAI are properly followed.

ISSUANCE OF A CREATION UNIT. Except as provided herein, Creation Units will not be issued until the transfer of good title to the Trust of the Deposit Securities or payment of Deposit Cash, as applicable, and the payment of the Cash Component have been completed. When the subcustodian has confirmed to the Custodian that the required Deposit Securities (or the cash value thereof) have been delivered to the account of the relevant subcustodian or subcustodians, the Distributor and the Adviser shall be notified of such delivery, and the Trust will issue and cause the delivery of the Creation Units.

In instances where the Trust accepts Deposit Securities for the purchase of a Creation Unit, the Creation Unit may be purchased in advance of receipt by the Trust of all or a portion of the applicable Deposit Securities as described below. In these circumstances, the initial deposit will have a value greater than the NAV of the shares on the date the order is placed in proper form since in addition to available Deposit Securities, cash must be deposited in an amount equal to the sum of (i) the Cash Component, plus (ii) an additional amount of cash equal to a percentage of the market value as set forth in the Participant Agreement, of the undelivered Deposit Securities (the "Additional Cash Deposit"), which shall be maintained in a general non-interest bearing collateral account. An additional amount of cash shall be required to be deposited with the Trust, pending delivery of the missing Deposit Securities to the extent necessary to maintain the Additional Cash Deposit with the Trust in an amount at least equal to the applicable percentage, as set forth in the Participant Agreement, of the daily marked to market value of the missing Deposit Securities. The Trust may use such Additional Cash Deposit to buy the missing Deposit Securities at any time. Authorized Participants will be liable to the Trust for all costs, expenses, dividends, income and taxes associated with missing Deposit Securities, including the costs incurred by the Trust in connection with any such purchases. These costs will be deemed to include the amount by which the actual purchase price of the Deposit Securities exceeds the market value of such Deposit Securities on the day the purchase order was deemed received by the Distributor plus the brokerage and related transaction costs associated with such purchases. The Trust will return any unused portion of the Additional Cash Deposit once all of the missing Deposit Securities have been properly received by the Custodian or purchased by the Trust and deposited into the Trust. In addition, a transaction fee as discussed below under "Creation and Redemption Transaction Fees" will be charged in all cases and an additional variable charge may also be applied. The delivery of Creation Units so created generally will occur no later than the Settlement Date.

ACCEPTANCE OF ORDERS OF CREATION UNITS. The Trust reserves the right to reject an order for Creation Units transmitted in respect of a fund at its discretion for any legally permissible reason, including, but not limited to, if (a) the order is not in proper form or the Deposit Securities delivered do not consist of the securities that the Custodian specified; (b) the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable, delivered by the Authorized Participant are not as disseminated through the facilities of the NSCC for that date by the Custodian; (c) the investor(s), upon obtaining the shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding shares of the fund; (d) the acceptance of the

Fund Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; (e) the acceptance or receipt of the order for a Creation Unit would, in the opinion of counsel to the Trust, be unlawful; or (f) in the event that circumstances outside the control of the Trust, the Custodian, the Transfer Agent, the Distributor and/or the Adviser make it for all practical purposes not feasible to process orders for Creation Units. Examples of such circumstances include acts of God or public service or utility problems such as fires, floods, extreme weather conditions and power outages resulting in telephone, telecopy and computer failures; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other information systems affecting the Trust, the Distributor, the Custodian, the Transfer Agent, DTC, NSCC, Federal Reserve System, or any other participant in the creation process, and other extraordinary events. The Trust or its agents shall communicate to the Authorized Participant its rejection of an order. The Trust, the Transfer Agent, the Custodian and the Distributor are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Fund Deposits nor shall either of them incur any liability for the failure to give any such notification. The Trust, the Transfer Agent, the Custodian and the Distributor shall not be liable for the rejection of any purchase order for Creation Units. Given the importance of the ongoing issuance of Creation Units to maintaining a market price that is at or close to the underlying net asset value of a fund, the Trust does not intend to suspend acceptance of orders for Creation Units.

All questions as to the number of shares of each security in the Deposit Securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by the Trust, and the Trust's determination shall be final and binding.

REDEMPTION. Shares may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by a fund through the Transfer Agent and only on a Business Day. Except upon liquidation of a fund, the Trust will not redeem shares in amounts less than Creation Units. Investors must accumulate enough shares in the secondary market to constitute a Creation Unit in order to have such shares redeemed by the Trust. There can be no assurance, however, that there will be sufficient liquidity in the public trading market at any time to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. Investors should expect to incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a sufficient number of shares to constitute a redeemable Creation Unit.

With respect to each fund, the Custodian, through the NSCC, makes available prior to the opening of business on the Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m. Eastern time) on each Business Day, the list of the names and share quantities of securities designated by the fund that will be applicable (subject to possible amendment or correction) to redemption requests received in proper form (as defined below) on that day ("Redemption Securities"). Redemption Securities received on redemption may not be identical to Deposit Securities. The identity and number of shares of the Redemption Securities or the Cash Redemption Amount (defined below) may be changed from time to time with a view to the investment objective of the fund.

Redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit are paid either in-kind or in cash or a combination thereof, as determined by the Trust. With respect to in-kind redemptions of a fund, redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit will consist of Redemption Securities plus cash in an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of the shares being redeemed, as next determined after a receipt of a request in proper form, and the value of the Redemption Securities (the "Cash Redemption Amount"), less a fixed redemption transaction fee and any applicable additional variable charge as discussed below. In the event that the Redemption Securities have a value greater than the NAV of the shares, a compensating cash payment equal to the differential is required to be made by or through an Authorized Participant by the redeeming shareholder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, with respect to in-kind redemptions: (i) the Trust will substitute a cash in lieu amount to replace any fund security that is a TBA transaction and the amount of cash paid out in such cases will be equivalent to the value of the TBA transaction listed as a fund security and (ii) at the Trust's discretion, an Authorized Participant may receive the corresponding cash value of the securities in lieu of the in-kind securities value representing one or more Redemption Securities.

PROCEDURES FOR REDEMPTION OF CREATION UNITS. After the Trust has deemed an order for redemption received, the Trust will initiate procedures to transfer the requisite Redemption Securities and the Cash Redemption Amount to the Authorized Participant by the Settlement Date. The Settlement Date for orders to redeem shares is generally the first Business Day (T+1) after the Order Placement Date. With respect to in-kind redemptions of a fund, the calculation of the value of the Redemption Securities and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered upon redemption will be made by the Custodian computed on the Business Day on which a redemption order is deemed received by the Trust. Therefore, if a redemption order in proper form is submitted to the Distributor by a DTC Participant by the specified time on the Order Placement Date, and the requisite number of shares of a fund are

delivered to the Custodian per applicable instructions on the Settlement Date, then the value of the Redemption Securities and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered will be determined by the Custodian on such Order Placement Date. If the requisite number of shares of a fund are not delivered on the Settlement Date per applicable instructions, the fund will not release the underlying securities for delivery unless collateral is posted in such percentage amount of missing shares as set forth in the Participant Agreement (marked to market daily).

With respect to in-kind redemptions of a fund, in connection with taking delivery of shares of Redemption Securities upon redemption of Creation Units, an Authorized Participant must maintain appropriate custody arrangements with a qualified broker-dealer, bank or other custody providers in each jurisdiction in which any of the Redemption Securities are customarily traded (or such other arrangements as allowed by the Trust or its agents), to which account such Redemption Securities will be delivered. The Trust generally intends to effect deliveries of redemption proceeds on a T+1 basis. Due to the schedule of holidays in certain countries, however, the delivery of in-kind redemption proceeds may take longer than the standard settlement period following the day on which the redemption request is received in proper form. If the Authorized Participant has not made appropriate arrangements to take delivery of the Redemption Securities in the applicable foreign jurisdiction and it is not possible to make other such arrangements, or if it is not possible to effect deliveries of the Redemption Securities in such jurisdiction, the Trust may, in its discretion, exercise its option to redeem such shares in cash, and the Authorized Participant will be required to receive its redemption proceeds in cash. If it is not possible to make other such arrangements, or if it is not possible to effect deliveries of the Redemption Securities, the Trust may in its discretion exercise its option to redeem such shares in cash, and the redeeming investor will be required to receive its redemption proceeds in cash. In addition, an investor may request a redemption in cash that a fund may, in its sole discretion, permit. In either case, the investor will receive a cash payment equal to the NAV of its shares based on the NAV of shares of the relevant fund next determined after the redemption request is received in proper form (minus a redemption transaction fee and additional charge for cash redemptions described below, to offset the Trust's brokerage and other transaction costs associated with the disposition of Redemption Securities). A fund may also, in its sole discretion, upon request of a shareholder, provide such redeemer a portfolio of securities that differs from the exact composition of the Redemption Securities but does not differ in NAV.

An Authorized Participant submitting a redemption request is deemed to represent to the Trust that, as of the close of the Business Day on which the redemption request was submitted, it (or its client) will own (within the meaning of Rule 200 of Regulation SHO) or has arranged to borrow for delivery to the Trust on or prior to the Settlement Date of the redemption request, the requisite number of shares of the relevant fund to be redeemed as a Creation Unit. In either case, the Authorized Participant is deemed to acknowledge that: (i) it (or its client) has full legal authority and legal right to tender for redemption the requisite number of shares of the applicable fund and to receive the entire proceeds of the redemption; and (ii) if such shares submitted for redemption have been loaned or pledged to another party or are the subject of a repurchase agreement, securities lending agreement or any other arrangement affecting legal or beneficial ownership of such shares being tendered, there are no restrictions precluding the tender and delivery of such shares (including borrowed shares, if any) for redemption, free and clear of liens, on the redemption Settlement Date. The Trust reserves the right to verify these representations at its discretion, but will typically require verification with respect to a redemption request from a fund in connection with higher levels of redemption activity and/or short interest in the fund. If the Authorized Participant, upon receipt of a verification request, does not provide sufficient verification of its representations as determined by the Trust, the redemption request will not be considered to have been received in proper form and may be rejected by the Trust.

Redemptions of shares for Redemption Securities will be subject to compliance with applicable federal and state securities laws and each fund (whether or not it otherwise permits cash redemptions) reserves the right to redeem Creation Units for cash to the extent that the Trust could not lawfully deliver specific Redemption Securities upon redemptions or could not do so without first registering the Redemption Securities under such laws. An Authorized Participant or an investor for which it is acting subject to a legal restriction with respect to a particular security included in the Redemption Securities applicable to the redemption of Creation Units may be paid an equivalent amount of cash. The Authorized Participant may request the redeeming investor of the shares to complete an order form or to enter into agreements with respect to such matters as compensating cash payment. Further, an Authorized Participant that is not a "qualified institutional buyer," ("QIB") as such term is defined under Rule 144A of the Securities Act, will not be able to receive Redemption Securities that are restricted securities eligible for resale under Rule 144A. An Authorized Participant may be required by the Trust to provide a written confirmation with respect to QIB status in order to receive Redemption Securities.

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed with respect to a fund (1) for any period during which the Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (2) for any period during which trading on the Exchange is suspended or restricted; (3) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of the shares of the fund or determination of the NAV of the shares is not reasonably practicable; or (4) in such other circumstance as is permitted by the SEC.

CREATION AND REDEMPTION TRANSACTION FEES. A transaction fee is imposed for the transfer and other transaction costs associated with the purchase or redemption of Creation Units, as applicable. Authorized Participants will be required to pay a fixed creation transaction fee and/or a fixed redemption transaction fee, as applicable, on a given day regardless of the number of Creation Units created or redeemed on that day. A fund may adjust the transaction fee from time to time. An additional charge or a variable charge (discussed below) will be applied to certain creation and redemption transactions, including non-standard orders and whole or partial cash purchases or redemptions. With respect to creation orders, Authorized Participants are responsible for the costs of transferring the securities constituting the Deposit Securities to the account of the Trust and with respect to redemption orders, Authorized Participants are responsible for the costs of transferring the Redemption Securities from the Trust to their account or on their order. Investors who use the services of a broker or other such intermediary may also be charged a fee for such services.

From time to time, a fund may waive all or a portion of its applicable transaction fee(s). An additional charge of up to three (3) times the standard transaction fee may be charged to the extent a transaction is outside of the clearing process.

In addition to the transaction fees described above, the funds may charge an additional variable fee for transactions in cash to offset brokerage and impact expenses associated with the cash transaction. The variable transaction fee will be calculated based on historical transaction cost data and the Adviser's view of current market conditions; however, the actual variable fee charged for a given transaction may be lower or higher than the trading expenses incurred by a fund with respect to that transaction.

INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES AND RISKS

The following charts, which supplement and should be read together with the information in the prospectus, indicate some of the specific investments and investment techniques applicable to each fund. Additional policies and restrictions are described in the prospectus and below in the next section (see "Investment Restrictions"). *See "Additional Information About Investments, Investment Techniques and Risks" in Part III of this SAI for more information, including important risk disclosure, about the investments and investment techniques applicable to your fund.*

Fund	Equity Securities ¹	U.S. Government Securities	Corporate Debt Securities	High Yield and Lower-Rated Securities	Zero Coupon, Pay-in-Kind and Step-Up Securities	Inflation-Indexed Securities (other than TIPS)
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF		✓		✓	✓ (municipal securities only)	
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF		✓		✓ (municipal securities only)	✓ (municipal securities only)	

¹ Includes common and preferred stock.

Fund	Variable and Floating Rate Securities	Loans	Participation Interests and Assignments ²	Convertible Securities	Mortgage-Backed Securities	Asset-Backed Securities	Collateralized Debt Obligations
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF	✓	✓ (municipal securities only)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF	✓	✓ (municipal securities only)	✓ (municipal securities only)				
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF	✓	✓ (municipal securities only)	✓ (municipal securities only)				

² For BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF, and BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF, tax-exempt participation interests only.

Fund	Municipal Securities	Funding Agreements	REITs	Money Market Instruments ³	Foreign Securities	Emerging Markets	Sovereign Debt Obligations and Brady Bonds
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF	✓			✓	✓		✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF	✓			✓			
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF	✓			✓			

³ Money market instruments consist of high quality, short-term debt obligations, including U.S. Government securities, bank obligations, repurchase agreements and commercial paper. For all funds, (1) when the Adviser determines that adverse market conditions exist, a fund may adopt a temporary defensive position and invest up to 100% of its assets in money market instruments, and (2) a fund also may purchase money market instruments when it has cash reserves or in anticipation of taking a market position. When a fund has adopted a temporary defensive position, it may not achieve its investment objective(s).

Fund	Eurodollar and Yankee Dollar Investments	Investment Companies	ETFs	Exchange Traded Notes	MLPs ⁴	Futures Transactions	Options Transactions
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF		✓	✓			✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF		✓	✓			✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF		✓	✓			✓	✓

⁴ Bonds issued by MLPs.

Fund	Swap Transactions ⁵	Credit Linked Securities	Credit Derivatives	Structured Securities and Hybrid Instruments	Participation Notes	Custodial Receipts
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF	✓	✓	✓			✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF	✓	✓	✓			✓ (municipal securities only)
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF	✓	✓	✓			✓ (municipal securities only)

⁵ Includes contracts for difference.

Fund	Foreign Currency Transactions	Short-Selling	Lending Portfolio Securities	Borrowing Money ⁶
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF			✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF			✓	✓

⁶ Each fund currently intends to borrow money only for temporary or emergency (not leveraging) purposes; however, BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF and BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF may borrow for investment purposes on a secured basis through entering into reverse repurchase agreements.

Fund	Reverse Repurchase Agreements	Forward Commitments	Forward Roll Transactions	Illiquid Investments
BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	✓	✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund		✓	✓	✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF		✓		✓
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF		✓		✓

INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

"Fundamental Policies" may not be changed without approval of the holders of a majority of a fund's outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act). Under the 1940 Act, the vote of a majority of a fund's outstanding voting securities means the vote of (A) 67% or more of the voting securities present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the fund are present or represented by proxy; or (B) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the fund, whichever is less. "Nonfundamental Policies" may be changed at any time, without shareholder approval, by a vote of a majority of the board members and in compliance with applicable law and regulatory policy.

Fundamental Policies

As a matter of Fundamental Policy, each fund may not:

1. Borrowing

Borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

2. Commodities

Invest in physical commodities, except that the fund may purchase and sell commodity-linked or index-linked structured notes, commodity-related ETFs or ETNs, options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those related to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices and enter into swap agreements and other derivative instruments.

3. Issuer Diversification

With respect to 75% of its total assets, purchase securities of an issuer (other than the U.S. Government, its agencies, instrumentalities or authorities or repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Government securities and other investment companies), if: (a) such purchase would cause more than 5% of the fund's total assets taken at market value to be invested in the securities of such issuer; or (b) such purchase would at the time result in more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer being held by the fund.

4. Industry Concentration

Invest more than 25% of its assets in the securities of issuers in any single industry or group of industries.

5. Loans

Lend any securities or make loans to others, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act (which currently limits such loans to no more than 33-1/3% of the value of the fund's total assets) or as otherwise permitted by the SEC.

6. Real Estate

Purchase, hold or deal in real estate, but the fund may purchase and sell securities that are secured by real estate or issued by companies that invest or deal in real estate or real estate investment trusts (REITs) and may acquire and hold real estate or interests therein through exercising rights or remedies with regard to such securities.

7. Senior Securities

Issue any senior security (as such term is defined in Section 18(f) of the 1940 Act), except insofar as the fund may be deemed to have issued a senior security by reason of borrowing money in accordance with the fund's borrowing policies or otherwise to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

8. Underwriting

Act as an underwriter of securities of other issuers, except to the extent the fund may be deemed an underwriter under the Securities Act by virtue of disposing of portfolio securities.

References to "commodities" in the Fundamental Policy described above are to physical commodities, typically natural resources or agricultural products, and are not intended to refer to instruments that are strictly financial in nature and are not related to the purchase or delivery of physical commodities.

For purposes of the Fundamental Policy regarding industry concentration with respect to each fund:

- the fund will not invest more than 25% of the fund's total assets in securities issued or guaranteed by a single foreign government or by a single foreign supranational entity.
- there shall be no limitation on the purchase of obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities or shares of other investment companies. In addition, when determining compliance with the Fundamental Policy regarding industry concentration, the fund will consider the current investments of any underlying investment companies, to the extent that such information is known to the fund.
- state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions are not considered members of any industry, and industrial development bonds, where the payment of principal and interest is the ultimate responsibility of companies within the same industry, are grouped together as an "industry."

For purposes of the Fundamental Policy regarding loans, the purchase of debt obligations (including acquisitions of loans, loan participations or other forms of debt instruments) and the entry into repurchase agreements shall not constitute loans by the fund. Any loans of portfolio securities will be made according to guidelines established by the SEC and the board.

The funds' Fundamental Policies will be interpreted broadly. For example, the policies will be interpreted to refer to the 1940 Act and the related rules as they are in effect from time to time, and to interpretations and modifications of or relating to the 1940 Act by the SEC and others as they are given from time to time. When a Fundamental Policy provides that an investment practice may be conducted as permitted by the 1940 Act, this will be interpreted to mean that the investment practice is either (i) expressly permitted by the 1940 Act or the rules thereunder or (ii) not expressly prohibited by the 1940 Act or the rules thereunder.

With respect to each fund, for both Fundamental and Nonfundamental Policies, if a percentage restriction is adhered to at the time of investment, a later change in percentage resulting from a change in values or assets will not constitute a violation of such restriction, except as otherwise required by the 1940 Act. With respect to the funds' policies pertaining to borrowing, however, if borrowings exceed 33-1/3% of the value of a fund's total assets as a result of a change in values or assets, the fund must take steps to reduce such borrowings within three days (not including Sundays and holidays) thereafter at least to the extent of such excess.

Each fund is classified as "diversified" under the 1940 Act.

Fundamental and Nonfundamental Policies

Investment Objectives. Each fund's investment objective is disclosed in its prospectus. A fund's investment objective is a Nonfundamental Policy (may be changed at any time, without shareholder approval, by a vote of a majority of the board members and in compliance with applicable law and regulatory policy).

Funds-of-Funds. Each fund has adopted a Non-Fundamental policy prohibiting it from acquiring shares of other funds in reliance on Section 12(d)(1)(F) or Section 12(d)(1)(G) of the 1940 Act.

80% Test. Each of the following funds invests, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes (for funds that may borrow for investment purposes), in the instruments described below (or, notwithstanding any contrary information in the fund's prospectus, other instruments with similar economic characteristics). Each fund has either (1) adopted a policy to provide its shareholders with at least

60 days' prior notice of any change in its policy to so invest its assets ("80% Test") or (2) adopted the 80% Test as a Fundamental Policy, as indicated below.

Fund	80% Test	Fundamental Policy?
BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF	Bonds	No
BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF	Municipal bonds that provide income exempt from U.S. federal income tax	Yes
BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF	Municipal bonds that provide income exempt from U.S. federal income tax	Yes
BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF	Municipal bonds that provide income exempt from U.S. federal income tax	Yes

Notwithstanding investments and activities referenced in the Fundamental and Non-Fundamental Policies of each fund, no fund will invest in a manner, or engage in activities, inconsistent with or not permitted by the fund's investment strategy and policies as described in the fund's prospectus and this SAI.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDS' ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The Trust is an open-end management investment company, registered under the 1940 Act, consisting of multiple fund series. Each fund is a separate series of the Trust, and investments are made through, and shareholders invest in, the fund. The offering of each fund's shares is registered under the Securities Act. The Trust was organized as a Massachusetts business trust on June 24, 2024.

Each fund will commence operations and acquire the assets and liabilities of the corresponding Predecessor Fund on or about January 9, 2026. As a result of the acquisition, the funds will be the accounting and performance successors of their corresponding Predecessor Fund.

CERTAIN EXPENSE ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER DISCLOSURES

Expense Arrangements

Each fund's management agreement provides that the Adviser will pay substantially all expenses of such fund, except for the management fees, payments under the fund's 12b-1 plan (if any), interest expenses, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses, brokerage commissions, costs of holding shareholder meetings, fees and expenses associated with any securities lending program to be adopted by the fund, and litigation and potential litigation and other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the fund's business.

The Adviser may from time to time voluntarily waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses in order to limit total annual fund operating expenses. Any such voluntary waiver or reimbursement may be eliminated by the Adviser at any time.

FUND COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, 1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004 serves as counsel to the funds.

Ernst & Young LLP, One Manhattan West, New York, NY 10001, an independent registered public accounting firm, has been selected to serve as the independent registered public accounting firm for the funds.

PART III

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT BUYING AND SELLING SHARES

The Code imposes various limitations on the amount that may be contributed by fund shareholders to certain Retirement Plans or government sponsored programs. These limitations apply to participants at the Retirement Plan level and, therefore, do not directly affect the amount that may be invested in a fund by a Retirement Plan or government sponsored programs. Participants and Retirement Plan or program sponsors should consult their tax advisors for details.

Frequent Purchases and Exchanges

Unlike frequent trading of shares of a traditional open-end mutual fund (i.e., not exchange-traded shares), frequent trading of shares on the secondary market does not disrupt portfolio management, increase a fund's trading costs, lead to realization of capital gains, or otherwise harm fund shareholders because these trades do not involve a fund directly. A few institutional investors are authorized to purchase and redeem the funds' shares directly with the funds in Creation Unit aggregations. Creation Units transactions are conducted in exchange for the deposit or delivery of a portfolio of in-kind securities and/or cash. Cash purchases and/or redemptions of Creation Units can result in disruption of portfolio management, dilution to a fund and increased transaction costs, which could negatively impact a fund's ability to achieve its investment objective, and may lead to the realization of capital gains. These consequences may increase as the frequency of cash purchases and redemptions of Creation Units by Authorized Participants increases. When trades are effected in-kind (i.e., for securities, and not for cash), the potential for harmful effects that may result from frequent cash trades is not as present. Each fund imposes transaction fees on purchases and redemptions. The transaction fees are intended to cover the custodial and other costs incurred by the fund in effecting in-kind trades and/or to help mitigate the costs associated with cash transactions. However, transaction fees are subject to certain limits and therefore may not cover all related costs incurred by a fund. For these reasons, the board has determined that it is not necessary to adopt policies and procedures to detect and deter frequent trading and market-timing in shares of the funds. See "Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units – Creation and Redemption Transaction Fees" above for further information about transaction fees.

INFORMATION ABOUT SHAREHOLDER SERVICES

Broker dealers or other financial intermediaries, at their own discretion, may offer a dividend reinvestment service under which shares are purchased in the secondary market at current market prices. Investors should consult their broker dealer or other financial intermediary for further information regarding any dividend reinvestment service offered.

INFORMATION ABOUT DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PLANS

The board of the Trust has adopted a Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act for each fund. Under the 12b-1 Plan, each fund is authorized to pay shareholder services and distribution fees in connection with the sale and distribution of its shares in an amount up to 0.25% of its average daily net assets each year. No payments pursuant to the 12b-1 Plan will be made through at least the first twelve (12) months of operation. Additionally, the implementation of any such payments would have to be approved by the board prior to implementation. Because these fees would be paid out of a fund's assets on an ongoing basis, if payments are made in the future, these fees will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more over time.

A written quarterly report of the amounts expended under a fund's 12b-1 Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the fund's board for its review. Currently, only a Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 has been adopted, but other Plans may be adopted in the future not pursuant to Rule 12b-1 (although none are currently intended to be adopted). For a Plan adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1, such Plan provides that it may not be amended to increase materially the costs that holders of the fund's shares may bear pursuant to the Plan without the approval of the holders of such shares; other material amendments of the Plan must be approved by the board and by the Independent Board Members of the fund who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Plan, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the

purpose of considering such amendments. The 12b-1 Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the board members cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Plan. The 12b-1 Plan is generally terminable at any time by vote of a majority of the Independent Board Members of the fund who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or in any agreements related to the Plan or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of such fund.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES AND RISKS

See the prospectus and "Investments, Investment Techniques and Risks" and "Investment Restrictions" in Part II of this SAI to determine which policies and risks apply to your fund.

Equity Securities

Equity securities include common stocks and preferred stock. Equity securities fluctuate in value, often based on factors unrelated to the value of the issuer of the securities, and such fluctuations can be pronounced. Changes in the value of a fund's investments will result in changes in the value of its shares and thus the fund's total return to investors.

Investing in equity securities poses risks specific to an issuer as well as to the particular type of company issuing the equity securities. For example, equity securities of small- or mid-capitalization companies tend to have more abrupt or erratic price swings than equity securities of larger, more established companies because, among other reasons, they trade less frequently and in lower volumes and their issuers typically are more subject to changes in earnings and prospects in that they are more susceptible to changes in economic conditions, may be more reliant on singular products or services and are more vulnerable to larger competitors. Equity securities of these types of companies may have a higher potential for gains, but also may be subject to greater risk of loss.

Common Stock. Stocks and similar securities, such as common limited partnership units and limited liability company interests, represent shares of ownership in a company. After other claims are satisfied, common stockholders and other common equity owners participate in company profits on a pro-rata basis; profits may be paid out in dividends or reinvested in the company to help it grow. Increases and decreases in earnings are usually reflected in a company's common stocks, so common stocks generally have the greatest appreciation and depreciation potential of all corporate securities. Common stock may be received upon the conversion of convertible securities.

Preferred Stock. Preferred stock is a form of equity ownership in a corporation. Generally, preferred stock has a specified dividend and ranks after bonds and before common stocks in its claim on income for dividend payments and on assets should the company be liquidated. The market value of preferred stock generally increases when interest rates decline and decreases when interest rates rise, but, as with debt securities, also is affected by the issuer's ability or perceived ability to make payments on the preferred stock. While most preferred stocks pay a dividend, the fund may purchase preferred stock where the issuer has omitted, or is in danger of omitting, payment of its dividend. Such investments would be made primarily for their capital appreciation potential. Certain classes of preferred stock are convertible ("convertible preferred stock"), meaning the preferred stock may be converted into shares of common stock of the issuer. Holding convertible preferred stock can provide a steady stream of dividends and the option to convert the preferred stock to common stock.

Certain convertible preferred stocks may offer enhanced yield features. These preferred stocks may feature a mandatory conversion date and may have a capital appreciation limit expressed in terms of a stated price. Other types of convertible securities may be designed to provide the investor with high current income with some prospect of future capital appreciation and may have some built-in call protection. Investors may have the right to convert such securities into shares of common stock at a preset conversion ratio or hold them until maturity. Upon maturity they may convert into either cash or a specified number of shares of common stock.

Trust preferred securities are preferred stocks issued by a special purpose trust subsidiary backed by subordinated debt of the corporate parent. These securities typically bear a market rate coupon comparable to interest rates available on debt of a similarly rated company. Holders of trust preferred securities have limited voting rights to control the activities of the trust and no voting rights with respect to the parent company.

Fixed-Income Securities

Fixed-income securities include interest-bearing securities, such as corporate debt securities. Interest-bearing securities are investments which promise a stable stream of income, although the prices of fixed rate fixed-income securities are inversely affected by changes in interest rates and, therefore, are subject to interest rate risk, as well as the risk of unrelated market price fluctuations. Fixed-income securities may have various interest rate payment and reset terms, including fixed rate, floating or adjustable rate, zero coupon, contingent, deferred, payment in kind and auction rate features. Floating rate instruments, the rates of which adjust periodically by reference to another measure, such as the market interest rate, are generally less sensitive to interest rate changes than fixed rate instruments, although the value of floating rate loans and other floating rate securities may decline if their interest rates do not rise as quickly, or as much, as general interest rates or as expected. Certain securities, such as those with interest rates that fluctuate directly or indirectly based on multiples of a stated index, are designed to be highly sensitive to changes in interest rates and can subject the holders thereof to extreme reductions of yield and possibly loss of principal. Certain fixed-income securities may be issued at a discount from their face value or purchased at a price less than their stated face amount or at a price less than their issue price plus the portion of "original issue discount" previously accrued thereon, i.e., purchased at a "market discount." The amount of original issue discount and/or market discount on certain obligations may be significant, and accretion of market discount together with original issue discount will cause a fund to realize income prior to the receipt of cash payments with respect to these securities. In order for a fund to maintain its qualification as a RIC and avoid liability for federal income taxes, such fund may be required to distribute such 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.

Failure of an issuer to make timely interest or principal payments, or a decline or perception of a decline in the credit quality of a fixed-income security (known as credit risk), can cause the security's price to fall, potentially lowering a fund's share price. The values of fixed-income securities also may be affected by changes in the credit rating of the issuer. Once the rating of a portfolio security has been changed, a fund will consider all circumstances deemed relevant in determining whether to continue to hold the security. Fixed-income securities rated below investment grade by the Rating Agencies may be subject to greater risks with respect to the issuing entity and to greater market fluctuations (and not necessarily inversely with changes in interest rates) than certain lower yielding, higher-rated fixed-income securities. See "High Yield and Lower-Rated Securities" below for a discussion of those securities and see "Rating Categories" below for a general description of the Rating Agencies' ratings.

As a measure of a fixed-income security's cash flow, duration is an alternative to the concept of "term to maturity" in assessing the price volatility associated with changes in interest rates (known as interest rate risk). Generally, the longer the duration, the more volatility an investor should expect. For example, the market price of a bond with a duration of three years would be expected to decline 3% if interest rates rose 1%. Conversely, the market price of the same bond would be expected to increase 3% if interest rates fell 1%. The market price of a bond with a duration of six years would be expected to increase or decline twice as much as the market price of a bond with a three-year duration. Duration is a way of measuring a security's maturity in terms of the average time required to receive the present value of all interest and principal payments as opposed to its term to maturity. The maturity of a security measures only the time until final payment is due; it does not take account of the pattern of a security's cash flows over time, which would include how cash flow is affected by prepayments and by changes in interest rates. Incorporating a security's yield, coupon interest payments, final maturity and option features into one measure, duration is computed by determining the weighted average maturity of a bond's cash flows, where the present values of the cash flows serve as weights. In computing the duration of a fund, the Sub-Adviser will estimate the duration of obligations that are subject to features such as prepayment or redemption by the issuer, put options retained by the investor or other imbedded options, taking into account the influence of interest rates on prepayments and coupon flows.

For purposes of calculating average effective portfolio maturity, a security that is subject to redemption at the option of the issuer on a particular date (the "call date") which is prior to the security's stated maturity may be deemed to mature on the call date rather than on its stated maturity date. The call date of a security will be used to calculate average effective portfolio maturity when the Sub-Adviser reasonably anticipates, based upon information available to it, that the issuer will exercise its right to redeem the security. The Sub-Adviser may base its conclusion on such factors as the interest rate paid on the security compared to prevailing market rates, the amount of cash available to

the issuer of the security, events affecting the issuer of the security, and other factors that may compel or make it advantageous for the issuer to redeem a security prior to its stated maturity.

When interest rates fall, the principal on certain fixed-income securities, including mortgage-backed and certain asset-backed securities (discussed below), may be prepaid. The loss of higher yielding underlying mortgages and the reinvestment of proceeds at lower interest rates can reduce a fund's potential price gain in response to falling interest rates, reduce the fund's yield, or cause the fund's share price to fall. This is known as prepayment risk. Conversely, when interest rates rise, the effective duration of a fund's fixed rate mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities may lengthen due to a drop in prepayments of the underlying mortgages or other assets. This is known as extension risk and would increase the fund's sensitivity to rising interest rates and its potential for price declines.

U.S. Government Securities U.S. Government securities, which are interest-bearing securities that promise a stable stream of income, are issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities. U.S. Government securities include Treasury bills, Treasury notes and Treasury bonds, which differ in their interest rates, maturities and times of issuance. Treasury bills have initial maturities of one year or less; Treasury notes have initial maturities of one to ten years; and Treasury bonds generally have initial maturities of greater than ten years. The prices of U.S. Government securities are inversely affected by changes in interest rates and, therefore, are subject to interest rate risk, as well as the risk of unrelated market price fluctuations. In general, the longer a security's maturity, the more it will fluctuate in response to changing interest rates. Some obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies and instrumentalities are supported by the full faith and credit of Treasury; others by the right of the issuer to borrow from Treasury; others by discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase certain obligations of the agency or instrumentality; and others only by the credit of the agency or instrumentality. These securities bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. While the U.S. Government currently provides financial support to such U.S. Government-sponsored agencies or instrumentalities, no assurance can be given that it will always do so, since it is not so obligated by law. A security backed by Treasury or the full faith and credit of the United States is guaranteed only as to timely payment of interest and principal when held to maturity. Neither the market value nor a fund's share price is guaranteed.

TIPS are issued by Treasury and are designed to provide investors a long-term investment vehicle that is not vulnerable to inflation. The interest rate paid by TIPS is fixed, while the principal value rises or falls semi-annually based on changes in a published Consumer Price Index. Thus, if inflation occurs, the principal and interest payments on the TIPS are adjusted accordingly to protect investors from inflationary loss. During a deflationary period, the principal and interest payments decrease, although the TIPS' principal will not drop below its face value at maturity. In exchange for the inflation protection, TIPS generally pay lower interest rates than typical Treasury securities. Only if inflation occurs will TIPS offer a higher real yield than a conventional Treasury bond of the same maturity. The secondary market for TIPS may not be as active or liquid as the secondary market for conventional Treasury securities. Principal appreciation and interest payments on TIPS generally will be taxed annually as ordinary interest income or original issue discount for federal income tax calculations. As a result, any appreciation in principal generally will be counted as income in the year the increase occurs, even though the investor will not receive such amounts until the TIPS are sold or mature. Principal appreciation and interest payments will be exempt from state and local income taxes.

Many states grant tax-free status to dividends paid to shareholders of a fund from interest income earned by that fund from direct obligations of the U.S. Government, subject in some states to minimum investment requirements that must be met by the fund. Investments in securities issued by GNMA, bankers' acceptances, commercial paper and repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Government securities do not generally qualify for tax-free treatment.

On August 5, 2011, S&P lowered its long-term sovereign credit rating for the United States of America to "AA+" from "AAA." On August 1, 2023, Fitch lowered the United States of America's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating to "AA+" from "AAA." On May 16, 2025, Moody's lowered the United States of America's long-term issuer rating to "Aa1" from "Aaa." The value of shares of a fund that may invest in U.S. Government obligations may be adversely affected by downgrades of the U.S. Government's credit rating.

Corporate Debt Securities. Corporate debt securities include corporate bonds, debentures, notes and other similar instruments, including hybrid-preferred securities, certain convertible securities and corporate commercial paper, of

U.S. and non-U.S. issuers. Debt securities may be acquired with warrants attached to purchase additional fixed-income securities at the same coupon rate. A decline in interest rates would permit a fund to buy additional bonds at the favorable rate or to sell the warrants at a profit. If interest rates rise, the warrants would generally expire with no value. Corporate income-producing securities also may include forms of preferred or preference stock, which may be considered equity securities. The rate of interest on a corporate debt security may be fixed, floating or variable, and may vary inversely with respect to a reference rate such as interest rates or other financial indicators. The rate of return or return of principal on some debt obligations may be linked or indexed to the level of exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and a foreign currency or currencies. Such securities may include those whose principal amount or redemption price is indexed to, and thus varies directly with, changes in the market price of certain commodities, including gold bullion or other precious metals.

Ratings of Securities; Unrated Securities. Subsequent to its purchase by a fund, an issue of rated securities may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced below any minimum that may be required for purchase by a fund. Neither event will require the sale of such securities by the fund, but the Sub-Adviser will consider such event in determining whether the fund should continue to hold the securities. In addition, it is possible that a Rating Agency might not timely change its ratings of a particular issue to reflect subsequent events. To the extent the ratings given by a Rating Agency for any securities change as a result of changes in such organizations or their rating systems, a fund will attempt to use comparable ratings as standards for its investments in accordance with its investment policies.

A fund may purchase unrated securities, which are not rated by a Rating Agency but that the Sub-Adviser determines are of comparable quality to the rated securities in which the fund may invest. Unrated securities may be less liquid than comparable rated securities, because dealers may not maintain daily markets in such securities and retail markets for many of these securities may not exist. As a result, a fund's ability to sell these securities when, and at a price, the Sub-Adviser deems appropriate may be diminished. Investing in unrated securities involves the risk that the Sub-Adviser may not accurately evaluate the security's comparative credit rating. To the extent that a fund invests in unrated securities, the fund's success in achieving its investment objective(s) may depend more heavily on the Sub-Adviser's credit analysis than if the fund invested exclusively in rated securities.

High Yield and Lower-Rated Securities. Fixed-income securities rated below investment grade, those rated below Baa3 by Moody's or BBB- by S&P and Fitch, at the time of purchase (commonly known as "high yield" or "junk" bonds), or, if unrated, deemed to be of comparable quality by the Sub-Adviser, though higher yielding, are characterized by higher risk. See "Rating Categories" below for a general description of securities ratings. These securities may be subject to certain risks with respect to the issuing entity and to greater market fluctuations than certain lower yielding, higher-rated securities. These securities generally are considered by the Rating Agencies to be, on balance, predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's ability to make principal and interest payments in accordance with the terms of the obligation and generally will involve more credit risk than securities in the higher rating categories. The ratings of Rating Agencies represent their opinions as to the quality of the obligations which they undertake to rate. It should be emphasized, however, that ratings are relative and subjective and are not absolute standards of quality and, although ratings may be useful in evaluating the safety or interest and principal payments, they do not evaluate the market value risk of such obligations. Although these ratings may be an initial criterion for selection of portfolio investments, the Sub-Adviser also will evaluate these securities and the ability of the issuers of such securities to pay interest and principal based upon financial and other available information. The success of a fund's investments in lower-rated securities may be more dependent on the Sub-Adviser's credit analysis than might be the case for investments in higher-rated securities.

Bond prices generally are inversely related to interest rate changes. However, bond price volatility also may be inversely related to coupon. Accordingly, below investment grade securities may be relatively less sensitive to interest rate changes than higher quality securities of comparable maturity, because of their higher coupon. This higher coupon is what the investor receives in return for bearing greater credit risk. The higher credit risk associated with below investment grade securities potentially can have a greater effect on the value of such securities than may be the case with higher quality issues of comparable maturity, and will be a substantial factor in a fund's relative share price volatility.

The prices of these securities can fall dramatically in response to negative news about the issuer or its industry. The market values of many of these securities also tend to be more sensitive to general economic conditions than are higher-rated securities and will fluctuate over time. Companies that issue certain of these securities often are highly

leveraged and may not have available to them more traditional methods of financing. Therefore, the risk associated with acquiring the securities of such issuers generally is greater than is the case with the higher-rated securities. These securities may be particularly susceptible to economic downturns. For example, during an economic downturn or a sustained period of rising interest rates, highly leveraged issuers of these securities may not have sufficient revenues to meet their interest payment obligations. The issuer's ability to service its debt obligations also may be affected adversely by specific corporate developments, forecasts or the unavailability of additional financing. The risk of loss because of default by the issuer is significantly greater for the holders of these securities because such securities generally are unsecured and often are subordinated to other creditors of the issuer. It is likely that an economic recession also would disrupt severely the market for such securities and have an adverse impact on their value.

Because there is no established retail secondary market for many of these securities, it may be anticipated that such securities could be sold only to a limited number of dealers or institutional investors. To the extent a secondary trading market for these securities does exist, it generally is not as liquid as the secondary market for higher-rated securities. The lack of a liquid secondary market may have an adverse impact on market price and yield and a fund's ability to dispose of particular issues when necessary to meet the fund's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. The lack of a liquid secondary market for certain securities also may make it more difficult for a fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing the fund's portfolio and calculating its NAV. Adverse conditions could make it difficult at times for a fund to sell certain securities or could result in lower prices than those used in calculating the fund's NAV. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the values and liquidity of these securities. In such cases, the Sub-Adviser's judgment may play a greater role in valuation because less reliable, objective data may be available.

Certain funds may invest in these securities when their issuers will be close to, or already have entered, reorganization proceedings. As a result, it is expected that these securities will cease or will have ceased to meet their interest payment obligations, and accordingly would trade in much the same manner as an equity security. Consequently, a fund would intend to make such investments on the basis of potential appreciation in the price of these securities, rather than any expectation of realizing income. Reorganization entails a complete change in the structure of a business entity. An attempted reorganization may be unsuccessful, resulting in substantial or total loss of amounts invested. If reorganization is successful, the value of securities of the restructured entity may depend on numerous factors, including the structure of the reorganization, the market success of the entity's products or services, the entity's management and the overall strength of the marketplace.

High yield, lower-rated securities acquired during an initial offering may involve special risks because they are new issues. A fund will not have any arrangement with any person concerning the acquisition of such securities.

Zero Coupon, Pay-In-Kind and Step-Up Securities. Zero coupon securities are issued or sold at a discount from their face value and do not entitle the holder to any periodic payment of interest prior to maturity or a specified redemption date or cash payment date. Zero coupon securities also may take the form of notes and bonds that have been stripped of their unmatured interest coupons, the coupons themselves and receipts or certificates representing interests in such stripped debt obligations and coupons. Zero coupon securities issued by corporations and financial institutions typically constitute a proportionate ownership of the issuer's pool of underlying Treasury securities. A zero coupon security pays no interest to its holders during its life and is sold at a discount to its face value at maturity. The amount of any discount varies depending on the time remaining until maturity or cash payment date, prevailing interest rates, liquidity of the security and perceived credit quality of the issuer. Pay-in-kind securities generally pay interest through the issuance of additional securities. Step-up coupon bonds are debt securities that typically do not pay interest for a specified period of time and then pay interest at a series of different rates. The amount of any discount on these securities varies depending on the time remaining until maturity or cash payment date, prevailing interest rates, liquidity of the security and perceived credit quality of the issuer. The market prices of these securities generally are more volatile and are likely to respond to a greater degree to changes in interest rates than the market prices of securities that pay cash interest periodically having similar maturities and credit qualities. In addition, unlike bonds that pay cash interest throughout the period to maturity, a fund will realize no cash until the cash payment date unless a portion of such securities are sold and, if the issuer defaults, the fund may obtain no return at all on its investment. Federal income tax law requires the holder of a zero coupon security or of certain pay-in-kind or step-up bonds to accrue income with respect to these securities prior to the receipt of cash

payments. In order for a fund to maintain its qualification as a RIC and avoid liability for federal income taxes, such fund may be required to distribute such 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.

The credit risk factors pertaining to high-yield, lower-rated securities (discussed above) also apply to lower-rated zero coupon, pay-in-kind and step-up securities. In addition to the risks associated with the credit rating of the issuers, the market prices of these securities may be very volatile during the period no interest is paid.

Inflation-Indexed Securities. Inflation-indexed securities are indexed to inflation so that principal and interest payments rise and fall with the rate of inflation. Two structures are common. Treasury and some other issuers utilize a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond, which has the effect of changing the interest amount paid. Other issuers pay out inflation-indexed accruals as part of a semi-annual coupon.

The periodic adjustment of TIPS is tied to the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (the "CPI-U"), which is calculated monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor and measures the changes in the price of a basket of goods and services purchased by urban consumers. Inflation-indexed securities issued by a foreign government are generally adjusted to reflect a comparable inflation index calculated by that government. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U or any other inflation index will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services. Moreover, there can be no assurance that the rate of inflation in a foreign country will be correlated to the rate of inflation in the United States.

Treasury has guaranteed that, in the event of a drop in prices, TIPS would repay the adjusted principal or the original principal, whichever is greater, so that investors will not receive less than the originally invested principal. However, the current market value of TIPS is not guaranteed and will fluctuate. Inflation-indexed securities issued by corporations generally do not guarantee repayment of principal.

The value of inflation-indexed securities is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates in turn are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. Therefore, if the rate of inflation rises at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates might decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed securities. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates might rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-indexed securities. Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-indexed security generally will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though investors do not receive their principal until maturity. While these securities are expected to be protected from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation (for example, due to changes in currency exchange rates), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the security's inflation measure. In addition, because inflation-indexed securities are intended to provide protection from inflation, they generally have lower expected returns.

Variable and Floating Rate Securities. Variable and floating rate securities provide for adjustment in the interest rate paid on the obligations. The terms of such obligations typically provide that interest rates are adjusted based upon an interest or market rate adjustment as provided in the respective obligations. The adjustment intervals may be regular, and range from daily up to annually, or may be event-based, such as based on a change in the prime rate. Variable rate obligations typically provide for a specified periodic adjustment in the interest rate, while floating rate obligations typically have an interest rate which changes whenever there is a change in the external interest or market rate. Because of the interest rate adjustment feature, variable and floating rate securities provide a fund with a certain degree of protection against rises in interest rates, although the fund will participate in any declines in interest rates as well. Generally, changes in interest rates will have a smaller effect on the market value of variable and floating rate securities than on the market value of comparable fixed-income obligations. Thus, investing in variable and floating rate securities generally allows less opportunity for capital appreciation and depreciation than investing in comparable fixed-income securities.

Variable Rate Demand Notes. Variable rate demand notes include master demand notes, which are obligations that permit a fund to invest fluctuating amounts, at varying rates of interest, pursuant to direct arrangements between the fund, as lender, and the borrower. These obligations permit daily changes in the amounts borrowed. Because these obligations are direct lending arrangements between the lender and

borrower, it is not contemplated that such instruments generally will be traded, and there generally is no established secondary market for these obligations, although they are redeemable on demand at face value, plus accrued interest. Accordingly, where these obligations are not secured by letters of credit or other credit support arrangements, the fund's right to redeem is dependent on the ability of the borrower to pay principal and interest on demand. Such obligations frequently are not rated by credit rating agencies. Changes in the credit quality of banks or other financial institutions providing any credit support or liquidity enhancements could cause losses to the fund.

Floating and Inverse Floating Rate Debt Instruments. The interest rate on a floating rate debt instrument ("floater") is a variable rate which is tied to another interest rate, such as a prime rate or Treasury bill rate. The interest rate on an inverse floating rate debt instrument moves or resets in the opposite direction from the market rate of interest to which the inverse floater is indexed or inversely to a multiple of the applicable index. An inverse floating rate debt instrument may exhibit greater price volatility than a fixed rate obligation of similar credit quality, and investing in these instruments involves leveraging which may magnify gains or losses.

Loans. Senior secured loans ("Senior Loans") typically hold a first lien priority and, like other types of loans, pay interest at rates that are determined daily, monthly, quarterly or semi-annually on the basis of a floating base lending rate plus a premium or credit spread. As short-term interest rates increase, interest payable to a fund from its investments in loans is likely to increase, and as short-term interest rates decrease, interest payable to the fund from its investments in loans is likely to decrease. To the extent a fund invests in loans with a base lending rate floor, the fund's potential for decreased income in a flat or falling rate environment may be mitigated, but the fund may not receive the benefit of increased coupon payments if the relevant interest rate increases but remains below the base lending rate floor.

Loans in which a fund may invest are typically made to U.S. and, to a limited extent, non-U.S. corporations, partnerships and other business entities that operate in various industries and geographical regions (a "Borrower"). Borrowers may obtain loans to, among other reasons, refinance existing debt and for acquisitions, dividends, leveraged buyouts and general corporate purposes. Subordinated loans generally have the same characteristics as Senior Loans except that such loans are subordinated in payment and/or lower in lien priority to first lien holders or may be unsecured.

Senior Loans hold the most senior position in the capital structure of a Borrower, are secured with specific collateral and have a claim on the assets and/or stock of the Borrower that is senior to that held by unsecured creditors, subordinated debt holders and stockholders of the Borrower. Typically, in order to borrow money pursuant to a Senior Loan, a Borrower will, for the term of the Senior Loan, pledge collateral, including, but not limited to: (i) working capital assets, such as accounts receivable and inventory, (ii) tangible fixed assets, such as real property, buildings and equipment, (iii) intangible assets, such as trademarks and patent rights (but excluding goodwill) and (iv) security interests in shares of stock of subsidiaries or affiliates. In the case of Senior Loans made to non-public companies, the company's shareholders or owners may provide collateral in the form of secured guarantees and/or security interests in assets that they own. In many instances, a Senior Loan may be secured only by stock in the Borrower or its subsidiaries. Collateral may consist of assets that may not be readily liquidated, and there is no assurance that the liquidation of such assets would satisfy fully a Borrower's obligations under a Senior Loan.

A Borrower must comply with various restrictive covenants contained in a loan agreement or note purchase agreement between the Borrower and the holders of a loan (the "Loan Agreement"). In a typical loan, an agent (the "Agent Bank") administers the terms of the Loan Agreement. In such cases, the Agent Bank is normally responsible for the collection of principal and interest payments from the Borrower and the apportionment of these payments to the credit of all institutions that are parties to the Loan Agreement. A fund will generally rely upon the Agent Bank or an intermediate participant to receive and forward to the fund its portion of the principal and interest payments on the loan. Additionally, a fund normally will rely on the Agent Bank and the other loan investors to use appropriate credit remedies against the Borrower. The Agent Bank is typically responsible for monitoring compliance with covenants contained in the Loan Agreement based upon reports prepared by the Borrower. The Agent Bank may monitor the value of any collateral and, if the value of the collateral declines, may accelerate the loan, may give the Borrower an opportunity to provide additional collateral or may seek other protection for the benefit of the participants in the loan. The Agent Bank is compensated by the Borrower for providing these services under a Loan Agreement, and such compensation may include special fees paid upon structuring and funding the Senior Loan and

other fees paid on a continuing basis. With respect to loans for which the Agent Bank does not perform such administrative and enforcement functions, the Adviser or Sub-Adviser may perform such tasks on a fund's behalf, although a collateral bank will typically hold any collateral on behalf of the fund and the other loan investors pursuant to the applicable Loan Agreement.

In the process of buying, selling and holding loans, a fund may receive and/or pay certain fees. These fees are in addition to interest payments received and may include facility fees, commitment fees, amendment fees, commissions and prepayment penalty fees. When a fund buys a loan it may receive a facility fee and when it sells a loan it may pay a facility fee. On an ongoing basis, a fund may receive a commitment fee based on the undrawn portion of the underlying line of credit portion of a loan. In certain circumstances, a fund may receive a prepayment penalty fee upon the prepayment of a loan by a Borrower. Other fees received by a fund may include covenant waiver fees, covenant modification fees or other amendment fees.

Offerings of Senior Loans and other loans in which a fund may invest generally are not registered with the SEC, or any state securities commission, and are not listed on any national securities exchange. Because there is less readily available or reliable information about most loans than is the case for many other types of securities, the Adviser or Sub-Adviser will rely primarily on its own evaluation of a Borrower's credit quality rather than on any available independent sources. Therefore, a fund investing in loans will be particularly dependent on the analytical abilities of the Adviser or Sub-Adviser. No active trading market may exist for some loans, which may make it difficult to value them. Loans may not be considered securities, and purchasers, such as a fund, may not be entitled to rely on the anti-fraud protections of the federal securities laws, including those with respect to the use of material non-public information. Because of the financial services and asset management activities of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, and their affiliates, the Adviser and Sub-Adviser may not have access to material non-public information regarding a Borrower to which other lenders have access which could put a fund at a disadvantage compared to such other investors. Some loans may be subject to restrictions on resale. In some cases, negotiations involved in disposing of indebtedness may require weeks to complete. Any secondary market for loans may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods, which may impair the ability of a seller to realize full value and thus cause a material decline in a fund's net asset value. In addition, a fund may not be able to readily dispose of its loans at prices that approximate those at which the fund could sell such loans if they were more widely-traded and, as a result of such illiquidity, the fund may have to sell other investments or engage in borrowing transactions if necessary to raise cash to meet its obligations. If a fund's investments are focused on loans, a limited supply or relative illiquidity of loans may adversely affect a fund's yield.

The settlements of secondary market purchases of Senior Loans in the ordinary course, on a settlement date beyond the period expected by loan market participants (*i.e.*, T+7 for par loans and T+20 for distressed loans, in other words more than seven or twenty business days beyond the trade date, respectively), are subject to the delayed compensation mechanics prescribed by the Loan Syndications and Trading Association ("LSTA"). For par loans, for example, income accrues to the buyer of the loan (the "Buyer") during the period beginning on the last date by which the loan purchase should have settled (T+7) and through (including) the actual settlement date. Should settlement of a par loan purchased in the secondary market be delayed beyond the T+7 period prescribed by the LSTA, the Buyer is typically compensated for such delay through a payment from the seller of the loan (this payment may be netted from the wire released on the settlement date for the purchase price of the loan paid by the Buyer). In brief, the adjustment is typically calculated by multiplying the notional amount of the trade by the applicable margin in the Loan Agreement pro rated for the number of business days (calculated using a year of 360 days) beyond the settlement period prescribed by the LSTA, plus any amendment or consent fees that the Buyer should have received. Furthermore, the purchase of a Senior Loan in the secondary market is typically negotiated and finalized pursuant to a binding trade confirmation, and, therefore, the risk of non-delivery of the security to the fund is reduced or eliminated.

A fund may purchase and retain in its portfolio loans where the Borrower has experienced, or may be perceived to be likely to experience, credit problems, including involvement in or recent emergence from bankruptcy court proceedings or other forms of debt restructuring. Such investments may provide opportunities for enhanced income, although they also will be subject to greater risk of loss. At times, in connection with the restructuring of a loan either outside of bankruptcy court or in the context of bankruptcy court proceedings, a fund may determine or be required to accept equity securities or junior credit securities in exchange for all or a portion of a loan. A fund may from time to time participate on ad-hoc committees formed by creditors to negotiate with the management of

financially troubled Borrowers and may incur legal fees as a result of such participation. In addition, such participation may restrict the fund's ability to trade in or acquire additional positions in a particular security when it might otherwise desire to do so. Participation by a fund also may expose the fund to potential liabilities under bankruptcy or other laws governing the rights of creditors and debtors.

Loans are usually rated below investment grade and may also be unrated. As a result, the risks associated with investing in loans are similar to the risks of fixed-income securities rated below investment grade, although Senior Loans are senior and secured, in contrast to other fixed-income securities rated below investment grade, which are often subordinated and/or unsecured. Any specific collateral used to secure a loan, however, may decline in value or become illiquid, which would adversely affect the loan's value. Loans are subject to a number of risks described elsewhere in this SAI section titled "Fixed-Income Securities," including non-payment of principal and interest, liquidity risk and the risk of investing in fixed-income securities rated below investment grade.

Investing in loans is subject to legislative risk. If legislation or state or federal regulations impose additional requirements or restrictions on the ability of financial institutions to make loans, the availability of Senior Loans and other types of loans for investment by a fund may be adversely affected. In addition, such requirements or restrictions could reduce or eliminate sources of financing for certain issuers. This would increase the risk of default. If legislation or federal or state regulations require financial institutions to increase their capital requirements, this may cause financial institutions to dispose of loans that are considered highly leveraged transactions. If a fund attempts to sell a loan at a time when a financial institution is engaging in such a sale, the price the fund could receive for the loan may be adversely affected.

Subordinated loans generally are subject to similar risks as those associated with investments in Senior Loans, except that such loans are subordinated in payment and/or lower in lien priority to first lien holders or may be unsecured. In the event of default on a subordinated loan, the first priority lien holder has first claim to the underlying collateral of the loan. These loans are subject to the additional risk that the cash flow of the Borrower and property securing the loan or debt, if any, may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to the senior unsecured or senior secured obligations of the Borrower. This risk is generally higher for subordinated unsecured loans or debt that is not backed by a security interest in any specific collateral. Subordinated loans generally have greater price volatility than Senior Loans and may be less liquid.

The Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, and/or their affiliates may participate in the primary and secondary market for loans. Because of limitations imposed by applicable law, the presence of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, and/or their affiliates in the loan market may restrict a fund's ability to acquire certain loans, or affect the timing or price of such acquisitions. Also, because the Adviser or Sub-Adviser, in the course of investing fund assets in loans, may have access to material non-public information regarding a Borrower, the ability of a fund or funds advised by such Adviser or Sub-Adviser to purchase or sell publicly-traded securities of such Borrowers may be restricted. Conversely, because of the financial services and asset management activities of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, and/or their affiliates, the Adviser or Sub-Adviser may not have access to material non-public information regarding the Borrower to which other lenders have access.

Participation Interests and Assignments. Loans may be originated, negotiated and structured by a syndicate of lenders ("Co-Lenders"), consisting of commercial banks, thrift institutions, insurance companies, financial companies or other financial institutions one or more of which acts as Agent Bank. Co-Lenders may sell such securities to third parties called "Participants." A fund investing in such securities may participate as a Co-Lender at origination or acquire an interest in the security (a "participation interest") from a Co-Lender or a Participant. Co-Lenders and Participants interposed between a fund and the Borrower, together with the Agent Bank(s), are referred herein as "Intermediate Participants." A participation interest gives a fund an undivided interest in the security in the proportion that the fund's participation interest bears to the total principal amount of the security. These instruments may have fixed, floating or variable rates of interest.

A fund may purchase a participation interest in a portion of the rights of an Intermediate Participant, which would not establish any direct relationship between the fund and the Borrower. The fund would be required to rely on the Intermediate Participant that sold the participation interest not only for the enforcement of the fund's rights against the Borrower but also for the receipt and processing of payments due to the fund under the security. The fund would have the right to receive payments of principal, interest and any fees to which it is entitled only from the Intermediate Participant and only upon receipt of the payments from the Borrower. The fund generally will have no

right to enforce compliance by the Borrower with the terms of the Loan Agreement nor any rights of set-off against the Borrower, and the fund may not directly benefit from any collateral supporting the obligation in which it has purchased the participation interest. Because it may be necessary to assert through an Intermediate Participant such rights as may exist against the Borrower, in the event the Borrower fails to pay principal and interest when due, the fund may be subject to delays, expenses and risks that are greater than those that would be involved if the fund would enforce its rights directly against the Borrower. Moreover, under the terms of a participation interest, a fund may be regarded as a creditor of the Intermediate Participant (rather than of the Borrower), so that the fund may also be subject to the risk that the Intermediate Participant may become insolvent. In the event of the insolvency of the Intermediate Participant, the fund may be treated as a general creditor of the Intermediate Participant and may not benefit from any set-off between the Intermediate Participant and the Borrower. Certain participation interests may be structured in a manner designed to avoid purchasers being subject to the credit risk of the Intermediate Participant, but even under such a structure, in the event of the Intermediate Participant's insolvency, the Intermediate Participant's servicing of the participation interests may be delayed and the assignability of the participation interest impaired. Similar risks may arise with respect to the Agent Bank if, for example, assets held by the Agent Bank for the benefit of a fund were determined by the appropriate regulatory authority or court to be subject to the claims of the Agent Bank's creditors. In such case, the fund might incur certain costs and delays in realizing payment in connection with the participation interest or suffer a loss of principal and/or interest. Further, in the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of the Borrower, the obligation of the Borrower to repay the loan may be subject to certain defenses that can be asserted by such Borrower as a result of improper conduct by the Agent Bank or Intermediate Participant.

A fund may invest in the underlying loan to the Borrower through an assignment of all or a portion of such loan ("Assignments") from a third party. When the fund purchases Assignments from Co-Lenders it will acquire direct rights against the Borrower on the loan. Because Assignments are arranged through private negotiations between potential assignees and potential assignors, however, the rights and obligations acquired by the fund as the purchaser of an Assignment may differ from, and be more limited than, those held by the assigning Co-Lender.

A fund may have difficulty disposing of participation interests and Assignments because to do so it will have to sell such securities to a third party. Because there is no established secondary market for such securities, it is anticipated that such securities could be sold only to a limited number of institutional investors. The lack of an established secondary market may have an adverse impact on the value of such securities and the fund's ability to dispose of particular participation interests or Assignments when necessary to meet the fund's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the Borrower. The lack of an established secondary market for participation interests and Assignments also may make it more difficult for the fund to assign a value to these securities for purposes of valuing the fund's portfolio and calculating its NAV.

Convertible Securities

Convertible securities include bonds, notes, debentures, preferred securities or other securities that may be converted or exchanged (by the holder or by the issuer) into shares of the underlying common stock (or cash or securities of equivalent value) at a stated exchange ratio or predetermined price (the conversion price). Convertible securities have characteristics similar to both equity and fixed-income securities.

Convertible securities generally are subordinated to other similar but non-convertible securities of the same issuer, although convertible bonds, as corporate debt obligations, enjoy seniority in right of payment to all equity securities, and convertible preferred securities are senior to common stock of the same issuer. Because of the subordination feature, however, convertible securities typically have lower ratings than similar non-convertible securities. Although to a lesser extent than with fixed-income securities, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, tends to increase as interest rates decline. In addition, because of the conversion feature, the market value of convertible securities tends to vary with fluctuations in the market value of the underlying common stock. A unique feature of convertible securities is that as the market price of the underlying common stock declines, convertible securities tend to trade increasingly on a yield basis, and so may not experience market value declines to the same extent as the underlying common stock. When the market price of the underlying common stock increases, the prices of the convertible securities tend to rise as a reflection of the value of the underlying common stock. While no securities investments are without risk, investments in convertible securities generally entail less risk than investments in common stock of the same issuer.

Convertible securities provide for a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than common stocks, but there can be no assurance of current income because the issuers of the convertible securities may default on their obligations. A convertible security, in addition to providing fixed-income, offers the potential for capital appreciation through the conversion feature, which enables the holder to benefit from increases in the market price of the underlying common stock. There can be no assurance of capital appreciation, however, because securities prices fluctuate. Convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible securities of similar quality because of the potential for capital appreciation.

Contingent convertible capital securities (sometimes referred to as "CoCos") are slightly different than regular convertible bonds in that the likelihood of the bonds converting to equity is "contingent" on a specified event or trigger. CoCos are securities typically issued by a bank that are designed to absorb the bank's losses during a period of financial stress, thereby improving the bank's capital position. CoCos absorb losses by converting to equity or having their principal written down (either partially or in full) when a pre-specified trigger event occurs. CoCos may be structured with various types of trigger events. This may occur, for instance, in the event that business losses have eroded capital to a substantial extent. The mandatory conversion might relate, for instance, to maintenance of a capital minimum, whereby falling below the minimum would trigger automatic conversion. The write down of the par value would occur automatically and would not entitle the holders to seek bankruptcy of the company. Since the common stock of the issuer may not pay a dividend, investors in these instruments could experience a reduced income rate, potentially to zero, and conversion to common stock would deepen the subordination of the investor, hence worsening standing in a bankruptcy. Absent a trigger event, the securities are hybrid instruments with debt-like characteristics.

Synthetic Convertible Securities. So-called "synthetic convertible securities" are comprised of two or more different securities, each with its own market value, whose investment characteristics, taken together, resemble those of convertible securities. An example is a non-convertible debt security and a warrant or option. The "market value" of a synthetic convertible is the combined value of its fixed-income component and its convertible component. For this reason, the values of a synthetic convertible and a true convertible security may respond differently to market fluctuations.

Mortgage-Backed Securities. Mortgage-backed securities are a form of derivative collateralized by pools of residential or commercial mortgages. Pools of mortgage loans are assembled as securities for sale to investors by various governmental, government-related and private organizations. These securities may include complex instruments such as collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs") and stripped mortgage-backed securities, mortgage pass-through securities, interests in REMICs, adjustable rate mortgage loans, or other kinds of mortgage-backed securities, including those with fixed, floating and variable interest rates; interest rates based on multiples of changes in a specified index of interest rates; interest rates that change inversely to changes in interest rates; and those that do not bear interest.

Mortgage-backed securities are subject to credit, prepayment and interest rate risk, and may be more volatile and less liquid, and more difficult to price accurately, than more traditional debt securities. Although certain mortgage-backed securities are guaranteed by a third party (such as a U.S. Government agency with respect to GNMA mortgage-backed securities), the market value of the security may fluctuate. Mortgage-backed securities issued by private issuers, whether or not such securities are subject to guarantees or another form of credit enhancement, may entail greater risk than securities directly or indirectly guaranteed by the U.S. Government. The market value of mortgage-backed securities depends on, among other things, the level of interest rates, the securities' coupon rates and the payment history of the mortgagors of the underlying mortgages.

Mortgage-backed securities generally are subject to credit risks associated with the performance of the underlying mortgage properties and to prepayment risk. In certain instances, the credit risk associated with mortgage-backed securities can be reduced by third party guarantees or other forms of credit support. Improved credit risk does not reduce prepayment risk, which is unrelated to the rating assigned to the mortgage-backed security. Prepayment risk may lead to pronounced fluctuations in value of the mortgage-backed security. If a mortgage-backed security is purchased at a premium, all or part of the premium may be lost if there is a decline in the market value of the security, whether resulting solely from changes in interest rates or from prepayments on the underlying mortgage collateral (the rates of which are highly dependent upon changes in interest rates, as discussed below). Mortgage loans are generally partially or completely prepaid prior to their final maturities as a result of events such as sale of the mortgaged premises, default, condemnation or casualty loss. Because these securities may be subject to

extraordinary mandatory redemption in whole or in part from such prepayments of mortgage loans, a substantial portion of such securities may be redeemed prior to their scheduled maturities or even prior to ordinary call dates. Extraordinary mandatory redemption without premium could also result from the failure of the originating financial institutions to make mortgage loans in sufficient amounts within a specified time period. The ability of issuers of mortgage-backed securities to make payments depends on such factors as rental income, occupancy levels, operating expenses, mortgage default rates, taxes, government regulations and appropriation of subsidies.

Certain mortgage-backed securities, such as inverse floating rate CMOs, have coupons that move inversely to a multiple of a specific index, which may result in a form of leverage. As with other interest-bearing securities, the prices of certain mortgage-backed securities are inversely affected by changes in interest rates. However, although the value of a mortgage-backed security may decline when interest rates rise, the converse is not necessarily true, since in periods of declining interest rates the mortgages underlying the security are more likely to be prepaid. For this and other reasons, a mortgage-backed security's stated maturity may be shortened by unscheduled prepayments on the underlying mortgages, and, therefore, it is not possible to predict accurately the security's return to a fund. Moreover, with respect to certain stripped mortgage-backed securities, if the underlying mortgage securities experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, a fund may fail to fully recoup its initial investment even if the securities are rated in the highest rating category by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. During periods of rapidly rising interest rates, prepayments of mortgage-backed securities may occur at slower than expected rates. Slower prepayments effectively may lengthen a mortgage-backed security's expected maturity, which generally would cause the value of such security to fluctuate more widely in response to changes in interest rates. Were the prepayments on a fund's mortgage-backed securities to decrease broadly, the fund's effective duration, and thus sensitivity to interest rate fluctuations, would increase. Commercial real property loans, however, often contain provisions that reduce the likelihood that such securities will be prepaid. The provisions generally impose significant prepayment penalties on loans and in some cases there may be prohibitions on principal prepayments for several years following origination.

Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities. Residential mortgage-backed securities representing participation interests in pools of one- to four-family residential mortgage loans issued or guaranteed by governmental agencies or government-sponsored entities, such as GNMA, FNMA and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC"), or issued by private entities, have been issued using a variety of structures, including multi-class structures featuring senior and subordinated classes. Some mortgage-backed securities have structures that make their reactions to interest rate changes and other factors difficult to predict, making their value highly volatile.

Mortgage-backed securities issued by GNMA include Ginnie Maes which are guaranteed as to the timely payment of principal and interest by GNMA and such guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Ginnie Maes are created by an "issuer," which is a Federal Housing Administration ("FHA") approved mortgagee that also meets criteria imposed by GNMA. The issuer assembles a pool of FHA or Department of Veterans' Affairs ("VA") insured or guaranteed mortgages which are homogeneous as to interest rate, maturity and type of dwelling. Upon application by the issuer, and after approval by GNMA of the pool, GNMA provides its commitment to guarantee timely payment of principal and interest on the Ginnie Maes backed by the mortgages included in the pool. The Ginnie Maes, endorsed by GNMA, then are sold by the issuer through securities dealers. Ginnie Maes bear a stated "coupon rate" which represents the effective underlying mortgage rate at the time of issuance, less GNMA's and the issuer's fees. GNMA is authorized under the National Housing Act to guarantee timely payment of principal and interest on Ginnie Maes. This guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. GNMA may borrow Treasury funds to the extent needed to make payments under its guarantee. When mortgages in the pool underlying a Ginnie Mae are prepaid by mortgagors or by result of foreclosure, such principal payments are passed through to the certificate holders. Accordingly, the life of the Ginnie Mae is likely to be substantially shorter than the stated maturity of the mortgages in the underlying pool. Because of such variation in prepayment rates, it is not possible to predict the life of a particular Ginnie Mae. Payments to holders of Ginnie Maes consist of the monthly distributions of interest and principal less GNMA's and the issuer's fees. The actual yield to be earned by a holder of a Ginnie Mae is calculated by dividing interest payments by the purchase price paid for the Ginnie Mae (which may be at a premium or a discount from the face value of the certificate). Monthly distributions of interest, as contrasted to semi-annual

distributions which are common for other fixed interest investments, have the effect of compounding and thereby raising the effective annual yield earned on Ginnie Maes.

Mortgage-backed securities issued by FNMA, including FNMA Guaranteed Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates (also known as "Fannie Maes"), are solely the obligations of FNMA and are not backed by or entitled to the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Fannie Maes are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by FNMA. Mortgage-backed securities issued by FHLMC include FHLMC Mortgage Participation Certificates (also known as "Freddie Macs" or "PCs"). Freddie Macs are not guaranteed by the U.S. Government or by any Federal Home Loan Bank and do not constitute a debt or obligation of the U.S. Government or of any Federal Home Loan Bank. Freddie Macs entitle the holder to timely payment of interest, which is guaranteed by FHLMC. FHLMC guarantees either ultimate collection or timely payment of all principal payments on the underlying mortgage loans. When FHLMC does not guarantee timely payment of principal, FHLMC may remit the amount due on account of its guarantee of ultimate payment of principal at any time after default on an underlying mortgage, but in no event later than one year after it becomes payable.

FNMA and FHLMC Conservatorship and Treasury Support. FNMA and FHLMC (together, the "Enterprises") continue to operate under conservatorship of the Federal Housing Finance Agency ("FHFA"), as they have since 2008. Treasury provides the Enterprises with financial support through the Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreements ("SPSPAs"), which were executed on September 7, 2008, one day after the Enterprises entered conservatorships. The SPSPAs were designed to ensure that the Enterprises: (i) provide stability to the financial markets; (ii) prevent disruptions in the availability of mortgage finance; and (iii) protect the taxpayer. In exchange for Treasury's financial support, the SPSPAs required the Enterprises to, among other things, make quarterly dividend payments to Treasury, provide Treasury with a liquidation preference, and, beginning in 2010, pay Treasury a periodic commitment fee that reflects the market value of the outstanding Treasury commitment, as well as stock warrants for the purchase of common stock representing 79.9% of the common stock of each Enterprise on a diluted basis.

On May 6, 2009, Treasury and the Enterprises amended the SPSPAs to increase Treasury's commitment of financial support from \$100,000,000,000 to \$200,000,000,000 to each Enterprise. On December 24, 2009, Treasury and the Enterprises again amended the SPSPAs to replace Treasury's \$200,000,000,000 commitments with new formulaic commitments. On August 17, 2012, Treasury and the Enterprises amended the SPSPAs (the "2012 Amendments") to recalibrate calculation of the quarterly dividends the Enterprises pay to Treasury. Rather than use 10% (or in some cases 12%) of the liquidation preference to calculate the dividend amounts—a practice which was contributing to the Enterprises' need to draw on Treasury's commitment of financial support—the 2012 Amendments based the dividend amounts on net worth. This helped ensure financial stability, fully captured financial benefits for taxpayers, and eliminated the need for the Enterprises circularly to borrow from Treasury only then to pay dividends back to Treasury. The 2012 Amendments also suspended the periodic commitment fee for so long as the dividend amounts were based on net worth. The 2012 Amendments also eliminated the requirement that the Enterprises obtain Treasury consent for asset dispositions with a fair market value (individually or in the aggregate) of less than \$250 million, but required the Enterprises to submit annual risk management plans to Treasury.

On December 21, 2017, letter agreements between Treasury and each Enterprise permitted each Enterprise to retain a \$3 billion capital reserve, quarterly. Under the 2017 letter agreements, each Enterprise paid a dividend to Treasury equal to the amount its net worth at the end of each quarter exceeded \$3 billion. On September 30, 2019, letter agreements between Treasury and each Enterprise permitted each Enterprise to retain earnings beyond the \$3 billion capital reserves previously allowed under the letter agreements of 2017. Under the 2019 letter agreements, FNMA may accumulate \$25 billion in capital reserves and FHLMC may accumulate \$20 billion in capital reserves. These letter agreements effectively permitted the Enterprises to cease their dividend payments to Treasury until they reached the respective capital reserve limit. On January 14, 2021, Treasury and FHFA announced amendments to the SPSPAs that allow the Enterprises to continue to retain earnings until they have reached the requirements set by FHFA's new capital rule issued in late 2020. Under that rule, the Enterprises would have been required to hold \$283 billion in unadjusted total capital as of June 30, 2020, based on their assets at the time.

Treasury has agreed that the Enterprises can raise private capital and exit conservatorship once certain conditions are met. To facilitate Enterprise equity offerings, Treasury has committed to work to restructure its investment in each Enterprise.

Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities. Commercial mortgage-backed securities generally are multi-class debt or pass-through certificates secured by mortgage loans on commercial properties. These mortgage-backed securities generally are constructed to provide protection to holders of the senior classes against potential losses on the underlying mortgage loans. This protection generally is provided by having the holders of subordinated classes of securities ("Subordinated Securities") take the first loss if there are defaults on the underlying commercial mortgage loans. Other protection, which may benefit all of the classes or particular classes, may include issuer guarantees, reserve funds, additional Subordinated Securities, cross-collateralization and over-collateralization. Commercial lending, however, generally is viewed as exposing the lender to a greater risk of loss than one- to four-family residential lending. Commercial lending, for example, typically involves larger loans to single borrowers or groups of related borrowers than residential one- to four-family mortgage loans. In addition, the repayment of loans secured by income-producing properties typically is dependent upon the successful operation of the related real estate project and the cash flow generated therefrom. Consequently, adverse changes in economic conditions and circumstances are more likely to have an adverse impact on mortgage-backed securities secured by loans on certain types of commercial properties than those secured by loans on residential properties. The risks that recovery or repossessed collateral might be unavailable or inadequate to support payments on commercial mortgage-backed securities may be greater than is the case for non-multifamily residential mortgage-backed securities.

Subordinated Securities. Subordinated Securities, including those issued or sponsored by commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, mortgage bankers, private mortgage insurance companies and other non-governmental issuers, have no governmental guarantee, and are subordinated in some manner as to the payment of principal and/or interest to the holders of more senior mortgage-backed securities arising out of the same pool of mortgages. The holders of Subordinated Securities typically are compensated with a higher stated yield than are the holders of more senior mortgage-backed securities. On the other hand, Subordinated Securities typically subject the holder to greater risk than senior mortgage-backed securities and tend to be rated in a lower rating category, and frequently a substantially lower rating category, than the senior mortgage-backed securities issued in respect of the same pool of mortgages. Subordinated Securities generally are likely to be more sensitive to changes in prepayment and interest rates and the market for such securities may be less liquid than is the case for traditional fixed-income securities and senior mortgage-backed securities.

Other Mortgage-Backed Securities. Other mortgage-backed securities include securities other than those described above that directly or indirectly represent a participation in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans on real property, including a CMO tranche which collects any cash flow from collateral remaining after obligations to the other tranches have been met. Other mortgage-backed securities may be equity or debt securities issued by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. Government or by private originators of, or investors in, mortgage loans, including savings and loan associations, homebuilders, mortgage banks, commercial banks, investment banks, partnerships, trusts and special purpose entities of the foregoing.

Asset-Backed Securities. Asset-backed securities are a form of derivative instrument. Non-mortgage asset-backed securities are securities issued by special purpose entities whose primary assets consist of a pool of loans, receivables or other assets. Payment of principal and interest may depend largely on the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities and, in certain cases, supported by letters of credit, surety bonds or other forms of credit or liquidity enhancements. The value of these asset-backed securities also may be affected by the creditworthiness of the servicing agent for the pool of assets, the originator of the loans or receivables or the financial institution providing the credit support. The securitization techniques used for asset-backed securities are similar to those used for mortgage-backed securities, including the issuance of securities in senior and subordinated classes (see "Mortgage-Backed Securities—Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities" and "—Subordinated Securities" above). These securities include debt securities and securities with debt-like characteristics. The collateral for these securities has included home equity loans, automobile and credit card receivables, boat loans, computer leases,

airplane leases, mobile home loans, recreational vehicle loans and hospital account receivables. Other types of asset-backed securities may be developed in the future. The purchase of non-mortgage asset-backed securities raises considerations particular to the financing of the instruments underlying such securities.

Asset-backed securities present certain risks of mortgage-backed securities, such as prepayment risk, as well as risks that are not presented by mortgage-backed securities. Primarily, these securities may provide a less effective security interest in the related collateral than do mortgage-backed securities. Therefore, there is the possibility that recoveries on the underlying collateral may not, in some cases, be available to support payments on these securities.

Collateralized Debt Obligations. Collateralized debt obligations ("CDOs") are securitized interests in pools of—generally non-mortgage—assets. Assets called collateral usually are comprised of loans or other debt instruments. A CDO may be called a collateralized loan obligation ("CLO") or collateralized bond obligation ("CBO") if it holds only loans or bonds, respectively. Investors bear the credit risk of the collateral. Multiple tranches of securities are issued by the CDO, offering investors various maturity and credit risk characteristics. Tranches are categorized as senior, mezzanine and subordinated/equity, according to their degree of credit risk. If there are defaults or the CDO's collateral otherwise underperforms, scheduled payments to senior tranches take precedence over those of mezzanine tranches, and scheduled payments to mezzanine tranches take precedence over those to subordinated/equity tranches. Senior and mezzanine tranches are typically rated, with the former receiving ratings of A to AAA/Aaa and the latter receiving ratings of B to BBB/Baa. The ratings reflect both the credit quality of underlying collateral as well as how much protection a given tranche is afforded by tranches that are subordinate to it.

Municipal Securities.

Municipal Securities Generally. "Municipal securities" are debt securities or other obligations issued by states, territories and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia and their political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, or multistate agencies and authorities, and certain other specified securities, the interest from which generally is, in the opinion of bond counsel to the issuer, exempt from federal and, with respect to municipal securities in which certain funds invest, the personal income taxes of a specified state (referred to in this SAI as Municipal Bonds—see "Glossary" below). Municipal securities generally include debt obligations issued to obtain funds for various public purposes and include certain industrial development bonds issued by or on behalf of public authorities. Municipal securities are classified as general obligation bonds, revenue bonds and notes. General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue bonds are payable from the revenue derived from a particular facility or class of facilities or, in some cases, from the proceeds of a special excise or other specific revenue source, but not from the general taxing power. Tax-exempt industrial development bonds, in most cases, are revenue bonds that do not carry the pledge of the credit of the issuing municipality, but generally are guaranteed by the corporate entity on whose behalf they are issued. Notes are short-term instruments which are obligations of the issuing municipalities or agencies and are sold in anticipation of a bond issuance, collection of taxes or receipt of other revenues. Issues of municipal commercial paper typically represent short-term, unsecured, negotiable promissory notes. These obligations are issued by agencies of state and local governments to finance seasonal working capital needs of municipalities or to provide interim construction financing and are paid from general revenues of municipalities or are refinanced with long-term debt. In most cases, municipal commercial paper is backed by letters of credit, lending agreements, note repurchase agreements or other credit facility agreements offered by banks or other institutions. Municipal securities include municipal lease/purchase agreements which are similar to installment purchase contracts for property or equipment issued by municipalities.

A fund's investments in municipal securities may include investments in U.S. territories or possessions such as Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. A fund's investments in a territory or possession could be affected by economic, legislative, regulatory or political developments affecting issuers in the territory or possession. Payment of interest and preservation of principal is dependent upon the continuing ability of such issuers and/or obligors of territorial, municipal and public authority debt obligations to meet their obligations thereunder. The sources of payment for such obligations and the marketability thereof may be affected by financial and other difficulties experienced by such issuers. For example, Puerto Rico, in May 2017, made a filing in the U.S. District Court in Puerto Rico to commence a debt restructuring process similar to that of a traditional municipal bankruptcy. Puerto Rico had previously defaulted on certain agency debt payments and the Governor had warned of its inability to meet additional pending obligations, including under general obligation bonds. Puerto Rico's

government formally exited bankruptcy in March 2022, completing the largest public debt restructuring in U.S. history. The restructuring was related to Puerto Rico's general obligation bonds, and did not resolve the bankruptcy proceedings for Puerto Rico's Highways and Transportation Authority and the Electric Power Company, which owed nearly \$9 billion, the largest debt of any government agency. In November 2023, a federal judge tentatively approved a portion of the plan to restructure the debt owed by Puerto Rico's power company. A confirmation hearing regarding the plan began in March 2024. In July 2024, the federal judge overseeing the debt restructuring process ordered all parties to enter into mediation. There can be no assurances that these debt restructuring efforts will be effective. The continued debt restructuring process could adversely affect the value of Puerto Rico municipal securities, including Puerto Rico municipal securities that are not subject to the debt restructuring process. In addition, Puerto Rico municipal securities remain subject to all of the other risks applicable to fixed-income securities, including the risk of non-payment. If the economic situation in Puerto Rico persists or worsens, the volatility, credit quality and performance of a fund holding securities of issuers in Puerto Rico could be adversely affected.

Municipal securities bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest, which are determined in some instances by formulas under which the municipal security's interest rate will change directly or inversely to changes in interest rates or an index, or multiples thereof, in many cases subject to a maximum and minimum. Certain municipal securities are subject to redemption at a date earlier than their stated maturity pursuant to call options, which may be separated from the related municipal security and purchased and sold separately. The purchase of call options on specific municipal securities may protect a fund from the issuer of the related municipal security redeeming, or other holder of the call option from calling away, the municipal security before maturity. The sale by a fund of a call option that it owns on a specific municipal security could result in the receipt of taxable income by the fund.

The municipal securities market is not subject to the same level of regulation as other sectors of the U.S. capital markets due to broad exemptions under the federal securities laws for municipal securities. As a result, there may be less disclosure, including current audited financial information, available about municipal issuers than is available for issuers of securities registered under the Securities Act.

For a fund that is a RIC for tax purposes and invests less than 50% of its assets in municipal securities, dividends received by shareholders on fund shares which are attributable to interest income received by the fund from municipal securities generally will be subject to federal income tax. While, in general, municipal securities are tax exempt securities having relatively low yields as compared to taxable, non-municipal securities of similar quality, certain municipal securities are taxable obligations, offering yields comparable to, and in some cases greater than, the yields available on other permissible investments.

For the purpose of diversification under the 1940 Act, the identification of the issuer of municipal securities depends on the terms and conditions of the security. When the assets and revenues of an agency, authority, instrumentality or other political subdivision are separate from those of the government creating the subdivision and the security is backed only by the assets and revenues of the subdivision, such subdivision would be deemed to be the sole issuer. Similarly, in the case of an industrial development bond, if the bond is backed only by the assets and revenues of the non-governmental user, then such non-governmental user would be deemed to be the sole issuer. If, however, in either case, the creating government or some other entity guarantees a security, such a guaranty would be considered a separate security and would be treated as an issue of such government or other entity.

Municipal securities include certain private activity bonds (a type of revenue bond issued by or on behalf of public authorities to raise money to finance various privately operated or public facilities and for which the payment of principal and interest is dependent solely on the ability of the facility's user to meet its financial obligations and the pledge, if any, of real and personal property so financed as security for such payment), the income from which is subject to AMT. Taxable municipal securities also may include remarketed certificates of participation. Certain funds may invest in these municipal securities if the Adviser determines that their purchase is consistent with a fund's investment objective. A municipal or other tax-exempt fund that invests substantially all of its assets in Municipal Bonds may invest more than 25% of the value of the fund's total assets in Municipal Bonds which are related in such a way that an economic, business or political development or change affecting one such security also would affect the other securities (*e.g.*, securities the interest upon which is paid from revenues of similar types of projects, or securities whose issuers are located in the same state). A fund that so invests its assets may be subject to greater risk as compared to municipal or other tax-exempt funds that do not follow this practice.

Municipal securities may be repayable out of revenue streams generated from economically related projects or facilities or whose issuers are located in the same state. Sizable investments in these securities could increase risk to a fund should any of the related projects or facilities experience financial difficulties. An investment in a fund that focuses its investments in securities issued by a particular state or entities within that state may involve greater risk than investments in certain other types of municipal funds. You should consider carefully the special risks inherent in a fund's investment in such municipal securities.

The yields on municipal securities are dependent on a variety of factors, including general economic and monetary conditions, money market factors, conditions in the municipal securities market, size of a particular offering, maturity of the obligation and rating of the issue. The achievement of the investment objective of a municipal or other tax-exempt fund is dependent in part on the continuing ability of the issuers of municipal securities in which the fund invests to meet their obligations for the payment of principal and interest when due. Municipal securities historically have not been subject to registration with the SEC, although there have been proposals which would require registration in the future. Issuers of municipal securities, like issuers of corporate securities, may declare bankruptcy, and obligations of issuers of municipal securities are subject to the provisions of bankruptcy, insolvency and other laws affecting the rights and remedies of creditors. Many such bankruptcies historically have been of smaller villages, towns, cities and counties, but in November 2011 Jefferson County, Alabama (the state's most populous county) became the subject of what was then the largest municipal bankruptcy ever in the U.S., at over \$4 billion in total indebtedness, surpassing in size the 1994 bankruptcy of Orange County, California. Other prominent municipal bankruptcies have followed. In July 2013, Detroit, Michigan filed for bankruptcy. With an estimated \$18 to \$20 billion in total indebtedness, it became the largest municipal bankruptcy in the U.S. The obligations of municipal issuers may become subject to laws enacted in the future by Congress or state legislatures, or referenda extending the time for payment of principal and/or interest, or imposing other constraints upon enforcement of such obligations or upon the ability of municipalities to levy taxes. There is also the possibility that, as a result of litigation or other conditions, the ability of any municipal issuer to pay, when due, the principal of and interest on its municipal securities may be materially affected.

Certain provisions in the Code relating to the issuance of municipal securities may reduce the volume of municipal securities qualifying for federal tax exemption. One effect of these provisions could be to increase the cost of the municipal securities available for purchase by a fund and thus reduce available yield. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors concerning the effect of these provisions on an investment in such a fund. Proposals that may restrict or eliminate the income tax exemption for interest on municipal securities may be introduced in the future. If any such proposal were enacted that would reduce the availability of municipal securities for investment by a fund so as to adversely affect fund shareholders, the fund would reevaluate its investment objective and policies and submit possible changes in the fund's structure to shareholders for their consideration. If legislation were enacted that would treat a type of municipal securities as taxable, a fund would treat such security as a permissible Taxable Investment (as discussed below), within the applicable limits set forth herein.

Instruments Related to Municipal Securities. The following is a description of certain types of investments related to municipal securities in which some funds may invest. A fund's use of certain of the investment techniques described below may give rise to taxable income.

- *Floating and Variable Rate Demand Notes and Bonds.* Floating and variable rate demand notes and bonds are tax exempt obligations ordinarily having stated maturities in excess of one year, but which permit the holder to demand payment of principal at any time, or at specified intervals. Variable rate demand notes include master demand notes. See "Fixed-Income Securities—Variable and Floating Rate Securities" above.
- *Tax Exempt Participation Interests.* A participation interest in municipal securities (such as industrial development bonds and municipal lease/purchase agreements) purchased from a financial institution gives a fund an undivided interest in the municipal security in the proportion that the fund's participation interest bears to the total principal amount of the municipal security. These instruments may have fixed, floating or variable rates of interest and generally will be backed by an irrevocable letter of credit or guarantee of a bank. For certain participation interests, a fund will have the right to demand payment, on not more than seven days' notice, for all or any part of the fund's participation interest in the municipal security, plus accrued interest. As to these

instruments, a fund intends to exercise its right to demand payment only upon a default under the terms of the municipal security, as needed to provide liquidity to meet redemptions, or to maintain or improve the quality of its investment portfolio. See also "Fixed-Income Securities—Loans—Participation Interests and Assignments" above.

- *Municipal Lease Obligations.* Municipal lease obligations or installment purchase contract obligations (collectively, "lease obligations") have special risks not ordinarily associated with general obligation or revenue bonds. Leases and installment purchase or conditional sale contracts (which normally provide for title to the leased asset to pass eventually to the government issuer) have evolved as a means for governmental issuers to acquire property and equipment without meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements for the issuance of debt. Although lease obligations do not constitute general obligations of the municipality for which the municipality's taxing power is pledged, a lease obligation ordinarily is backed by the municipality's covenant to budget for, appropriate and make the payments due under the lease obligation. However, lease obligations in which a fund may invest may contain "non-appropriation" clauses which provide that the municipality has no obligation to make lease or installment purchase payments in future years unless money is appropriated for such purpose on a yearly basis. Although "non-appropriation" lease obligations are secured by the leased property, disposition of the property in the event of foreclosure might prove difficult. Certain lease obligations may be considered illiquid. Determination as to the liquidity of such securities is made in accordance with guidelines established by the board. Pursuant to such guidelines, the boards have directed the Adviser to monitor carefully a fund's investment in such securities with particular regard to: (1) the frequency of trades and quotes for the lease obligation; (2) the number of dealers willing to purchase or sell the lease obligation and the number of other potential buyers; (3) the willingness of dealers to undertake to make a market in the lease obligation; (4) the nature of the marketplace trades, including the time needed to dispose of the lease obligation, the method of soliciting offers and the mechanics of transfer; and (5) such other factors concerning the trading market for the lease obligation as the Adviser may deem relevant. In addition, in evaluating the liquidity and credit quality of a lease obligation that is unrated, the boards have directed the Adviser to consider: (1) whether the lease can be canceled; (2) what assurance there is that the assets represented by the lease can be sold; (3) the strength of the lessee's general credit (e.g., its debt, administrative, economic and financial characteristics); (4) the likelihood that the municipality will discontinue appropriating funding for the leased property because the property is no longer deemed essential to the operations of the municipality (e.g., the potential for an "event of non-appropriation"); (5) the legal recourse in the event of failure to appropriate; and (6) such other factors concerning credit quality as the Adviser may deem relevant.
- *Tender Option Bonds.* A tender option bond is a municipal security (generally held pursuant to a custodial arrangement) having a relatively long maturity and bearing interest at a fixed rate substantially higher than prevailing short-term tax exempt rates, that has been coupled with the agreement of a third party, such as a bank, broker-dealer or other financial institution, pursuant to which such institution grants the security holders the option, at periodic intervals, to tender their securities to the institution and receive the face value thereof. As consideration for providing the option, the financial institution receives periodic fees equal to the difference between the municipal security's fixed coupon rate and the rate, as determined by a remarketing or similar agent at or near the commencement of such period, that would cause the securities, coupled with the tender option, to trade at par on the date of such determination. Thus, after payment of this fee, the security holder effectively holds a demand obligation that bears interest at the prevailing short-term tax exempt rate. In certain instances and for certain tender option bonds, the option may be terminable in the event of a default in payment of principal or interest on the underlying municipal security and for other reasons. The funds expect to be able to value tender option bonds at par; however, the value of the instrument will be monitored to assure that it is valued at fair value. The quality of the underlying creditor or of the third party provider of the tender option, as the case may be, as determined by the Adviser, must be equivalent to the quality standard prescribed for the fund. In addition, the Adviser monitors the earning power, cash flow and other liquidity ratios of the issuers of such obligations. Separately, whenever a fund engages in a tender

option bond trust transaction, it will either (i) be consistent with Section 18 of the 1940 Act and maintain asset coverage of at least 300% of the value of such transaction or (ii) treat the transaction as a derivatives transaction for purposes of Rule 18f-4, including, as applicable, the VaR based limit on leverage risk.

- *Pre-Refunded Municipal Securities.* The principal and interest on pre-refunded municipal securities are no longer paid from the original revenue source for the securities. Instead, the source of such payments is typically an escrow fund consisting of U.S. government securities. The assets in the escrow fund are derived from the proceeds of refunding bonds issued by the same issuer as the pre-refunded municipal securities. Issuers of municipal securities use this advance refunding technique to obtain more favorable terms with respect to bonds that are not yet subject to call or redemption by the issuer. For example, advance refunding enables an issuer to refinance debt at lower market interest rates, restructure debt to improve cash flow or eliminate restrictive covenants in the indenture or other governing instrument for the pre-refunded municipal securities. However, except for a change in the revenue source from which principal and interest payments are made, the pre-refunded municipal securities remain outstanding on their original terms until they mature or are redeemed by the issuer.
- *Mortgage-Related and Asset-Backed Municipal Securities.* Mortgage-backed municipal securities are municipal securities of issuers that derive revenues from mortgage loans on multiple family residences, retirement housing or housing projects for low- to moderate-income families. Certain of such securities may be single family mortgage revenue bonds issued for the purpose of acquiring from originating financial institutions notes secured by mortgages on residences located within the issuer's boundaries. Non-mortgage asset-based securities are securities issued by special purpose entities whose primary assets consist of a pool of loans, receivables or other assets. See "Fixed-Income Securities—Mortgage-Related Securities" and "Fixed-Income Securities—Asset-Backed Securities" above.
- *Custodial Receipts.* Custodial receipts represent the right to receive certain future principal and/or interest payments on municipal securities which underlie the custodial receipts. A number of different arrangements are possible. A fund also may purchase directly from issuers, and not in a private placement, municipal securities having characteristics similar to custodial receipts. These securities may be issued as part of a multi-class offering and the interest rate on certain classes may be subject to a cap or floor. See "Derivatives—Custodial Receipts" below.
- *Indexed and Inverse Floating Rate Municipal Securities.* Indexed rate municipal securities are securities that pay interest or whose principal amount payable upon maturity is based on the value of an index of interest rates. Interest and principal payable on certain securities also may be based on relative changes among particular indexes. So-called "inverse floating obligations" or "residual interest bonds" ("inverse floaters") are derivative instruments created by depositing municipal securities in a trust which divides the bond's income stream into two parts: (1) a short-term variable rate demand note; and (2) a residual interest bond (the inverse floater) which receives interest based on the remaining cash flow of the trust after payment of interest on the note and various trust expenses. The interest rate on the inverse floater varies inversely with a floating rate (which may be reset periodically by a "Dutch" auction, a remarketing agent or by reference a short-term tax-exempt interest rate index), usually moving in the opposite direction as the interest on the variable rate demand note.

A fund may either participate in structuring an inverse floater or purchase an inverse floater in the secondary market. When structuring an inverse floater, a fund will transfer to a trust fixed rate municipal securities held in the fund's portfolio. The trust then typically issues the inverse floaters and the variable rate demand notes that are collateralized by the cash flows of the fixed rate municipal securities. In return for the transfer of the municipal securities to the trust, the fund receives the inverse floaters and cash associated with the sale of the notes from the trust. For accounting purposes, a fund treats these transfers as part of a secured borrowing or financing transaction (not a sale), and the interest payments and related expenses due on the notes issued by

the trusts and sold to third parties as expenses and liabilities of the fund. Inverse floaters purchased in the secondary market are treated as the purchase of a security and not as a secured borrowing or financing transaction. Synthetically created inverse floating rate bonds evidenced by custodial or trust receipts are securities that have the effect of providing a degree of investment leverage, since they may increase or decrease in value in response to changes in market interest rates at a rate that is a multiple of the rate at which fixed rate securities increase or decrease in response to such changes.

An investment in inverse floaters may involve greater risk than an investment in a fixed rate municipal security. Because changes in the interest rate on the other security or index inversely affect the residual interest paid on the inverse floater, the value of an inverse floater is generally more volatile than that of a fixed rate municipal security. Inverse floaters have interest rate adjustment formulas which generally reduce or, in the extreme, eliminate the interest paid to a fund when short-term interest rates rise, and increase the interest paid to the fund when short-term interest rates fall. Investing in inverse floaters involves leveraging which may magnify the fund's gains or losses. Although volatile, inverse floaters typically offer the potential for yields exceeding the yields available on fixed rate municipal securities with comparable credit quality, coupon, call provisions and maturity. These securities usually permit the investor to convert the floating rate to a fixed rate (normally adjusted downward), and this optional conversion feature may provide a partial hedge against rising rates if exercised at an opportune time. Investments in inverse floaters may be illiquid.

- *Zero Coupon, Pay-In-Kind and Step-Up Municipal Securities.* Zero coupon municipal securities are issued or sold at a discount from their face value and do not entitle the holder to any periodic payment of interest prior to maturity or a specified redemption date or cash payment date. Zero coupon securities also may take the form of municipal securities that have been stripped of their unmatured interest coupons, the coupons themselves and receipts or certificates representing interest in such stripped debt obligations and coupons. Pay-in-kind municipal securities generally pay interest through the issuance of additional securities. Step-up municipal securities typically do not pay interest for a specified period of time and then pay interest at a series of different rates. See "Fixed-Income Securities—Zero Coupon, Pay-In-Kind and Step-Up Securities."
- *Special Taxing Districts.* Some municipal securities may be issued in connection with special taxing districts. Special taxing districts are organized to plan and finance infrastructure development to induce residential, commercial and industrial growth and redevelopment. The bond financing methods, such as tax increment finance, tax assessment, special services district and Mello-Roos bonds, generally are payable solely from taxes or other revenues attributable to the specific projects financed by the bonds without recourse to the credit or taxing power of related or overlapping municipalities. They often are exposed to real estate development-related risks and can have more taxpayer concentration risk than general tax-supported bonds, such as general obligation bonds. Further, the fees, special taxes or tax allocations and other revenues that are established to secure such financings generally are limited as to the rate or amount that may be levied or assessed and are not subject to increase pursuant to rate covenants or municipal or corporate guarantees. The bonds could default if development failed to progress as anticipated or if larger taxpayers failed to pay the assessments, fees and taxes as provided in the financing plans of the districts.
- *Stand-By Commitments.* Under a stand-by commitment, a fund obligates a broker, dealer or bank to repurchase, at the fund's option, specified securities at a specified price prior to such securities' maturity date and, in this respect, stand-by commitments are comparable to put options. The exercise of a stand-by commitment, therefore, is subject to the ability of the seller to make payment on demand. The funds will acquire stand-by commitments solely to facilitate portfolio liquidity and do not intend to exercise their rights thereunder for trading purposes. A fund may pay for stand-by commitments if such action is deemed necessary, thus increasing to a degree the cost of the underlying municipal security and similarly decreasing such security's yield to investors. Gains realized in connection with stand-by commitments will be taxable.

- Structured Notes. Structured notes typically are purchased in privately negotiated transactions from financial institutions and, therefore, may not have an active trading market. When a fund purchases a structured note, it will make a payment of principal to the counterparty. Some structured notes have a guaranteed repayment of principal while others place a portion (or all) or the principal at risk. The possibility of default by the counterparty or its credit provider may be greater for structured notes than for other types of money market instruments.

Taxable Investments From time to time, on a temporary basis other than for temporary defensive purposes (but not to exceed 20% of the value of the fund's net assets) or for temporary defensive purposes, a fund may invest in taxable money market instruments, as described below. Dividends paid by a fund that are attributable to income earned by the fund from money market instruments will be taxable to investors. When a fund invests for temporary defensive purposes, it may not achieve its investment objective(s).

Funding Agreements. In a funding agreement (sometimes referred to as a guaranteed interest contract ("GIC")), a fund contributes cash to a deposit fund of an insurance company's general account, and the insurance company then credits the fund, on a monthly basis, guaranteed interest that is based on an index. This guaranteed interest will not be less than a certain minimum rate. Because the principal amount of a funding agreement may not be received from the insurance company on seven days' notice or less, the agreement is considered to be an illiquid investment.

Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs")

A U.S. REIT is a corporation, or a business trust that would otherwise be taxed as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, which meets the definitional requirements of Section 856 of the Code. The Code permits a qualifying REIT to deduct dividends paid, thereby effectively eliminating corporate level federal income tax. To meet the definitional requirements of the Code, a REIT must, among other things, invest substantially all of its assets in interests in real estate (including mortgages and other REITs) or cash and government securities, derive most of its income from rents from real property or interest on loans secured by mortgages on real property, and distribute to shareholders annually a substantial portion of its otherwise taxable income.

REITs are characterized as equity REITs, mortgage REITs and hybrid REITs. Equity REITs invest primarily in the fee ownership or leasehold ownership of land and buildings and derive their income primarily from rental income. Equity REITs also can realize capital gains (or losses) by selling properties that have appreciated (or depreciated) in value. Mortgage REITs can hold REMIC regular interests and can hold or make construction, development or long-term mortgage loans and are sensitive to the credit quality of the borrower. Mortgage REITs derive their income from interest payments on such loans or REMIC interests. Hybrid REITs combine the characteristics of both equity and mortgage REITs, generally by holding both ownership interests and mortgage interests in real estate. The value of securities issued by REITs is affected by tax and regulatory requirements and by perceptions of management skill. They also are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, defaults by borrowers or tenants, self-liquidation and the possibility of failing to qualify for tax-free status under the Code or to maintain exemption from the 1940 Act. The fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of expenses, including management fees, paid by each REIT in which it invests in addition to the expenses of the fund.

Money Market Instruments

Investing in money market instruments is subject to certain risks. Money market instruments (other than certain U.S. Government securities) are not backed or insured by the U.S. Government, its agencies or its instrumentalities. Accordingly, only the creditworthiness of an issuer, or guarantees of that issuer, support such instruments.

Bank Obligations. Bank obligations include certificates of deposit ("CDs"), time deposits ("TDs"), bankers' acceptances and other short-term obligations issued by domestic or foreign banks or thrifts or their subsidiaries or branches and other banking institutions. CDs are negotiable certificates evidencing the obligation of a bank to repay funds deposited with it for a specified period of time. TDs are non-negotiable deposits maintained in a banking institution for a specified period of time (in no event longer than seven days) at a stated interest rate. Bankers' acceptances are credit instruments evidencing the obligation of a bank to pay a draft drawn on it by a customer. These instruments reflect the obligation both of the bank and the drawer to pay the face amount of the instrument upon maturity. The other short-term obligations may include uninsured, direct obligations bearing fixed, floating or variable interest rates. TDs and CDs may be issued by domestic or foreign banks or their subsidiaries or branches.

A fund may purchase CDs issued by banks, savings and loan associations and similar institutions with less than \$1 billion in assets, the deposits of which are insured by the FDIC, provided the fund purchases any such CD in a principal amount of no more than an amount that would be fully insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund administered by the FDIC. Interest payments on such a CD are not insured by the FDIC. A fund would not own more than one such CD per such issuer.

Domestic commercial banks organized under federal law are supervised and examined by the Comptroller of the Currency and are required to be members of the Federal Reserve System and to have their deposits insured by the FDIC. Domestic banks organized under state law are supervised and examined by state banking authorities but are members of the Federal Reserve System only if they elect to join. In addition, state banks whose CDs may be purchased by a fund are insured by the FDIC (although such insurance may not be of material benefit to the fund, depending on the principal amount of the CDs of each bank held by the fund) and are subject to federal examination and to a substantial body of federal law and regulation. As a result of federal and state laws and regulations, domestic branches of domestic banks whose CDs may be purchased by the fund generally, among other things, are required to maintain specified levels of reserves and are subject to other supervision and regulation designed to promote financial soundness. However, not all of such laws and regulations apply to the foreign branches of domestic banks.

Obligations of foreign subsidiaries or branches of domestic banks may be general obligations of the parent banks in addition to the issuing subsidiary or branch, or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation and governmental regulation. Such obligations and obligations of foreign banks or their subsidiaries or branches are subject to different risks than are those of domestic banks. These risks include foreign economic and political developments, foreign governmental restrictions that may adversely affect payment of principal and interest on the obligations, foreign exchange controls, seizure of assets, declaration of a moratorium and foreign withholding and other taxes on interest income. Foreign subsidiaries and branches of domestic banks and foreign banks are not necessarily subject to the same or similar regulatory requirements that apply to domestic banks, such as mandatory reserve requirements, loan limitations, and accounting, auditing and financial recordkeeping requirements. In addition, less information may be publicly available about a foreign subsidiary or branch of a domestic bank or about a foreign bank than about a domestic bank.

Obligations of U.S. branches of foreign banks may be general obligations of the parent bank in addition to the issuing branch, or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation or by federal or state regulation as well as governmental action in the country in which the foreign bank has its head office. A U.S. branch of a foreign bank with assets in excess of \$1 billion may or may not be subject to reserve requirements imposed by the Federal Reserve System or by the state in which the branch is located if the branch is licensed in that state. In addition, federal branches licensed by the Comptroller of the Currency and branches licensed by certain states may be required to: (1) pledge to the regulator, by depositing assets with a designated bank within the state, a certain percentage of their assets as fixed from time to time by the appropriate regulatory authority; and (2) maintain assets within the state in an amount equal to a specified percentage of the aggregate amount of liabilities of the foreign bank payable at or through all of its agencies or branches within the state.

In view of the foregoing factors associated with the purchase of CDs and TDs issued by foreign subsidiaries or branches of domestic banks, or by foreign banks or their branches or subsidiaries, the Sub-Adviser carefully evaluates such investments on a case-by-case basis.

Repurchase Agreements. A repurchase agreement is a contract under which a fund would acquire a security for a relatively short period subject to the obligation of the seller, typically a bank, broker/dealer or other financial institution, to repurchase and the fund to resell such security at a fixed time and at a price higher than the purchase price (representing the fund's cost plus interest). The repurchase agreement thereby determines the yield during the purchaser's holding period, while the seller's obligation to repurchase is secured by the value of the underlying security. The fund's custodian or sub-custodian engaged in connection with tri-party repurchase agreement transactions will have custody of, and will segregate, securities acquired by the fund under a repurchase agreement. In connection with its third party repurchase transactions, a fund will engage only eligible sub-custodians that meet the requirements set forth in Section 17(f) of the 1940 Act. The value of the underlying securities (or collateral) will be at least equal at all times to the total amount of the repurchase obligation, including the interest factor. The fund bears a risk of loss if the other party to the repurchase agreement defaults on its obligations and the fund is delayed or prevented from exercising its rights to dispose of the collateral securities. This risk includes the risk of

procedural costs or delays in addition to a loss on the securities if their value should fall below their repurchase price. Repurchase agreements are considered by the staff of the SEC to be loans by the fund that enters into them. Repurchase agreements could involve risks in the event of a default or insolvency of the other party to the agreement, including possible delays or restrictions upon a fund's ability to dispose of the underlying securities. A fund may engage in repurchase agreement transactions that are collateralized by U.S. Government securities (which are deemed to be "collateralized fully" pursuant to the 1940 Act) or, for certain funds, to the extent consistent with the fund's investment policies, collateralized by securities other than U.S. Government securities (credit and/or equity collateral). Transactions that are collateralized fully enable the fund to look to the collateral for diversification purposes under the 1940 Act. Conversely, transactions secured with credit and/or equity collateral require the fund to look to the counterparty to the repurchase agreement for determining diversification. Because credit and/or equity collateral is subject to certain credit, liquidity, market and/or other additional risks that U.S. Government securities are not subject to, the amount of collateral posted in excess of the principal value of the repurchase agreement is expected to be higher in the case of repurchase agreements secured with credit and/or equity collateral compared to repurchase agreements secured with U.S. Government securities. In an attempt to reduce the risk of incurring a loss on a repurchase agreement, a fund will require that additional securities be deposited with it if the value of the securities purchased should decrease below resale price. See "Fixed-Income Securities—High Yield and Lower-Rated Securities" above for a discussion of certain risks of collateral rated below investment grade. The funds and certain affiliated funds may jointly enter into one or more repurchase agreements in accordance with an exemptive order granted by the SEC pursuant to Section 17(d) of the 1940 Act and Rule 17d-1 thereunder. Any joint repurchase agreements must be collateralized fully by U.S. Government securities.

Commercial Paper. Commercial paper represents short-term, unsecured promissory notes issued in bearer form by banks or bank holding companies, corporations and finance companies used to finance short-term credit needs and may consist of U.S. dollar-denominated obligations of domestic issuers and foreign currency-denominated obligations of domestic or foreign issuers. Commercial paper may be backed only by the credit of the issuer or may be backed by some form of credit enhancement, typically in the form of a guarantee by a commercial bank. Commercial paper backed by guarantees of foreign banks may involve additional risk due to the difficulty of obtaining and enforcing judgments against such banks and the generally less restrictive regulations to which such banks are subject.

Foreign Securities

Foreign securities include the securities of companies organized under the laws of countries other than the United States and those issued or guaranteed by governments other than the U.S. Government or by foreign supranational entities. They also include securities of companies whose principal trading market is in a country other than the United States or of companies (including those that are located in the United States or organized under U.S. law) that derive a significant portion of their revenue or profits from foreign businesses, investments or sales, or that have a majority of their assets outside the United States. They may be traded on foreign securities exchanges or in the foreign over-the-counter markets. Supranational entities include international organizations designated or supported by governmental entities to promote economic reconstruction or development and international banking institutions and related government agencies. Examples include the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the "World Bank"), the European Coal and Steel Community, the Asian Development Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank. Obligations of the World Bank and certain other supranational organizations are supported by subscribed but unpaid commitments of member countries. There is no assurance that these commitments will be undertaken or complied with in the future.

Investing in the securities of foreign issuers, as well as instruments that provide investment exposure to foreign securities and markets, involves risks that are not typically associated with investing in U.S. dollar-denominated securities of domestic issuers. Investments in foreign issuers may be affected by changes in currency rates (i.e., affecting the value of assets as measured in U.S. dollars), changes in foreign or U.S. laws or restrictions applicable to such investments and in exchange control regulations (e.g., currency blockage). A decline in the exchange rate of the currency (i.e., weakening of the currency against the U.S. dollar) in which a portfolio security is quoted or denominated relative to the U.S. dollar would reduce the value of the portfolio security. A change in the value of such foreign currency against the U.S. dollar also will result in a change in the amount of income available for distribution. If a portion of a fund's investment income may be received in foreign currencies, such fund will be required to compute its income in U.S. dollars for distribution to shareholders, and therefore the fund will absorb the

cost of currency fluctuations. After the fund has distributed income, subsequent foreign currency losses may result in the fund having distributed more income in a particular fiscal period than was available from investment income, which could result in a return of capital to shareholders. In addition, if the exchange rate for the currency in which a fund receives interest payments declines against the U.S. dollar before such income is distributed as dividends to shareholders, the fund may have to sell portfolio securities to obtain sufficient cash to enable the fund to pay such dividends. Commissions on transactions in foreign securities may be higher than those for similar transactions on domestic stock markets, and foreign custodial costs are higher than domestic custodial costs. In addition, clearance and settlement procedures may be different in foreign countries and, in certain markets, such procedures have on occasion been unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, thus making it difficult to conduct such transactions.

Foreign securities markets generally are not as developed or efficient as those in the United States. Securities of some foreign issuers are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. Similarly, volume and liquidity in most foreign securities markets are less than in the United States and, at times, volatility of price can be greater than in the United States.

Many countries throughout the world are dependent on a healthy U.S. economy and are adversely affected when the U.S. economy weakens or its markets decline. For example, in 2007 and 2008, the meltdown in the U.S. subprime mortgage market quickly spread throughout global credit markets, triggering a liquidity crisis that affected fixed-income and equity markets around the world.

Foreign investments involve risks unique to the local political, economic, and regulatory structures in place, as well as the potential for social instability, military unrest or diplomatic developments that could prove adverse to the interests of U.S. investors. Individual foreign economies can differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency and balance of payments position. In addition, significant external political and economic risks currently affect some foreign countries. For example, both Taiwan and China claim sovereignty over Taiwan and there is a demilitarized border and hostile relations between North and South Korea. Russia's military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the resulting response by the United States and other countries, and the potential for wider conflict have increased volatility and uncertainty in the financial markets and adversely affected regional and global economies. War and terrorism affect many countries, especially those in Africa and the Middle East. A number of countries in Europe have suffered terror attacks. The future proliferation and effects of these and similar events and other socio-political or geographical issues are not known but could suddenly and/or profoundly affect global economies, markets, certain industries and/or specific securities.

Because evidences of ownership of foreign securities usually are held outside the United States, additional risks of investing in foreign securities include possible adverse political and economic developments, seizure or nationalization of foreign deposits and adoption of governmental restrictions that might adversely affect or restrict the payment of principal and interest on the foreign securities to investors located outside the country of the issuer, whether from currency blockage, exchange control regulations or otherwise. Foreign securities held by a fund may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when shareholders have no access to the fund.

Emerging Markets. Investments in, or economically tied to, emerging market countries may be subject to higher risks than investments in companies in developed countries. Risks of investing in emerging markets and emerging market securities include, but are not limited to (in addition to those described above): less social, political and economic stability; less diverse and mature economic structures; the lack of publicly available information, including reports of payments of dividends or interest on outstanding securities; increased potential for market manipulation; certain national policies that may restrict a fund's investment opportunities, including restrictions on investment in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to national interests; local taxation; the absence of developed structures governing private or foreign investment or allowing for judicial redress for injury to private property; the absence until recently, in certain countries, of a capital structure or market-oriented economy; the possibility that recent favorable economic developments in certain countries may be slowed or reversed by unanticipated political or social events in these countries; restrictions that may make it difficult or impossible for a fund to vote proxies, exercise shareholder rights, pursue legal remedies, and obtain judgments in foreign courts; the risk of uninsured loss due to lost, stolen, or counterfeit stock certificates; possible losses through the holding of securities in domestic and foreign custodial banks and depositories; heightened opportunities for governmental corruption; large amounts of

foreign debt to finance basic governmental duties that could lead to restructuring or default; and heavy reliance on exports that may be severely affected by global economic downturns.

The purchase and sale of portfolio securities in certain emerging market countries may be constrained by limitations as to daily changes in the prices of listed securities, periodic trading or settlement volume and/or limitations on aggregate holdings of foreign investors. In certain cases, such limitations may be computed based upon the aggregate trading by or holdings of a fund, its Adviser and its affiliates and their respective clients and other service providers. A fund may not be able to sell securities in circumstances where price, trading or settlement volume limitations have been reached.

Economic conditions, such as volatile currency exchange rates and interest rates, political events and other conditions may, without prior warning, lead to government intervention and the imposition of "capital controls." Countries use these controls to restrict volatile movements of capital entering ("inflows") and exiting ("outflows") their country to respond to certain economic conditions. Such controls are mainly applied to short-term capital transactions to counter speculative flows that threaten to undermine the stability of the exchange rate and deplete foreign exchange reserves. Capital controls include the prohibition of, or restrictions on, the ability to transfer currency, securities or other assets in such a way that may adversely affect the ability of a fund to repatriate its income and capital. These limitations may have a negative impact on the fund's performance and may adversely affect the liquidity of the fund's investment to the extent that it invests in certain emerging market countries. Some emerging market countries may have fixed or managed currencies which are not free-floating against the U.S. dollar. Further, certain emerging market countries' currencies may not be internationally traded. Certain of these currencies have experienced a steady devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar. If a fund does not hedge the U.S. dollar value of securities it owns denominated in currencies that are devalued, the fund's NAV will be adversely affected. Many emerging market countries have experienced substantial, and in some periods, extremely high rates of inflation for many years. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, adverse effects on the economies and securities markets of certain of these countries. Further, the economies of emerging market countries generally are heavily dependent upon international trade and, accordingly, have been and may continue to be adversely affected by trade barriers, exchange controls, managed adjustments in relative currency values and other protectionist measures imposed or negotiated by the countries with which they trade.

Certain funds may invest in companies organized or with their principal place of business, or majority of assets or business, in pre-emerging markets, also known as frontier markets. The risks associated with investments in frontier market countries include all the risks described above for investments in foreign securities and emerging markets, although the risks are magnified for frontier market countries. Because frontier markets are among the smallest, least mature and least liquid of the emerging markets, investments in frontier markets generally are subject to a greater risk of loss than investments in developed markets or traditional emerging markets. Frontier market countries have smaller economies, less developed capital markets, more political and economic instability, weaker legal, financial accounting and regulatory infrastructure, and more governmental limitations on foreign investments than typically found in more developed countries, and frontier markets typically have greater market volatility, lower trading volume, lower capital flow, less investor participation, fewer large global companies and greater risk of a market shutdown than more developed markets. Frontier markets are more prone to economic shocks associated with political and economic risks than are emerging markets generally. Many frontier market countries may be dependent on commodities, foreign trade or foreign aid.

Securities of foreign issuers in the form of ADRs, EDRs and GDRs and other forms of depositary receipts may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the securities into which they may be converted. ADRs are receipts typically issued by a U.S. bank or trust company which evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign corporation. EDRs are receipts issued in Europe, and GDRs are receipts issued outside the United States typically by non-U.S. banks and trust companies that evidence ownership of either foreign or domestic securities. Generally, ADRs in registered form are designed for use in the U.S. securities markets, EDRs in bearer form are designed for use in Europe, and GDRs in bearer form are designed for use outside the United States. New York Shares are securities of foreign companies that are issued for trading in the United States. New York Shares are traded in the United States on national securities exchanges or in the over-the-counter market.

Depositary receipts may be purchased through "sponsored" or "unsponsored" facilities. A sponsored facility is established jointly by the issuer of the underlying security and a depositary. A depositary may establish an unsponsored facility without participation by the issuer of the deposited security. Holders of unsponsored

depositary receipts generally bear all the costs of such facilities, and the depositary of an unsponsored facility frequently is under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the issuer of the deposited security or to pass through voting rights to the holders of such receipts in respect of the deposited securities. Purchases or sales of certain ADRs may result, indirectly, in fees being paid to the Depositary Receipts Division of The Bank of New York Mellon, an affiliate of the Adviser, by brokers executing the purchases or sales.

Securities of foreign issuers that are represented by ADRs or that are listed on a U.S. securities exchange or traded in the U.S. over-the-counter markets are not subject to many of the considerations and risks discussed in the prospectus and this SAI that apply to foreign securities traded and held abroad. A U.S. dollar investment in ADRs or shares of foreign issuers traded on U.S. exchanges may be impacted differently by currency fluctuations than would an investment made in a foreign currency on a foreign exchange in shares of the same issuer.

Sovereign Debt Obligations. Investments in sovereign debt obligations involve special risks which are not present in corporate debt obligations. The foreign issuer of the sovereign debt or the foreign governmental authorities that control the repayment of the debt may be unable or unwilling to repay principal or interest when due, and a fund may have limited recourse in the event of a default. During periods of economic uncertainty, the market prices of sovereign debt, and the NAV of a fund, to the extent it invests in such securities, may be more volatile than market prices of U.S. government debt or the debt of corporate issuers. In the past, certain foreign countries have encountered difficulties in servicing their debt obligations, withheld payments of principal and interest and declared moratoria on the payment of principal and interest on their sovereign debt.

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

Moreover, no established secondary markets may exist for many of the sovereign debt obligations in which a fund may invest. Reduced secondary market liquidity may have an adverse effect on the market price and a fund's ability to dispose of particular instruments when necessary to meet its liquidity requirements or in response to specific economic events such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. Reduced secondary market liquidity for certain sovereign debt obligations also may make it more difficult for a fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing its portfolio. Market quotations are generally available on many sovereign debt obligations only from a limited number of dealers and may not necessarily represent firm bids of those dealers or prices of actual sales.

Sovereign Debt Obligations of Emerging Market Countries. Investing in foreign government obligations and the sovereign debt of emerging market countries creates exposure to the direct or indirect consequences of political, social or economic changes in the countries that issue the securities or in which the issuers are located. The ability and willingness of sovereign obligors in emerging market countries or the governmental authorities that control repayment of their external debt to pay principal and interest on such debt when due may depend on general economic and political conditions within the relevant country. Certain countries in which a fund may invest have historically experienced, and may continue to experience, high rates of inflation, high interest rates, exchange rate trade difficulties and extreme poverty and unemployment. Many of these countries also are characterized by political uncertainty or instability. Additional factors which may influence the ability or willingness to service debt include a country's cash flow situation, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange on the date a payment is due, the relative size of its debt service burden to the economy as a whole and its government's policy towards the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other international agencies. The ability of a foreign sovereign obligor to make timely payments on its external debt obligations also will be strongly influenced by the obligor's balance of payments, including export performance, its access to international credits and investments, fluctuations in interest rates and the extent of its foreign reserves. A governmental obligor may default on its obligations. If such an event occurs, a fund may have limited legal recourse against the

issuer and/or guarantor. In some cases, remedies must be pursued in the courts of the defaulting party itself, and the ability of the holder of foreign sovereign debt securities to obtain recourse may be subject to the political climate in the relevant country. In addition, no assurance can be given that the holders of commercial bank debt will not contest payments to the holders of other foreign sovereign debt obligations in the event of default under their commercial bank loan agreements. Sovereign obligors in emerging market countries are among the world's largest debtors to commercial banks, other governments, international financial organizations and other financial institutions. These obligors, in the past, have experienced substantial difficulties in servicing their external debt obligations, which led to defaults on certain obligations and the restructuring of certain indebtedness. Restructuring arrangements have included, among other things, reducing and rescheduling interest and principal payments by negotiating new or amended credit agreements or converting outstanding principal and unpaid interest to Brady Bonds (discussed below), and obtaining new credit to finance interest payments. Holders of certain foreign sovereign debt securities may be requested to participate in the restructuring of such obligations and to extend further loans to their issuers. There can be no assurance that the Brady Bonds and other foreign sovereign debt securities in which a fund may invest will not be subject to similar restructuring arrangements or to requests for new credit which may adversely affect the fund's holdings. Obligations of the World Bank and certain other supranational organizations are supported by subscribed but unpaid commitments of member countries. There is no assurance that these commitments will be undertaken or complied with in the future.

Brady Bonds. "Brady Bonds" are securities created through the exchange of existing commercial bank loans to public and private entities in certain emerging markets for new bonds in connection with debt restructurings. In light of the history of defaults of countries issuing Brady Bonds on their commercial bank loans, investments in Brady Bonds may be viewed as speculative. Brady Bonds may be fully or partially collateralized or uncollateralized, are issued in various currencies (but primarily in U.S. dollars) and are actively traded in over-the-counter secondary markets. Brady Bonds with no or limited collateralization of interest or principal payment obligations have increased credit risk, and the holders of such bonds rely on the willingness and ability of the foreign government to make payments in accordance with the terms of such Brady Bonds. U.S. dollar-denominated collateralized Brady Bonds, which may be fixed rate bonds or floating rate bonds, generally are collateralized by Treasury zero coupon bonds having the same maturity as the Brady Bonds. One or more classes of securities ("structured securities") may be backed by, or represent interests in, Brady Bonds. The cash flow on the underlying instruments may be apportioned among the newly-issued structured securities to create securities with different investment characteristics such as varying maturities, payment priorities and interest rate provisions, and the extent of the payments made with respect to structured securities is dependent on the extent of the cash flow on the underlying instruments. See "Derivatives—Structured Securities" below.

Eurodollar and Yankee Dollar Investments. Eurodollar instruments are bonds of foreign corporate and government issuers that pay interest and principal in U.S. dollars generally held in banks outside the United States, primarily in Europe. Yankee Dollar instruments are U.S. dollar-denominated bonds typically issued in the United States by foreign governments and their agencies and foreign banks and corporations. Eurodollar Certificates of Deposit are U.S. dollar-denominated certificates of deposit issued by foreign branches of domestic banks; Eurodollar Time Deposits are U.S. dollar-denominated deposits in a foreign branch of a U.S. bank or in a foreign bank; and Yankee Certificates of Deposit are U.S. dollar-denominated certificates of deposit issued by a U.S. branch of a foreign bank and held in the United States. These investments involve risks that are different from investments in securities issued by U.S. issuers, including potential unfavorable political and economic developments, foreign withholding or other taxes, seizure of foreign deposits, currency controls, interest limitations or other governmental restrictions which might affect payment of principal or interest.

Investment Companies

The 1940 Act, subject to a fund's own more restrictive limitations, if applicable, currently limits a fund's investment in securities issued by registered and unregistered investment companies, including exchange-traded funds (discussed below), subject to certain exceptions to: (1) 3% of the total voting stock of any one investment company; (2) 5% of the fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company; and (3) 10% of the fund's total assets in the aggregate. Exemptions in the 1940 Act or the rules thereunder may allow a fund to invest in another

investment company in excess of (1), (2) and/or (3). In particular, Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act allows a fund to acquire the securities of another registered investment company, including ETFs, in excess of the limitations above, subject to certain limitations and conditions, including limits on control and voting of acquired funds' shares, evaluations and findings by the Adviser, entering, in most cases, into an investment agreement with the acquired fund, and limits on most three-tier fund structures.

As a shareholder of another investment company, a fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of the other investment company's expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory fees and other expenses that the fund bears directly in connection with its own operations, subject to the conditions of any applicable expense arrangement.

A fund also may invest its uninvested cash reserves or cash it receives as collateral from borrowers of its portfolio securities in connection with the fund's securities lending program, in shares of one or more money market funds advised by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. In addition, a fund may invest in shares of one or more money market funds advised by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser for strategic purposes related to the management of the fund. Such investments will not be subject to the limitations described above.

Exchange-Traded Funds and Similar Exchange-Traded Products ("ETFs")

Although certain ETFs are actively managed, most ETFs are designed to provide investment results that generally correspond to the performance of the component securities or commodities of an underlying index. ETF shares are listed on an exchange, and shares are generally purchased and sold in the secondary market at market price. At times, the market price may be at a premium or discount to the ETF's per share NAV. In addition, ETFs are subject to the risk that an active trading market for an ETF's shares may not develop or be maintained. Because shares of ETFs trade on an exchange, they may be subject to trading halts on the exchange. Trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halt stock trading generally.

The values of ETFs' shares are subject to change as the values of their respective component securities or commodities fluctuate according to market volatility (although, as noted above, the market price of an ETF's shares may be at a premium or discount to the ETF's per share NAV). The price of an ETF's shares can fluctuate within a wide range, and a fund could lose money investing in an ETF if the prices of the securities or commodities owned by the ETF go down. Investments in ETFs that are designed to correspond to an index of securities involve certain inherent risks generally associated with investments in a portfolio of such securities, including the risk that the general level of securities prices may decline, thereby adversely affecting the value of ETFs invested in by a fund. Similarly, investments in ETFs that are designed to correspond to commodity returns involve certain inherent risks generally associated with investment in commodities. Moreover, investments in ETFs designed to correspond to indexes of securities may not exactly match the performance of a direct investment in the respective indexes to which they are intended to correspond due to the temporary unavailability of certain index securities in the secondary market or other extraordinary circumstances, such as discrepancies with respect to the weighting of securities.

With respect to a fund's investments in ETFs, the fund may enter into an agreement with certain ETFs pursuant to Rule 12d1-4 that permits the fund to invest in excess of the limits in the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder. These agreements also may require the Adviser to vote the fund's ETF shares in proportion to votes cast by other ETF stockholders and may subject the fund to other requirements in connection with investments in these ETFs.

Exchange-Traded Notes

ETNs are debt obligations, generally unsecured and unsubordinated, with a return linked to the performance of a reference investment (typically an index). ETNs are not registered investment companies and are not regulated under the 1940 Act. Unlike ETFs, ETNs are not investments in a dedicated pool of the issuer's assets and instead operate more like unsecured debt of the issuer. This type of debt security differs from other types of bonds and notes because ETN returns are based upon the performance of a market index minus applicable fees, no period coupon payments are distributed, and no principal protections exist. Accordingly, investments in ETNs are subject not only to the risks of the reference investment but also to the risks of a debt investment in the issuer. The value of an ETN may be influenced by, and is subject to the risks of, time to maturity; level of supply and demand for the

ETN; changes in interest rates; and creditworthiness of and default by the issuer. As a result, a fund may lose all or a portion of the value of an investment in an ETN due solely to the creditworthiness of or default by the issuer. In addition, there may be substantial differences between the value of the reference investment and the price at which the ETN may be traded, and the return on an ETN that is tied to a specific index may not replicate precisely the return of the index. ETNs also incur certain expenses not incurred by the reference investment, and the cost of owning an ETN may exceed the cost of investing directly in the reference investment. The secondary trading market price of an ETN (if such a secondary trading market exists) may be more volatile than the value of the reference investment it is designed to track. A fund may not be able to liquidate ETN holdings at the time and price desired, which may impact fund performance.

Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs)

Although MLP investments may take many forms, a fund investing in MLPs would be expected to invest primarily in MLPs that are classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes ("Pass-Thru MLPs"). A typical Pass-Thru MLP consists of a general partner and limited partners. The general partner manages the partnership, has an ownership stake in the partnership and is typically eligible to receive an incentive distribution. The limited partners provide capital to the partnership, have a limited (if any) role in the operation and management of the partnership and receive cash distributions. Due to their partnership structure, Pass-Thru MLPs generally do not pay income taxes.

Investing in MLPs involves certain risks related to investing in the underlying assets of the MLPs. Holders of partnership MLP units, either as general or limited partners, could potentially become subject to liability for all of the obligations of the MLP under certain circumstances, such as if a court determines that the rights of the unitholders to take certain action under the limited partnership agreement would constitute "control" of the business of that MLP, or if a court or governmental agency determines that the MLP is conducting business in a state without complying with the limited partnership statute of that state.

The benefit derived from a fund's investment in Pass-Thru MLPs is largely dependent on those MLPs being treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. A change in current tax law (or the interpretation thereof), or a change in the business of a Pass-Thru MLP, could result in that MLP being treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which would result in the MLP being required to pay U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income. Thus, if any of the Pass-Thru MLPs owned by a fund were treated as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the after-tax return to the fund with respect to its investment in such MLPs would be materially reduced, which could cause a decline in the value of the fund's shares.

Some limited liability companies ("LLCs") may be treated as Pass-Thru MLPs for federal income tax purposes. Similar to other Pass-Thru MLPs, these LLCs typically do not pay federal income tax at the entity level and are required by their operating agreements to distribute a large percentage of their current operating earnings. In contrast to other MLPs, these LLCs have no general partner and there are no incentives that entitle management or other unitholders to increased percentages of cash distributions as distributions reach higher target levels. In addition, LLC common unitholders typically have voting rights with respect to the LLC units, whereas MLP common units have limited voting rights.

MLP interests include MLP common units, MLP subordinated interests, MLP convertible subordinated units, MLP preferred units, MLP general partner interests, MLP debt securities, equity and debt securities issued by affiliates of MLPs, MLP I-Shares and private investment in public equities ("PIPEs"). A fund may invest in MLP debt securities'. Debt securities issued by MLPs may include those rated below investment grade. Investments in such securities may not offer the tax characteristics of equity securities of MLPs.

Derivatives

Derivatives may be used for a variety of reasons, including to provide a substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities, to reduce portfolio turnover, to seek to obtain a particular desired return at a lower cost to a fund than if the fund had invested directly in an instrument yielding the desired return, such as when a fund "equitizes" available cash balances by using a derivative instrument to gain exposure to relevant equity investments or markets consistent with its investment objective and policies, or for other reasons. A fund may seek to achieve investment exposure to markets and securities through long and short positions in derivatives. Generally, a

derivative is a financial contract whose value depends upon, or is derived from, the value of an underlying asset, reference rate or index, and may relate to stocks, bonds, interest rates, currencies or currency exchange rates and related indexes. Derivatives may provide a cheaper, quicker or more specifically focused way to invest than "traditional" securities would. Examples of derivative instruments include futures contracts, options, swap agreements, contracts for difference, forward volatility agreements, credit linked securities, credit derivatives, structured securities and hybrid instruments, exchange-linked notes, participation notes, custodial receipts and currency forward contracts. Whether or not a fund may use some or all of these derivatives varies by fund. In addition, a fund's portfolio managers may decide not to employ some or all of these strategies, and there is no assurance that any derivatives strategy used by the fund will succeed.

Risks. Successful use of certain derivatives may be a highly specialized activity that requires skills that may be different than the skills associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. If a Sub-Adviser is incorrect in its forecasts of market factors, or a counterparty defaults, investment performance would diminish compared with what it would have been if derivatives were not used. Successful use of derivatives by a fund also is subject to the Sub-Adviser's ability to predict correctly movements in the direction of the relevant market and, to the extent the transaction is entered into for hedging purposes, to ascertain the appropriate correlation between the securities or position being hedged and the price movements of the corresponding derivative position. For example, if a fund enters into a derivative position to hedge against the possibility of a decline in the market value of securities held in its portfolio and the prices of such securities instead increase, the fund will lose part or all of the benefit of the increased value of securities which it has hedged because it will have offsetting losses in the derivative position.

It is possible that developments in the derivatives markets, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect the ability to terminate existing derivatives positions or to realize amounts to be received in such transactions. On October 28, 2020, the SEC adopted Rule 18f-4 (the "Derivatives Rule") under the 1940 Act which replaced prior SEC and staff guidance with an updated, comprehensive framework for registered funds' use of derivatives. The Derivatives Rule requires the funds to trade derivatives and certain other instruments that create future payment or delivery obligations subject to a value-at-risk ("VaR") leverage limit, develop and implement a derivatives risk management program and new testing requirements, and comply with new requirements related to board and SEC reporting. These requirements apply unless a fund qualifies as a "limited derivatives user," as defined in the Derivatives Rule. To the extent a fund uses derivatives, complying with the Derivatives Rule may increase the cost of a fund's investments and cost of doing business, which could adversely affect investors. Other new regulations could adversely affect the value, availability and performance of certain derivative instruments, may make them more costly, and may limit or restrict their use by the funds.

Derivatives can be volatile and involve various types and degrees of risk, depending upon the characteristics of the particular derivative and the portfolio as a whole. Derivatives permit a fund to increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, to which its portfolio is exposed in much the same way as the fund can increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, of its portfolio by making investments in specific securities. However, derivatives may entail investment exposures that are greater than their cost would suggest, meaning that a small investment in derivatives could have a large potential impact on the fund's performance. Derivatives involve greater risks than if a fund had invested in the reference obligation directly.

An investment in derivatives at inopportune times or when market conditions are judged incorrectly may lower return or result in a loss. A fund could experience losses if its derivatives were poorly correlated with underlying instruments or the fund's other investments or if the fund were unable to liquidate its position because of an illiquid secondary market. The market for many derivatives is, or suddenly can become, illiquid. Changes in liquidity may result in significant, rapid and unpredictable changes in the prices for derivatives.

Over-the-Counter Derivatives. Derivatives may be purchased on established exchanges or through privately negotiated transactions referred to as over-the-counter derivatives. Exchange-traded derivatives, primarily futures contracts and options, generally are guaranteed by the clearing agency that is the issuer or counterparty to such derivatives. This guarantee usually is supported by a variation margin payment system operated by the clearing agency in order to reduce overall credit risk. As a result, unless the clearing agency defaults, there is relatively little counterparty credit risk associated with derivatives purchased on an exchange. In contrast, no clearing agency guarantees over-the-counter derivatives. Therefore, each party to an over-the-counter derivative bears the risk that the counterparty will default. Accordingly, the Sub-Adviser will consider the creditworthiness of counterparties to over-the-counter

derivatives in the same manner as it would review the credit quality of a security to be purchased by a fund. Over-the-counter derivatives are less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives since the other party to the transaction may be the only investor with sufficient understanding of the derivative to be interested in bidding for it. Derivatives that are considered illiquid will be subject to a fund's limit on illiquid investments.

Leverage. Some derivatives may involve leverage (e.g., an instrument linked to the value of a securities index may return income calculated as a multiple of the price movement of the underlying index). This economic leverage will increase the volatility of these instruments as they may increase or decrease in value more quickly than the underlying security, index, futures contract, currency or other economic variable.

Options and Futures Contracts. Options and futures contracts prices can diverge from the prices of their underlying instruments. Options and futures contracts prices are affected by such factors as current and anticipated short-term interest rates, changes in volatility of the underlying instrument, and the time remaining until expiration of the contract, which may not affect the prices of the underlying instruments in the same way. Imperfect correlation may also result from differing levels of demand in the options and futures markets and the securities markets, from structural differences in how options and futures and securities are traded, or from imposition of daily price fluctuation limits or trading halts. A fund may purchase or sell options and futures contracts with a greater or lesser value than any securities it wishes to hedge or intends to purchase in order to attempt to compensate for differences in volatility between the contract and the securities, although this may not be successful in all cases. If price changes in a fund's options or futures positions used for hedging purposes are poorly correlated with the investments the fund is attempting to hedge, the options or futures positions may fail to produce anticipated gains or result in losses that are not offset by gains in other investments.

Margin. Certain derivatives require a fund to make margin payments, a form of security deposit intended to protect against nonperformance of the derivative contract. A fund may have to post additional margin if the value of the derivative position changes in a manner adverse to the fund, which could affect performance as cash that would otherwise be directly invested is posted as margin. Derivatives may be difficult to value, which may result in increased payment requirements to counterparties or a loss of value to a fund. If a fund has insufficient cash to meet additional margin requirements, it might need to sell securities at a disadvantageous time.

CPO Exemption. The Adviser has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" pursuant to Regulation 4.5 under the CEA with respect to each fund, and, therefore, is not subject to registration or regulation as a CPO under the CEA. The Adviser relies on the exemption in Regulation 4.14(a)(8) to provide commodity interest trading advice with respect to the funds for which the Adviser is an excluded CPO.

Each applicable fund may be limited in its ability to use commodity futures or options thereon, engage in certain swap transactions or make certain other investments (collectively, "commodity interests") if the Adviser continues to claim the exclusion from the definition of CPO with respect to such fund. In order to be eligible to continue to claim this exclusion, if a fund uses commodity interests other than for bona fide hedging purposes (as defined by the CFTC), the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish those positions (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions and excluding the amount by which options are "in-the-money" at the time of purchase) may not exceed 5% of the fund's NAV, or, alternatively, the aggregate net notional value of those positions, as determined at the time the most recent position was established, may not exceed 100% of the fund's NAV (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). In addition to meeting one of the foregoing trading limitations, a fund may not market itself as a commodity pool or otherwise as a vehicle for trading in the commodity futures, commodity options or swaps markets. Even if a fund's direct use of commodity interests complies with the trading limitations described above, the fund may have indirect exposure to commodity interests in excess of such limitations. Such exposure may result from the fund's investment in other investment vehicles, including investment companies that are not managed by the Adviser or one of its affiliates, certain securitized vehicles that may invest in commodity interests and/or non-equity REITs that may invest in commodity interests (collectively, "underlying funds"). Because the Adviser may have limited or no information as to the commodity interests in which an underlying fund invests at any given time, the CFTC has issued temporary no-action relief permitting registered investment companies, such as the funds, to continue to

allow their commodity pool operators to rely on the exclusion from the definition of CPO. The Adviser, on behalf of the applicable funds, has filed the required notice to claim this no-action relief. In order to rely on the temporary no-action relief, the Adviser must meet certain conditions and the funds must otherwise comply with the trading and market limitations described above with respect to their direct investments in commodity interests.

If a fund were to invest in commodity interests in excess of the trading limitations discussed above and/or market itself as a vehicle for trading in the commodity futures, commodity options or swaps markets, the Adviser would withdraw its exclusion from the definition of CPO with respect to the fund and the Adviser would become subject to regulation as a CPO, and would need to comply with the harmonization rules adopted by the CFTC for funds that are dually registered, with respect to that fund, in addition to all applicable SEC regulations.

Specific Types of Derivatives.

Futures Contracts. A futures contract is an agreement between two parties to buy and sell a security or other asset for a set price on a future date. When a fund sells a futures contract, it incurs an obligation to deliver a specified amount of the obligation underlying the futures contract at a specified time in the future for an agreed upon price. With respect to index futures, no physical transfer of the securities underlying the index is made. Rather, the parties settle by exchanging in cash an amount based on the difference between the contract price and the closing value of the index on the settlement date. An option on a futures contract gives the holder of the option the right to buy from or sell to the writer of the option a position in a futures contract at a specified price on or before a specified expiration date. When a fund writes an option on a futures contract, it becomes obligated, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time during the term of the option. If the fund has written a call option, it assumes a short futures position. If the fund has written a put option, it assumes a long futures position. When a fund purchases an option on a futures contract, it acquires the right, in return for the premium it pays, to assume a position in a futures contract (a long position if the option is a call and a short position if the option is a put). The purchase of futures or call options on futures can serve as a long hedge, and the sale of futures or the purchase of put options on futures can serve as a short hedge. Writing call options on futures contracts can serve as a limited short hedge, using a strategy similar to that used for writing call options on securities or indexes. Similarly, writing put options on futures contracts can serve as a limited long hedge.

Futures contracts are traded on exchanges, so that, in most cases, either party can close out its position on the exchange for cash, without delivering the security or other asset. Although some futures contracts call for making or taking delivery of the underlying securities or other asset, generally these obligations are closed out before delivery by offsetting purchases or sales of matching futures contracts (same exchange, underlying asset, and delivery month). Closing out a futures contract sale is effected by purchasing a futures contract for the same aggregate amount of the specific type of financial instrument with the same delivery date. If an offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, a fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is more, a fund realizes a capital loss. Conversely, if an offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, a fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is less, a fund realizes a capital loss. Transaction costs also are included in these calculations.

Engaging in these transactions involves risk of loss to a fund which could adversely affect the value of the fund's net assets. No assurance can be given that a liquid market will exist for any particular contract at any particular time. Many futures exchanges and boards of trade limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular contract, no trades may be made that day at a price beyond that limit or trading may be suspended for specified periods during the trading day. Futures contract prices could move to the limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of futures positions and potentially leading to substantial losses. A fund may engage in futures transactions in foreign markets to the extent consistent with applicable law and the fund's ability to invest in foreign securities. Foreign futures markets may offer advantages such as trading opportunities or arbitrage possibilities not available in the United States. Foreign markets, however, may have greater risk potential than domestic markets. For example, some foreign exchanges are principal markets so that no common clearing facility exists and an investor may look only to the broker for performance of the contract. In addition, any profits that a fund

might realize in trading could be eliminated by adverse changes in the currency exchange rate, or the fund could incur losses as a result of those changes.

Futures contracts and options on futures contracts include those with respect to securities, securities indexes, interest rates and foreign currencies and Eurodollar contracts, to the extent a fund can invest in the underlying reference security, instrument or asset.

- *Security Futures Contract.* A security future obligates a fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific security at a future date at a specific price.
- *Index Futures Contract.* An index future obligates a fund to pay or receive an amount of cash based upon the change in value of the index based on the prices of the securities that comprise the index.
- *Interest Rate Futures Contract.* An interest rate future obligates a fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific debt security at a future date at a specific price (or, in some cases, to settle an equivalent amount in cash).
- *Foreign Currency Futures Contract.* A foreign currency future obligates a fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific currency at a future date at a specific price.
- *Eurodollar Contracts.* A Eurodollar contract is a U.S. dollar-denominated futures contract or option thereon which is linked to a reference rate, although foreign currency-denominated instruments are available from time to time. Eurodollar futures contracts enable purchasers to obtain a fixed rate for the lending of funds and sellers to obtain a fixed rate for borrowings. Certain funds might use Eurodollar futures contracts and options thereon to hedge against changes in the reference rate, to which an interest rate swap or fixed-income instruments is linked.

Options. A call option gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and obligates the writer to sell, the underlying security, securities or other asset at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date. Conversely, a put option gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, the underlying security, securities or other asset at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date. A fund receives a premium from writing an option which it retains whether or not the option

Options may be traded on U.S. or, to the extent the fund may invest in foreign securities, foreign securities exchanges or in the over-the-counter market. There is no assurance that sufficient trading interest to create a liquid secondary market on a securities exchange will exist for any particular option or at any particular time, and for some options no such secondary market may exist. A liquid secondary market in an option may cease to exist for a variety of reasons. In the past, for example, higher than anticipated trading activity or order flow, or other unforeseen events, at times have rendered certain of the clearing facilities inadequate and resulted in the institution of special procedures, such as trading rotations, restrictions on certain types of orders or trading halts or suspensions in one or more options. There can be no assurance that similar events, or events that may otherwise interfere with the timely execution of customers' orders, will not recur. In such event, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options. If, as a covered call option writer, a fund is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise or it otherwise covers its position.

Purchases or sales of options on exchanges owned by The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. may result, indirectly, in a portion of the transaction and other fees assessed on options trading being paid to The Bank of New York Mellon, an affiliate of the Adviser, as the result of an arrangement between The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon.

Call and put options in which a fund may invest include the following, in each case, to the extent that a fund can invest in such securities or instruments (or securities underlying an index, in the case of options on securities indexes).

- *Options on Securities.* Call and put options on specific securities (or groups or "baskets" of specific securities), including equity securities (including convertible securities), U.S. Government securities, municipal securities, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, foreign sovereign debt, corporate debt securities or Eurodollar instruments, convey the right to buy or sell, respectively, the underlying securities at prices which are expected to be lower or higher than the current market prices of the securities at the time the options are exercised.
- *Options on Securities Indexes.* An option on an index is similar to an option in respect of specific securities, except that settlement does not occur by delivery of the securities comprising the index. Instead, the option holder receives an amount of cash if the closing level of the index upon which the option is based is greater in the case of a call, or less, in the case of a put, than the exercise price of the option. Thus, the effectiveness of purchasing or writing index options will depend upon price movements in the level of the index rather than the price of a particular security.
- *Foreign Currency Options.* Call and put options on foreign currency convey the right to buy or sell the underlying currency at a price which is expected to be lower or higher than the spot price of the currency at the time the option is exercised or expires.

Swap Agreements. Swap agreements involve the exchange by a fund with another party of their respective commitments to pay or receive payments at specified dates based upon or calculated by reference to changes in specified prices or rates (e.g., interest rates in the case of interest rate swaps) based on a specified amount (the "notional") amount. Some swaps are, and more in the future will be, centrally cleared. Swaps that are centrally cleared are subject to the creditworthiness of the clearing organizations involved in the transaction. For example, a fund could lose margin payments it has deposited with a clearing organization as well as the net amount of gains not yet paid by the clearing organization if the clearing organization breaches its agreement with the fund or becomes insolvent or goes into bankruptcy. In the event of bankruptcy of the clearing organization, the fund may be entitled to the net amount of gains the fund is entitled to receive plus the return of margin owed to it only in proportion to the amount received by the clearing organization's other customers, potentially resulting in losses to the fund. Swap agreements also may be two party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than one year.

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

Most swap agreements entered into are cash settled and calculate the obligations of the parties to the agreement on a "net basis." Thus, a fund's current obligations (or rights) under a swap agreement generally 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 each party to the agreement (the "net amount"). A fund will enter into swap agreements only with counterparties that meet certain standards of creditworthiness based on the Sub-Adviser's internal guidelines.

A swap option is a contract (sometimes called "swaptions") that gives a counterparty the right (but not the obligation) in return for payment of a premium, to enter into a new swap agreement or to shorten, extend, cancel or otherwise modify an existing swap agreement, at some designated future time on specified terms. A cash-settled option on a swap gives the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to receive an amount of cash equal to the value of the underlying swap as of the exercise date. These options typically are entered into with institutions, including securities brokerage firms. Depending on the terms of the particular option agreement, a fund generally will incur a greater degree of risk when it writes a swap option than it will incur when it purchases a swap option. When a fund purchases a swap option, it risks

losing only the amount of the premium it has paid should it decide to let the option expire unexercised. However, when a fund writes a swap option, upon exercise of the option the fund will become obligated according to the terms of the underlying agreement.

The swaps market has been an evolving and largely unregulated market. It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including new regulatory requirements, could limit or prevent a fund's ability to utilize swap agreements or options on swaps as part of its investment strategy, terminate existing swap agreements or realize amounts to be received under such agreements, which could negatively affect the fund. As discussed above, some swaps currently are, and more in the future will be, centrally cleared, which affects how swaps are transacted. In particular, the Dodd-Frank Act, has resulted in new clearing and exchange-trading requirements for swaps and other over-the-counter derivatives. The Dodd-Frank Act also requires the CFTC and/or the SEC, in consultation with banking regulators, to establish capital requirements for swap dealers and major swap participants as well as requirements for margin on uncleared derivatives, including swaps, in certain circumstances that will be clarified by rules proposed by the CFTC and/or the SEC. In addition, the CFTC and the SEC may change current requirements applicable to derivatives in the future. For example, some legislative and regulatory proposals would impose limits on the maximum position that could be held by a single trader in certain contracts and would subject certain derivatives transactions to new forms of regulation that could create barriers to certain types of investment activity. Other provisions would expand entity registration requirements; impose business conduct, reporting and disclosure requirements on dealers, recordkeeping on counterparties such as the funds; and require banks to move some derivatives trading units to a non-guaranteed (but capitalized) affiliate separate from the deposit-taking bank or divest them altogether. While some provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act have either already been implemented through rulemaking by the CFTC and/or the SEC or must be implemented through future rulemaking by those and other federal agencies, and any regulatory or legislative activity may not necessarily have a direct, immediate effect upon the funds, it is possible that, when compliance with these rules is required, they could potentially limit or completely restrict the ability of a fund to use certain derivatives as a part of its investment strategy, increase the cost of entering into derivatives transactions or require more assets of the fund to be used for collateral in support of those derivatives than is currently the case. Limits or restrictions applicable to the counterparties with which a fund engages in derivative transactions also could prevent the funds from using derivatives or affect the pricing or other factors relating to these transactions, or may change the availability of certain derivatives.

Specific swap agreements (and options thereon) include currency swaps; index swaps; interest rate swaps (including interest rate locks, caps, floors and collars); credit default swaps; credit default swap indexes, inflation swaps; and total return swaps (including equity swaps), in each case, to the extent that a fund can invest in the underlying reference security, instrument or asset (or fixed-income securities, in the case of interest rate swaps, or securities underlying an index, in the case of index swaps).

- *Currency Swap Transactions.* A currency swap agreement involves the exchange of principal and interest in one currency for the same in another currency.
- *Index Swap Transactions.* An index swap agreement involves the exchange of cash flows associated with a securities or other index.
- *Interest Rate Swap Transactions.* An interest rate swap agreement involves the exchange of cash flows based on interest rate specifications and a specified principal amount, often a fixed payment for a floating payment that is linked to an interest rate.

An interest rate lock transaction (which may also be known as a forward rate agreement) is a contract between two parties to make or receive a payment at a future date determined on the basis of a specified interest rate or yield of a particular security (the "contracted interest rate") over a predetermined time period, with respect to a stated notional amount. These transactions typically are entered as a hedge against interest rate changes. One party to the contract locks in the contracted interest rate to seek to protect against an interest rate increase, while the other party seeks to protect against a possible interest rate decline. The payment at maturity is determined by the difference between the contracted interest rate and the then-current market interest rate.

In an interest rate cap one party receives payments at the end of each period in which a specified interest rate on a specified principal amount exceeds an agreed rate; conversely, in an interest rate floor one party may receive payments if a specified interest rate on a specified principal amount falls below an agreed rate. Caps and floors have an effect similar to buying or writing options. Interest rate collars involve selling a cap and purchasing a floor, or vice versa, to protect a fund against interest rate movements exceeding given minimum or maximum levels.

- *Credit Default Swap Transactions.* Credit default swap agreements and similar agreements may have as reference obligations debt securities that are or are not currently held by a fund. The protection "buyer" in a credit default contract may be obligated to pay the protection "seller" an up-front payment or a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract provided generally that no credit event on a reference obligation has occurred. If a credit event occurs, the seller generally must pay the buyer the "par value" (full notional value) of the swap in exchange for an equal face amount of deliverable obligations of the reference entity described in the swap, or the seller may be required to deliver the related net cash amount, if the swap is cash settled.
- *Credit Default Swap Index ("CDX") Transactions.* A CDX is similar to a credit default swap, except that a CDX is designed to reflect the performance of an index of credit default swaps with similar characteristics, such as credit default swaps on high-yield bonds, as opposed to having a single reference obligation. In a typical CDX transaction, one party – the protection "buyer" – is obligated to pay the other party – the protection "seller" – a stream of periodic payments over the term of the contract, provided generally that no credit event on an underlying reference obligation has occurred. If such a credit event has occurred, the seller must pay the buyer the loss on those credits. CDXs are often exchange traded and standardized, which means that a CDX may be more liquid than a single credit default swap.
- *Inflation Swap Transactions.* An inflation swap agreement involves the exchange of cash flows based on interest and inflation rate specifications and a specified principal amount, usually a fixed payment, such as the yield difference between Treasury securities and TIPS of the same maturity, for a floating payment that is linked to the consumer price index (the "CPI"). The following is an example. The swap buyer pays a predetermined fixed rate to the swap seller (or counterparty) based on the yield difference between Treasuries and TIPS of the same maturity. (This yield spread represents the market's current expected inflation for the time period covered by the maturity date.). In exchange for this fixed rate, the counterparty pays the buyer an inflation-linked payment, usually the CPI rate for the maturity period (which represents the actual change in inflation).
- *Total Return Swap Transactions.* In a total return swap agreement one party makes payments based on a set rate, either fixed or variable, while the other party makes payments based on the return of an underlying asset, which includes both the income it generates and any capital gains, and recovers any capital losses from the first party. The underlying reference asset of a total return swap may include an equity index, loans or bonds.

Contracts for Difference. A contract for difference ("CFD") is a contract between two parties, typically described as "buyer" and "seller," stipulating that the seller will pay to the buyer the difference between the current value of an asset and its value in the future. (If the difference is negative, then the buyer instead pays the seller.) In effect, CFDs are financial derivatives that allow a fund to take advantage of values moving up (long positions) or values moving down (short positions) on underlying assets. For example, when applied to equities, a CFD is an equity derivative that allows a fund to obtain investment exposure to share price movements, without the need for ownership of the underlying shares. CFDs are over-the-counter derivative instruments that are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty. Because CFDs are not traded on an exchange and may not have an expiration date, CFDs generally are illiquid.

Municipal Market Data Rate Locks (MMD Rate Locks). An MMD Rate Lock is designed to permit the fund to lock in a specific municipal interest rate for a particular investment or a portion of its portfolio to

preserve a return on a particular investment or a portion of its portfolio, which in turn protects against any increase in the price of securities to be purchased at a later date. By using an MMD Rate Lock, the fund can create a synthetic long or short duration position. To the extent the fund uses MMD Rate Locks, it will ordinarily use these transactions as a hedge or for duration or risk management, which may not be successful. An MMD Rate Lock is a contract between the fund and an MMD Rate Lock provider pursuant to which the parties agree to make a net settlement payment to each other on a notional and duration amount, contingent upon whether the Municipal Market Data AAA General Obligation Scale is above or below a specified level on the expiration date of the contract. For example, if the fund buys an MMD Rate Lock and the Municipal Market Data AAA General Obligation Scale is below the specified level on the expiration date, the counterparty to the contract will make a payment to the fund equal to the specified level minus the actual level, multiplied by the notional amount of the contract. If the Municipal Market Data AAA General Obligation Scale is above the specified level on the expiration date, the fund will make a payment to the counterparty equal to the actual level minus the specified level, multiplied by the notional amount of the contract. In connection with investments in MMD Rate Locks, there is a risk that municipal yields will move in the opposite direction than anticipated by the fund, which would cause the fund to make payments to its counterparty in the transaction that could adversely affect the fund's performance.

Forward Volatility Agreements. Forward volatility agreements are agreements in which two parties agree to exchange a straddle option (holding a position in both call and put options with the same exercise price and expiration date, allowing the holder to profit regardless of whether the price of the underlying asset goes up or down, assuming a significant change in the price of the underlying asset) at a specific expiration date and volatility. Essentially, a forward volatility agreement is a forward contract on the realized volatility of a given underlying asset, which may be, among other things, a stock, stock index, interest rate or currency. Forward volatility agreements are over-the-counter derivative instruments that are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty.

Credit Linked Securities. Credit linked securities are issued by a limited purpose trust or other vehicle that, in turn, invests in a derivative instrument or basket of derivative instruments, such as credit default swaps or interest rate swaps, to obtain exposure to certain fixed-income markets or to remain fully invested when more traditional income producing securities are not available. Like an investment in a bond, an investment in these credit linked securities represents the right to receive periodic income payments (in the form of distributions) and payment of principal at the end of the term of the security. However, these payments are conditioned on the issuer's receipt of payments from, and the issuer's potential obligations to, the counterparties to certain derivative instruments entered into by the issuer of the credit linked security. For example, the issuer may sell one or more credit default swaps entitling the issuer to receive a stream of payments over the term of the swap agreements provided that no event of default has occurred with respect to the referenced debt obligation upon which the swap is based. If a default occurs, the stream of payments may stop and the issuer would be obligated to pay the counterparty the par (or other agreed upon value) of the referenced debt obligation.

Credit Derivatives. Credit derivative transactions include those involving default price risk derivatives and credit spread derivatives. Default price risk derivatives are linked to the price of reference securities or loans after a default by the issuer or borrower, respectively. Credit spread derivatives are based on the risk that changes in credit spreads and related market factors can cause a decline in the value of a security, loan or index. Credit derivatives may take the form of options, swaps, credit-linked notes and other over-the-counter instruments. The risk of loss in a credit derivative transaction varies with the form of the transaction. For example, if a fund purchases a default option on a security, and if no default occurs with respect to the security, the fund's loss is limited to the premium it paid for the default option. In contrast, if there is a default by the grantor of a default option, a fund's loss will include both the premium it paid for the option and the decline in value of any underlying security that the default option hedged (if the option was entered into for hedging purposes). If a fund is a buyer of credit protection in a credit default swap agreement and no credit event occurs, the fund recovers nothing if the swap is held through its termination date. However, if a credit event occurs, the fund may elect to receive the full notional value of the swap in exchange for an equal face amount of deliverable obligations of the reference entity that may have little or no value. As a seller of credit protection, a fund generally receives an upfront payment or a fixed rate of income throughout the term of the swap, which typically is between six months and three years, provided

that there is no credit event. If a credit event occurs, generally the seller must pay the buyer the full notional value of the swap in exchange for an equal face amount of deliverable obligations of the reference entity that may have little or no value. A CDX functions similarly to a credit default swap, except that in the event of a credit event, the seller will only pay the equivalent of protection scaled down by the defaulting constituent's weighting in the index. Unlike credit default swaps, credit-linked notes are funded balance sheet assets that offer synthetic credit exposure to a reference entity in a structure designed to resemble a synthetic corporate bond or loan. Credit-linked notes are frequently issued by special purpose vehicles that would hold some form of collateral securities financed through the issuance of notes or certificates to a fund. The fund receives a coupon and par redemption, provided there has been no credit event of the reference entity. The vehicle enters into a credit swap with a third party in which it sells default protection in return for a premium that subsidizes the coupon to compensate the fund for the reference entity default risk. A fund will enter into credit derivative transactions only with counterparties that meet certain standards of creditworthiness based on the Sub-Adviser's internal guidelines.

Structured Securities and Hybrid Instruments.

- *Structured Securities.* Structured securities are securities whose cash flow characteristics depend upon one or more indexes or that have embedded forwards or options or securities where a fund's investment return and the issuer's payment obligations are contingent on, or highly sensitive to, changes in the value of underlying assets, indexes, interest rates or cash flows ("embedded index"). When a fund purchases a structured security, it will make a payment of principal to the counterparty. Some structured securities have a guaranteed repayment of principal while others place a portion (or all) of the principal at risk. Guarantees are subject to the risk of default by the counterparty or its credit provider. The terms of such structured securities normally provide that their principal and/or interest payments are to be adjusted upwards or downwards (but not ordinarily below zero) to reflect changes in the embedded index while the structured securities are outstanding. As a result, the interest and/or principal payments that may be made on a structured security may vary widely, depending upon a variety of factors, including the volatility of the embedded index and the effect of changes in the embedded index on principal and/or interest payments. The rate of return on structured securities may be determined by applying a multiplier to the performance or differential performance of the embedded index. Application of a multiplier involves leverage that will serve to magnify the potential for gain and the risk of loss. Structured securities may be issued in subordinated and unsubordinated classes, with subordinated classes typically having higher yields and greater risks than an unsubordinated class. Structured securities may not have an active trading market, which may have an adverse impact on a fund's ability to dispose of such securities when necessary to meet the fund's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. The lack of an active trading market also may make it more difficult for a fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing the fund's portfolio and calculating its NAV.
- *Hybrid Instruments.* A hybrid instrument can combine the characteristics of securities, futures and options. For example, the principal amount or interest rate of a hybrid instrument could be tied (positively or negatively) to the price of a benchmark, *e.g.*, currency, securities index or another interest rate. The interest rate or the principal amount payable at maturity of a hybrid security may be increased or decreased, depending on changes in the value of the benchmark. Hybrids can be used as an efficient means of pursuing a variety of investment strategies, including currency hedging, duration management and increased total return. Hybrids may not bear interest or pay dividends. The value of a hybrid or its interest rate may be a multiple of a benchmark and, as a result, may be leveraged and move (up or down) more steeply and rapidly than the benchmark. These benchmarks may be sensitive to economic and political events, such as currency devaluations, which cannot be readily foreseen by the purchaser of a hybrid. Under certain conditions, the redemption value of a hybrid could be zero. Thus, an investment in a hybrid may entail significant market risks that are not associated with a similar investment in a traditional, U.S. dollar-denominated bond that has a fixed principal amount and pays a fixed rate or floating rate of interest.

Combined Transactions. Certain funds may enter into multiple transactions, including multiple options, futures, swap, currency and/or interest rate transactions, and any combination of options, futures, swaps, currency and/or interest rate transactions ("combined transactions"), instead of a single transaction, as part of a single or combined strategy when, in the opinion of the Sub-Adviser, it is in the best interests of the fund to do so. A combined transaction will usually contain elements of risk that are present in each of its component transactions. Although combined transactions are normally entered into based on the Sub-Adviser's or judgment that the combined strategies will reduce risk or otherwise more effectively achieve the desired portfolio management goal, it is possible that the combination will instead increase such risks or hinder achievement of the portfolio management objective.

Future Developments. A fund may take advantage of opportunities in derivatives transactions which are not presently contemplated for use by the fund or which are not currently available but which may be developed, to the extent such opportunities are both consistent with the fund's investment objective and legally permissible for the fund. Before a fund enters into such transactions or makes any such investment, the fund will provide appropriate disclosure in its prospectus or this SAI.

Participation Notes. Participation notes are issued by banks or broker-dealers and are designed to replicate the performance of certain equity or debt securities or markets. Participation notes are a type of derivative which generally is traded over-the-counter. The performance results of participation notes will not replicate exactly the performance of the securities or markets that the notes seek to replicate due to transaction costs and other expenses. Risks of investing in participation notes include the same risks associated with a direct investment in the underlying security or market the notes seek to replicate. Participation notes constitute general unsecured contractual obligations of the banks or broker-dealers that issue them, and a fund is relying on the creditworthiness of such banks or broker-dealers and has no rights under a participation note against the issuers of the assets underlying such participation notes, including any collateral supporting a loan participation note. The types of participation notes which a fund may use include low exercise price options ("LEPOs") and low exercise price warrants ("LEPWs"). LEPOs, LEPWs, and other participation notes are offshore derivative instruments issued to foreign institutional investors and their sub-accounts against underlying securities traded in emerging or frontier markets. These securities may be listed on an exchange or traded over-the-counter, and are similar to depositary receipts. As a result, the risks of investing in LEPOs, LEPWs, and other participation notes are similar to depositary receipts risk and foreign securities risk in general. Specifically these securities entail both counterparty risk—the risk that the issuer of the LEPO, LEPW, or participation note may not be able to fulfill its obligations or that the holder and counterparty or issuer may disagree as to the meaning or application of contractual terms—and liquidity risk—the risk that a liquid market may not exist for such securities.

Custodial Receipts. Custodial receipts, which may be underwritten by securities dealers or banks, represent the right to receive certain future principal and/or interest payments on a basket of securities which underlie the custodial receipts, or, in some cases, the payment obligation of a third party that has entered into an interest rate swap or other arrangement with the custodian. Underlying securities may include U.S. government securities, municipal securities or other types of securities in which a fund may invest. A number of different arrangements are possible. In a typical custodial receipt arrangement, an issuer or a third party owner of securities deposits such securities obligations with a custodian in exchange for custodial receipts. These custodial receipts are typically sold in private placements and are designed to provide investors with pro rata ownership of a portfolio of underlying securities. For certain securities law purposes, custodial receipts may not be considered obligations of the underlying securities held by the custodian. As a holder of custodial receipts, a fund will bear its proportionate share of the fees and expenses charged to the custodial account. Although under the terms of a custodial receipt a fund typically would be authorized to assert its rights directly against the issuer of the underlying obligation, the fund could be required to assert through the custodian bank those rights as may exist against the underlying issuers. Thus, in the event an underlying issuer fails to pay principal and/or interest when due, the fund may be subject to delays, expenses and risks that are greater than those that would have been involved if the fund had purchased a direct obligation of the issuer. In addition, in the event that the custodial account in which the underlying securities have been deposited is determined to be an association taxable as a

corporation, instead of a non-taxable entity, the yield on the underlying securities would be reduced in recognition of any taxes paid.

Certain custodial receipts may be synthetic or derivative instruments that have interest rates that reset inversely to changing short-term rates and/or have embedded interest rate floors and caps that require the issuer to pay an adjusted interest rate if market rates fall below or rise above a specified rate. Because some of these instruments represent relatively recent innovations, and the trading market for these instruments is less developed than the markets for more traditional types of instruments, it is uncertain how these instruments will perform under different economic and interest-rate scenarios. Also, because these instruments may be leveraged, their market values may be more volatile than other types of fixed-income instruments and may present greater potential for capital gain or loss. The possibility of default by an issuer or the issuer's credit provider may be greater for these derivative instruments than for other types of instruments.

Foreign Currency Transactions

Investments in foreign currencies, including investing directly in foreign currencies, holding financial instruments that provide exposure to foreign currencies, or investing in securities that trade in, or receive revenues in, foreign currencies, are subject to the risk that those currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar.

Depending on the fund, foreign currency transactions could be entered into for a variety of purposes, including: (1) to fix in U.S. dollars, between trade and settlement date, the value of a security a fund has agreed to buy or sell; (2) to hedge the U.S. dollar value of securities the fund already owns, particularly if it expects a decrease in the value of the currency in which the foreign security is denominated; (3) to gain or reduce exposure to the foreign currency for investment purposes; (4) to settle trades in non-base currencies; or (5) to repatriate income. Foreign currency transactions may involve, for example, a fund's purchase of foreign currencies for U.S. dollars or the maintenance of short positions in foreign currencies. A short position would involve the fund agreeing to exchange an amount of a currency it did not currently own for another currency at a future date in anticipation of a decline in the value of the currency sold relative to the currency the fund contracted to receive. A fund may engage in cross currency hedging against price movements between currencies, other than the U.S. dollar, caused by currency exchange rate fluctuations. In addition, a fund might seek to hedge against changes in the value of a particular currency when no derivative instruments on that currency are available or such derivative instruments are more expensive than certain other derivative instruments. In such cases, the fund may hedge against price movements in that currency by entering into transactions using derivative instruments on another currency or a basket of currencies, the values of which the Sub-Adviser believes will have a high degree of positive correlation to the value of the currency being hedged. The risk that movements in the price of the derivative instrument will not correlate perfectly with movements in the price of the currency being hedged is magnified when this strategy is used.

Currency hedging may substantially change a fund's exposure to changes in currency exchange rates and could result in losses if currencies do not perform as the Sub-Adviser anticipates. There is no assurance that a fund's currency hedging activities will be advantageous to the fund or that the Sub-Adviser will hedge at an appropriate time.

The cost of engaging in foreign currency exchange contracts for the purchase or sale of a specified currency at a specified future date ("forward contracts") varies with factors such as the currency involved, the length of the contract period and the market conditions then prevailing. Because forward contracts are usually entered into on a principal basis, no fees or commissions are involved. Generally, secondary markets do not exist for forward contracts, with the result that closing transactions can be made for forward contracts only by negotiating directly with the counterparty to the contract. As with other over-the-counter derivatives transactions, forward contracts are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty.

Currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time. They generally are determined by the forces of supply and demand in the foreign exchange markets and the relative merits of investments in different countries, actual or perceived changes in interest rates and other complex factors, as seen from an international perspective. Currency exchange rates also can be affected unpredictably by intervention, or failure to intervene, by U.S. or foreign governments or central banks, or by currency controls or political developments in the United States or abroad.

The value of derivative instruments on foreign currencies depends on the value of the underlying currency relative to the U.S. dollar. Because foreign currency transactions occurring in the interbank market might involve substantially larger amounts than those involved in the use of foreign currency derivative instruments, a fund could be disadvantaged by having to deal in the odd lot market (generally consisting of transactions of less than \$1 million) for the underlying foreign currencies at prices that are less favorable than for round lots.

There is no systematic reporting of last sale information for foreign currencies or any regulatory requirement that quotations available through dealers or other market sources be firm or revised on a timely basis. Quotation information generally is representative of very large transactions in the interbank market and thus might not reflect odd-lot transactions where rates might be less favorable. The interbank market in foreign currencies is a global, round-the-clock market.

Settlement of transactions involving foreign currencies might be required to take place within the country issuing the underlying currency. Thus, a fund might be required to accept or make delivery of the underlying foreign currency in accordance with any U.S. or foreign regulations regarding the maintenance of foreign banking arrangements by U.S. residents and might be required to pay any fees, taxes and charges associated with such delivery assessed in the issuing country.

Short-Selling

A fund may make short sales as part of its investment strategy, to hedge positions (such as to limit exposure to a possible market decline in the value of portfolio securities), for duration, maturity and risk management, to maintain portfolio flexibility or to seek to enhance returns. A short sale involves the sale of a security that a fund does not own in the expectation of purchasing the same security (or a security exchangeable therefor) at a later date and at a lower price. To complete a short sale transaction and make delivery to the buyer, the fund must borrow the security. The fund is obligated to replace the borrowed security to the lender, which is accomplished by a later purchase of the security by the fund. Until the security is replaced, the fund is required to pay the lender any dividends or interest accruing during the period of the loan. To borrow the security, the fund also may have to pay a fee to the lender, which would increase the cost to the fund of the security it sold short. The fund will incur a loss as a result of a short sale if the price of the security increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the fund replaces the borrowed security. The fund will realize a gain if the security declines in price between those two dates. In certain cases, purchasing a security to cover a short position can itself cause the price of the security to rise, thereby exacerbating any loss, especially in an environment where others are taking the same actions. The amount of any gain will be decreased and the amount of any loss will be increased by any interest, premium and transaction charges or other costs a fund may be required to pay in connection with the short sale. A fund may not always be able to borrow a security the fund seeks to sell short at a particular time or at an acceptable price.

A fund also may make short sales "against the box," in which the fund enters into a short sale of a security it owns or has the immediate and unconditional right to acquire at no additional cost at the time of the sale.

When a fund makes a short sale, it must leave the proceeds thereof with the broker and deposit with, or pledge to, the broker an amount of cash or liquid securities sufficient under current margin regulations to collateralize its obligation to replace the borrowed securities that have been sold. Whenever a fund enters into a short sale, it will treat the short sale as a derivatives transaction for purposes of Rule 18f-4, including, as applicable, the VaR based limit on leverage risk. Short-selling is considered "leverage" and may involve substantial risk.

Lending Portfolio Securities

Fund portfolio securities may be lent to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. In connection with such loans, a fund would remain the owner of the loaned securities and continue to be entitled to payments in amounts equal to the interest, dividends or other distributions payable on the loaned securities. A fund also has the right to terminate a loan at any time. Subject to a fund's own more restrictive limitations, if applicable, an investment company is limited in the amount of portfolio securities it may loan to 33-1/3% of its total assets (including the value of all assets received as collateral for the loan). Except as may be otherwise described in "Investments, Investment Techniques and Risks" in Part II of this SAI, a fund will receive collateral consisting of cash, cash equivalents, U.S. Government securities or irrevocable letters of credit, which will be maintained at all times in an amount equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned

securities. If the collateral consists of a letter of credit or securities, the borrower will pay the fund a loan premium fee. If the collateral consists of cash, the fund will reinvest the cash and pay the borrower a pre-negotiated fee or "rebate" from any return earned on the investment. A fund may participate in a securities lending program operated by the Securities Lending Agent. The Securities Lending Agent will receive a percentage of the total earnings of the fund derived from lending its portfolio securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral. Loans are made only to borrowers that are deemed by the Adviser to be of good financial standing. In a loan transaction, a fund will also bear the risk of any decline in value of securities acquired with cash collateral. A fund will minimize this risk by limiting the investment of cash collateral to money market funds advised by the Adviser, repurchase agreements or other high quality instruments with short maturities, in each case to the extent it is a permissible investment for the fund.

Borrowing Money

The 1940 Act, subject to a fund's own more restrictive limitations, if applicable, permits an investment company to borrow in an amount up to 33-1/3% of the value of its total assets. Such borrowings may be for temporary or emergency purposes or for leveraging. If borrowings are for temporary or emergency (not leveraging) purposes, when such borrowings exceed 5% of the value of a fund's total assets the fund will not make any additional investments.

Reverse Repurchase Agreements. Reverse repurchase agreements may be entered into with banks, broker/dealers or other financial institutions. This form of borrowing involves the transfer by a fund of an underlying debt instrument in return for cash proceeds based on a percentage of the value of the security. The fund retains the right to receive interest and principal payments on the security. At an agreed upon future date, the fund repurchases the security at principal plus accrued interest. As a result of these transactions, the fund is exposed to greater potential fluctuations in the value of its assets and its NAV per share. These borrowings will be subject to interest costs which may or may not be recovered by appreciation of the securities purchased; in certain cases, interest costs may exceed the return received on the securities purchased. To the extent a fund enters into a reverse repurchase agreement which is not treated as a derivatives transaction, the fund will segregate permissible liquid assets at least equal to the aggregate amount of its reverse repurchase obligations or similar financing transactions and any other senior securities representing indebtedness, plus accrued interest, in certain cases, in accordance with SEC guidance. The SEC views reverse repurchase transactions as collateralized borrowings by a fund.

Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act permits a fund to treat reverse repurchase agreements as derivatives transactions under certain circumstances. A fund treating reverse repurchase agreements as derivatives transactions must include in its derivatives exposure the proceeds that the fund received but has not yet repaid or returned, or for which the associated liability has not been extinguished, in connection with each such transaction. Whenever a fund enters into a reverse repurchase agreement, it will either (i) be consistent with Section 18 of the 1940 Act and maintain asset coverage of at least 300% of the value of the repurchase agreement or (ii) treat the reverse repurchase agreement as a derivatives transaction for purposes of Rule 18f-4, including, as applicable, the VaR based limit on leverage risk.

Forward Commitments. The purchase or sale of securities on a forward commitment (including "TBA" (to be announced)), when-issued or delayed-delivery basis, means delivery and payment take place at a future date at a predetermined price and/or yield. Typically, no interest accrues to the purchaser until the security is delivered. When purchasing a security on a forward commitment basis, a fund assumes the risks of ownership of the security, including the risk of price and yield fluctuations, and takes such fluctuations into account when determining its NAV. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed-delivery basis can involve the additional risk that the yield available in the market when the delivery takes place actually may be higher than that obtained in the transaction itself. The sale of securities on a forward commitment or delayed-delivery basis involves the risk that the prices available in the market on the delivery date may be greater than those obtained in the sale transaction.

Debt securities purchased on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed-delivery basis are subject to changes in value based upon the perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and changes, real or anticipated, in the level of interest rates (i.e., appreciating when interest rates decline and depreciating when interest rates rise). Securities purchased on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed-delivery basis may expose a fund to risks because

they may experience declines in value prior to their actual delivery. A fund will make commitments to purchase such securities only with the intention of actually acquiring the securities, but the fund may sell these securities or dispose of the commitment before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable as a matter of investment strategy. A fund would engage in forward commitments to increase its portfolio's financial exposure to the types of securities in which it invests. If the fund is fully or almost fully invested when forward commitment purchases are outstanding, such purchases may result in a form of leverage. Leveraging the portfolio in this manner will increase the fund's exposure to changes in interest rates and may result in greater potential fluctuation in the value of the fund's net assets and its NAV per share.

Forward Roll Transactions. In a forward roll transaction, a fund sells a security, such as a mortgage-backed security, to a bank, broker-dealer or other financial institution and simultaneously agrees to purchase a similar security from the institution at a later date at an agreed upon price. During the period between the sale and purchase, the fund will not be entitled to receive interest and principal payments on the securities sold by the fund. Proceeds of the sale typically will be invested in short-term instruments, particularly repurchase agreements, and the income from these investments, together with any additional fee income received on the sale, will be expected to generate income for the fund exceeding the yield on the securities sold. Forward roll transactions involve the risk that the market value of the securities sold by the fund may decline below the purchase price of those securities.

In a mortgage "dollar roll" transaction, a fund sells mortgage-backed securities for delivery in the current month and simultaneously contracts to purchase substantially similar securities on a specified future date. The mortgage-backed securities that are purchased will be of the same type and will have the same interest rate as those securities sold, but generally will be supported by different pools of mortgages with different prepayment histories than those sold. A fund forgoes principal and interest paid during the roll period on the securities sold in a dollar roll, but the fund is compensated by the difference between the current sales price and the lower prices of the future purchase, as well as by any interest earned on the proceeds of the securities sold. The dollar rolls entered into by a fund normally will be "covered." A covered roll is a specific type of dollar roll for which there is an offsetting cash position or a cash equivalent security position that matures on or before the forward settlement date of the related dollar roll transaction. Covered rolls are not treated as borrowings or other senior securities and will be excluded from the calculation of a fund's borrowings.

Illiquid Investments

The 1940 Act limits funds other than money market funds to 15% of net assets in illiquid investments. Illiquid investments, which are investments that a fund reasonably expects to be unable to sell or dispose of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investments, may include investments that are not readily marketable, such as investments that are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale that do not have readily available market quotations, repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice and certain privately negotiated derivatives transactions and securities used to cover such derivatives transactions. As to these investments, there is a risk that, should a fund desire to sell them, a ready buyer will not be available at a price the fund deems representative of their value, which could adversely affect the value of a fund's net assets.

Section 4(a)(2) Paper and Rule 144A Securities.

"Section 4(a)(2) paper" consists of commercial obligations issued in reliance on the so-called "private placement" exemption from registration afforded by Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act. Section 4(a)(2) paper is restricted as to disposition under the federal securities laws, and generally is sold to institutional investors that agree that they are purchasing the paper for investment and not with a view to public distribution. Any resale by the purchaser must be pursuant to registration or an exemption therefrom. Section 4(a)(2) paper normally is resold to other institutional investors through or with the assistance of the issuer or investment dealers who make a market in the Section 4(a)(2) paper, thus providing liquidity. "Rule 144A securities" are securities that are not registered under the Securities Act but that can be sold to qualified institutional buyers in accordance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act. Rule 144A securities generally must be sold to other qualified institutional buyers. If a particular investment in Section 4(a)(2) paper or Rule 144A securities is not determined to be liquid, that investment will be included within the percentage limitation on investment in illiquid investments. Investing in Rule 144A securities could have the effect of increasing the level of fund illiquidity to the extent that qualified institutional buyers become, for a time, uninterested in purchasing these securities from a fund or other holders. Liquidity determinations with respect to

Section 4(a)(2) paper and Rule 144A securities will be made by the funds' board or by the Adviser pursuant to guidelines established by the board. The funds' board or the Adviser will consider availability of reliable price information and other relevant information in making such determinations.

Diversification Status

Each fund is classified as diversified under the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act generally requires a "diversified" investment company, with respect to 75% of its total assets, to invest not more than 5% of such assets in securities of a single issuer.

To meet federal tax requirements, at the close of each quarter a fund may not have more than 25% of its total assets invested in any one issuer and, with respect to 50% of its total assets, not more than 5% of its total assets invested in any one issuer. These limitations do not apply to U.S. Government securities or investments in certain other investment companies.

Cybersecurity Risk

The funds and their service providers are susceptible to operational and information security risks due to cybersecurity incidents. In general, cybersecurity incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. Cybersecurity attacks include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to digital systems (e.g., through "hacking" or malicious software coding) for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data or causing operational disruption. Cyber attacks also may be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as causing denial-of-service attacks on websites (i.e., efforts to make services unavailable to intended users). Cybersecurity incidents affecting the Adviser, Sub-Adviser, Transfer Agent or Custodian or other service providers such as financial intermediaries have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, including by interference with a fund's ability to calculate its NAV; impediments to trading for a fund's portfolio; the inability of fund shareholders to transact business with the fund; violations of applicable privacy, data security or other laws; regulatory fines and penalties; reputational damage; reimbursement or other compensation or remediation costs; legal fees; or additional compliance costs. Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity incidents affecting issuers of securities in which a fund invests, counterparties with which the fund engages in transactions, governmental and other regulatory authorities, exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, insurance companies and other financial institutions and other parties. While information risk management systems and business continuity plans have been developed which are designed to reduce the risks associated with cybersecurity, there are inherent limitations in any cybersecurity risk management systems or business continuity plans, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified.

Recent Market and Economic Developments

An outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019 and spread globally. The virus, named "SARS-CoV-2" (sometimes referred to as the "coronavirus") and the resulting disease, which is referred to as "COVID-19," was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. A widespread outbreak of an infectious illness, such as COVID-19, may lead to governments and businesses world-wide taking aggressive measures, including closing borders, restricting international and domestic travel, and the imposition of prolonged quarantines of large populations. As occurred in the wake of COVID-19, the spread of such an illness may result in the disruption of and delays in the delivery of healthcare services and processes, the cancellation of organized events and educational institutions, the disruption of production and supply chains, a decline in consumer demand for certain goods and services, and general concern and uncertainty, all of which may contribute to increased volatility in global markets. COVID-19, and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future, could adversely affect the economies of many nations, the global economy, individual companies, sectors or industries, and capital markets in ways that cannot be foreseen at the present time. In addition, the impact of infectious diseases in developing or emerging market countries may be greater due to limited health care resources. Political, economic and social stresses caused by infectious illness also may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social and economic risks in certain countries. The duration of such an illness and its effects cannot be determined at this time, but the effects could be present for an extended period of time.

In March 2023, the shutdown of certain financial institutions raised economic concerns over disruption in the U.S. banking system. There can be no certainty that the actions taken by the U.S. government to strengthen public confidence in the U.S. banking system will be effective in mitigating the effects of financial institution failures on the economy and restoring public confidence in the U.S. banking system.

RATING CATEGORIES

The following is a description of certain ratings assigned by S&P, Moody's, Fitch and Morningstar DBRS.

S&P

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

Issue credit ratings can be either long-term or short-term. Short-term ratings are generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market. Short-term ratings also are used to indicate the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to put features on long-term obligations. Medium-term notes are assigned long-term ratings.

Long-Term Issue Credit Ratings. Issue credit ratings are based, in varying degrees, on S&P's analysis of the following considerations: likelihood of payment capacity and willingness of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on an obligation in accordance with the terms of the obligation; nature of and provisions of the financial obligation and the promise S&P imputes; and protection afforded by, and relative position of, the financial obligation in the event of bankruptcy, reorganization or other arrangement under the laws of bankruptcy and other laws affecting creditors' rights.

Issue ratings are an assessment of default risk, but may incorporate an assessment of relative seniority or ultimate recovery in the event of default. Junior obligations are typically rated lower than senior obligations, to reflect the lower priority in bankruptcy, as noted above. (Such differentiation may apply when an entity has both senior and subordinated obligations, secured and unsecured obligations, or operating company and holding company obligations.)

An obligation rated "AAA" has the highest rating assigned by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

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

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

An obligation rated "BBB" exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

An obligation rated "**D**" is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the "D" rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P believes that such payments will be made within five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or 30 calendar days. The "D" rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. An obligation's rating is lowered to "D" if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer.

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

An "**NR**" indicates that a rating has not been assigned or is no longer assigned.

{TC "Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings" \1 3} **Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings.** A short-term obligation rated "**A-1**" is rated in the highest category by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong.

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

A short-term obligation rated "**A-3**" exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

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

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

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

Municipal Short-Term Note Ratings Definitions. An S&P U.S. municipal note rating reflects S&P's opinion about the liquidity factors and market access risks unique to the notes. Notes due in three years or less will likely receive a note rating. Notes with an original maturity of more than three years will most likely receive a long-term debt rating. In determining which type of rating, if any, to assign, S&P analysis will review the following considerations: amortization schedule the larger the final maturity relative to other maturities, the more likely it will be treated as a note; and source of payment the more dependent the issue is on the market for its refinancing, the more likely it will be treated as a note.

Note rating symbols are as follows:

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

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

SP-3 Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

D There has been a failure to pay the note when due, completion of a distressed exchange offer, or the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions.

Moody's

Ratings assigned on Moody's global long-term and short-term rating scales are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issued by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles and public sector entities.

Long-Term Obligation Ratings and Definitions. Long-term ratings are assigned to issuers or obligations with an original maturity of one year or more and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment.

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

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

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

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

Obligations rated "Ba" are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk. Obligations rated "B" are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.

Obligations rated "Caa" are judged to be speculative, of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.

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

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

Note: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category. Additionally, a "(hyb)" indicator is appended to all ratings of hybrid securities issued by banks, insurers, finance companies and securities firms.

Short-Term Ratings. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment.

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

- P-1** Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-1 have a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations.
- P-2** Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-2 have a strong ability to repay short-term debt obligations.
- P-3** Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-3 have an acceptable ability to repay short-term debt obligations.
- NP** Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

U.S. Municipal Short-Term Debt and Demand Obligation Ratings.

Short-Term Obligation Ratings. The Municipal Investment Grade ("MIG") scale is used to rate U.S. municipal bond anticipation notes of up to three years maturity. MIG ratings are divided into three levels—MIG 1 through MIG 3—while speculative grade short-term obligations are designated "SG."

- MIG 1** This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.
- MIG 2** This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.
- MIG 3** This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.
- SG** This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.

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

- VMIG 1** This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by the superior short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.
- VMIG 2** This designation denotes strong credit quality. Good protection is afforded by the strong short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.
- VMIG 3** This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Adequate protection is afforded by the satisfactory short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.
- SG** This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Demand features rated in this category may be supported by a liquidity provider that does not have an investment grade short-term rating or may lack the structural and/or legal protections necessary to ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

For VRDOs supported with conditional liquidity support, short-term ratings transition down at higher long-term ratings to reflect the risk of termination of liquidity support as a result of a downgrade below investment grade.

VMIG ratings of VRDOs with unconditional liquidity support reflect the short-term debt rating (or counterparty assessment) of the liquidity support provider with VMIG 1 corresponding to P-1, VMIG 2 to P-2, VMIG 3 to P-3 and SG to not prime.

Fitch

Corporate Finance Obligations — Long-Term Rating Scales. Ratings of individual securities or financial obligations of a corporate issuer address relative vulnerability to default on an ordinal scale. In addition, for financial obligations in corporate finance, a measure of recovery given default on that liability also is included in the rating assessment. This notably applies to covered bond ratings, which incorporate both an indication of the probability of default and of the recovery given a default of this debt instrument.

The relationship between issuer scale and obligation scale assumes a generic historical average recovery. As a result, individual obligations of entities, such as corporations, are assigned ratings higher, lower or the same as that entity's issuer rating. Highest credit quality: "AAA" ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

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

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

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

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

Highly speculative: "B" ratings indicate that material credit risk is present. Substantial credit risk: "CCC" ratings indicate that substantial credit risk is present. Very high levels of credit risk: "CC" ratings indicate very high levels of credit risk.

Exceptionally high levels of credit risk: "C" indicates exceptionally high levels of credit risk.

Defaulted obligations typically are not assigned "RD" or "D" ratings (see "Short-Term Ratings Assigned to Obligations in Corporate, Public and Structured Finance" below), but are instead rated in the "CCC" to "C" rating categories, depending on their recovery prospects and other relevant characteristics. This approach better aligns obligations that have comparable overall expected loss but varying vulnerability to default and loss.

Note: The modifiers "+" or "-" may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the "AAA" obligation rating category, or to ratings in the categories below "CCC."

Structured, Project & Public Finance Obligations — Long-Term Rating Scales. Ratings of structured finance obligations on the long-term scale consider the obligations' relative vulnerability to default. These ratings are typically assigned to an individual security or tranche in a transaction and not to an issuer.

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

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

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

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

Speculative: "BB" ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time.

Highly speculative: "B" ratings indicate that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.

Substantial credit risk: "CCC" indicates that default is a real possibility.

Very high levels of credit risk: "CC" indicates that default of some kind appears probable. Exceptionally high levels of credit risk: "C" indicates that default appears imminent or inevitable.

Default: "D" indicates a default. Default generally is defined as one of the following: failure to make payment of principal and/or interest under the contractual terms of the rated obligation; the bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other winding-up or cessation of the business of an issuer/obligor; or the distressed exchange of an obligation, where creditors were offered securities with diminished structural or economic terms compared with the existing obligation to avoid a probable payment default.

Short-Term Ratings Assigned to Issuers and Obligations. A short-term issuer or obligation rating is based in all cases on the short-term vulnerability to default of the rated entity and relates to the capacity to meet financial obligations in accordance with the documentation governing the relevant obligation. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations whose initial maturity is viewed as "short-term" based on market convention. Typically, this means up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign and structured obligations, and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets.

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

Good short-term credit quality: "F2" indicates good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

Fair short-term credit quality: "F3" indicates that the intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.

Speculative short-term credit quality: "B" indicates minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

High short-term default risk: "C" indicates that default is a real possibility.

Restricted default: "RD" indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other financial obligations. Typically applicable to entity ratings only.

Default: "D" indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a specific short-term obligation.

Morningstar DBRS

Long Term Obligations. The Morningstar DBRS long-term rating scale provides an opinion on the risk of default. That is, the risk that an issuer will fail to satisfy its financial obligations in accordance with the terms under which

an obligation has been issued. Ratings are based on quantitative and qualitative considerations relevant to the issuer, and the relative ranking of claims. All ratings categories other than AAA and D also contain subcategories "(high)" and "(low)." The absence of either a "(high)" or "(low)" designation indicates the rating is in the middle of the category.

Long-term debt rated "**AAA**" is considered to be of the highest credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is exceptionally high and unlikely to be adversely affected by future events.

Long-term debt rated "**AA**" is considered to be of superior credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered high. Credit quality differs from AAA only to a small degree. Unlikely to be significantly vulnerable to future events.

Long-term debt rated "**A**" is considered to be of good credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is substantial, but of lesser credit quality than AA. May be vulnerable to future events, but qualifying negative factors are considered manageable.

Long-term debt rated "**BBB**" is considered to be of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.

Long-term debt rated "**BB**" is considered to be of speculative, non-investment-grade credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is uncertain. Vulnerable to future events.

Long-term debt rated "**B**" is considered to be of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet financial obligations.

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

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

Commercial Paper and Short Term Debt. The Morningstar DBRS short-term debt rating scale provides an opinion on the risk that an issuer will not meet its short-term financial obligations in a timely manner. Ratings are based on quantitative and qualitative considerations relevant to the issuer and the relative ranking of claims. The R-1 and R-2 rating categories are further denoted by the subcategories "(high)," "(middle)" and "(low)."

Short-term debt rated "**R-1 (high)**" is considered to be of the highest credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is exceptionally high. Unlikely to be adversely affected by future events.

Short-term debt rated "**R-1 (middle)**" is considered to be of superior credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is very high. Differs from R-1 (high) by a relatively modest degree. Unlikely to be significantly vulnerable to future events.

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

Short-term debt rated "**R-2 (high)**" is considered to be at the upper end of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.

Short-term debt rated "**R-2 (middle)**" is considered to be of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events or may be exposed to other factors that could reduce credit quality.

Short-term debt rated "**R-2 (low)**" is considered to be at the lower end of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events. A number of challenges are present that could affect the issuer's ability to meet such obligations.

Short-term debt rated "**R-3**" is considered to be at the lowest end of adequate credit quality. There is a capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due. May be vulnerable to future events and the certainty of meeting such obligations could be impacted by a variety of developments.

Short-term debt rated "**R-4**" is considered to be of speculative credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is uncertain.

Short-term debt rated "**R-5**" is considered to be of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet short-term financial obligations as they fall due. A security rated "**D**" rating may occur when the issuer has filed under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or winding up statute or there is a failure to satisfy an obligation after the exhaustion of grace periods. Morningstar DBRS may also use SD ("Selective Default") in cases where only some securities are impacted, such as the case of a "distressed exchange."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD

Board Oversight Role in Management

The board's role in management of the funds is oversight. As is the case with virtually all investment companies (as distinguished from operating companies), service providers to the funds, primarily the Adviser and its affiliates, have responsibility for the day-to-day management of the funds, which includes responsibility for risk management (including management of investment risk, valuation risk, issuer and counterparty credit risk, compliance risk and operational risk). As part of their oversight, the board, acting at their scheduled meetings, or the Chairman acting between board meetings, regularly interacts with and receives reports from senior personnel of the Adviser and its affiliates, service providers, including the Adviser's Director of Investment Oversight (or a senior representative of his office), the funds' and the Adviser's CCO and portfolio management personnel. The board's audit committee (which consists of all Independent Board Members) meets during its regularly scheduled and special meetings, and between meetings the audit committee chair is available to the funds' independent registered public accounting firm and the funds' Treasurer. The board also receives periodic presentations from senior personnel of the Adviser and its affiliates regarding risk management generally, as well as periodic presentations regarding specific operational, compliance or investment areas, such as cybersecurity, anti-money laundering, personal trading, valuation, investment research and securities lending (if any). As warranted, the board also receives informational reports from the counsel to the funds regarding regulatory compliance and governance matters. The board has adopted policies and procedures designed to address certain risks to the funds. In addition, the Adviser and other service providers to the funds have adopted a variety of policies, procedures and controls designed to address particular risks to the funds. Different processes, procedures and controls are employed with respect to different types of risks. However, it is not possible to eliminate all of the risks applicable to the funds, and the board's risk management oversight is subject to inherent limitations.

Board Composition and Leadership Structure

The 1940 Act requires that at least 40% of the board members be Independent Board Members and as such are not affiliated with the Adviser. To rely on certain exemptive rules under the 1940 Act, a majority of the Trust's board members must be Independent Board Members, and for certain important matters, such as the approval of investment advisory agreements or transactions with affiliates, the 1940 Act or the rules thereunder require the approval of a majority of the Independent Board Members. Currently, all of the Trust's board members are Independent Board Members. The board has determined that its leadership structure, in which the Chairman of the Board is not affiliated with the Adviser, is appropriate in light of the specific characteristics and circumstances of the funds, including, but not limited to: (i) the services that the Adviser and its affiliates provide to the funds and potential conflicts of interest that could arise from these relationships; (ii) the extent to which the day-to-day

operations of the funds are conducted by fund officers and employees of the Adviser and its affiliates; and (iii) the board's oversight role in management of the funds.

Additional Information About the Board and its Committees

Board members are subject to a maximum term of 15 years, provided that the board shall have the ability to extend the maximum term up to an additional three years pursuant to a policy adopted by the board or the By-laws. The board has a standing audit committee and nominating committee.

The function of the audit committee is (i) to oversee the funds' accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the funds' financial statements and (ii) to assist in the board's oversight of the integrity of the funds' financial statements, the funds' compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and the independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications, independence and performance. The nominating committee is responsible for selecting and nominating persons as members of the board for election or appointment by the board and for election by shareholders. In evaluating potential nominees, including any nominees recommended by shareholders, the committee takes into consideration various factors listed in the nominating committee charter. The nominating committee will consider recommendations for nominees from shareholders submitted to the Secretary of the Trust, 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286, which includes information regarding the recommended nominee as specified in the nominating committee charter.

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Adviser

The Adviser is an investment adviser registered with the SEC as such pursuant to the Advisers Act. The Adviser is the primary ETF business, and a wholly-owned subsidiary, of BNY, a global financial services company focused on helping clients manage and service their financial assets, operating in 35 countries and serving more than 100 markets. BNY is a leading investment management and investment services company, uniquely focused to help clients manage and move their financial assets in the rapidly changing global marketplace. BNY Investments is one of the world's leading investment management organizations, and one of the top U.S. wealth managers, encompassing BNY's affiliated investment management firms, wealth management services and global distribution companies. Additional information is available at www.bny.com/investments.

Pursuant to a management agreement between the Adviser and the Trust, applicable to each fund, the Adviser generally maintains office facilities on behalf of the funds, and furnishes statistical and research data, clerical help, data processing, bookkeeping and internal auditing and certain other required services to the funds.

For the services provided to the funds under the management agreement, each fund pays the Adviser monthly fees, if any, based on a percentage of the fund's average daily net assets as set forth in the fund's prospectus.

The funds' management agreement provides that the Adviser will pay substantially all expenses of the funds, except for the management fees, payments under the fund's 12b-1 plan (if any), interest expenses, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses, brokerage commissions, costs of holding shareholder meetings, fees and expenses associated with the applicable fund's securities lending program (if any), and litigation and potential litigation and other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the fund's business.

The Adviser may from time to time voluntarily waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses in order to limit total annual fund operating expenses. Any such voluntary waiver or reimbursement may be eliminated by the Adviser at any time. The Adviser may pay the Distributor or financial intermediaries for shareholder or other services from the Adviser's own assets, including past profits but not including the management fee paid by the funds. The Distributor may use part or all of such payments to pay Service Agents. The Adviser also may make such advertising and promotional expenditures, using its own resources, as it from time to time deems appropriate, and may make revenue transfers to affiliates. Service Agents and their representatives generally will be able to accept payments or other compensation only to the extent consistent with applicable law and the Service Agent's own policies, procedures and practices.

Sub-Adviser

See the prospectus to determine if any of the information about the Sub-Adviser (below and elsewhere in this SAI) applies to your fund.

The Adviser has entered into a Sub-Advisory Agreement with the Sub-Adviser with respect to each fund. The Sub-Adviser provides day-to-day investment management of a fund's portfolio (or a portion thereof allocated by the Adviser), and certain related services. For INA, which is a subsidiary of BNY, see "The Adviser" above for ownership information.

Portfolio Managers and Portfolio Manager Compensation

The Sub-Adviser provides the funds with portfolio managers who are authorized by the board to execute purchases and sales of securities.

Portfolio managers are compensated by the company that employs them, and are not compensated by the funds. Each fund's portfolio managers are listed in Part I of this SAI.

The following provides information as of the date of the most recently completed fiscal year about the compensation policies for portfolio managers.

INA. INA has a flexible and progressive remuneration policy which allows it to attract and retain what it believes to be the best available talent in the industry. INA's approach to remuneration is designed to ensure that top performance is recognized with top quartile industry pay. This includes matching each individual with a suitable peer group that reflects competitors at every level and specialism within the industry. The components of remuneration are base salary and variable pay which is made up of two elements: discretionary annual cash amount and a deferral into the Insight LTIP. Cash and deferred pay play a significant role in total compensation. The overall value of these payments is based on company performance while individual payments are made with the dual aims of ensuring that key individuals are incentivized and rewarded for their contribution and that their total remuneration is competitive. INA also has a competitive benefits package (including eligibility for company pension and private medical plans) broadly aligned with the firm's parent company, BNY.

Discretionary pay is allocated following a detailed annual evaluation and performance appraisal against individual objectives, based on key performance indicators such as mandate performance (including effective management of risk and generation of relative returns where appropriate), contribution to team-based investment decisions, team management and professional development. Account is also taken of non-investment related issues such as business wins, client feedback, product and service development and internal relationship building, as well as experience, tenure and status within the team. For investment teams, including portfolio managers, performance is typically assessed over a multi-year framework including fund performance over one-, three- and five-years performance cycles. This is also supported by the Insight LTIP, which typically vests over three years.

The application of the above policy and principles are reviewed at least twice each year by the Insight Remuneration Committee, where compensation proposals in respect of the relevant performance year are considered and approved.

Certain Conflicts of Interest with Other Accounts

Portfolio managers may manage multiple accounts for a diverse client base, including mutual funds, separate accounts (assets managed on behalf of private clients or institutions such as pension funds, insurance companies and foundations), private funds, bank collective trust funds or common trust accounts and wrap fee programs that invest in securities in which a fund may invest or that may pursue a strategy similar to a fund's component strategies ("Other Accounts").

Potential conflicts of interest may arise because of the management of a fund and Other Accounts by the Adviser, Sub-Adviser, or portfolio managers. For example, conflicts of interest may arise with both the aggregation and allocation of securities transactions and allocation of limited investment opportunities, as the Adviser or Sub-Adviser may be perceived as causing accounts it manages to participate in an offering to increase the Adviser's or Sub-Adviser's overall allocation of securities in that offering, or to increase the Adviser's or Sub-Adviser's ability to participate in future offerings by the same underwriter or issuer. Allocations of bunched trades, particularly trade orders that were only partially filled due to limited availability, and allocation of investment opportunities generally,

could raise a potential conflict of interest, as the Adviser or Sub-Adviser may have an incentive to allocate securities that are expected to increase in value to preferred accounts. IPOs, in particular, are frequently of very limited availability. A potential conflict of interest may be perceived to arise if transactions in one account closely follow related transactions in a different account, such as when a fund purchase increases the value of securities previously purchased by the Other Account or when a sale in one account lowers the sale price received in a sale by a second account. Conflicts of interest may also exist with respect to portfolio managers who also manage performance-based fee accounts, which could give the portfolio managers an incentive to favor such Other Accounts over the corresponding funds such as deciding which securities to allocate to a fund versus the performance-based fee account. Additionally, portfolio managers may be perceived to have a conflict of interest if there are a large number of Other Accounts, in addition to a fund, that they are managing on behalf of the Adviser or Sub-Adviser. The Adviser or Sub-Adviser periodically reviews each portfolio manager's overall responsibilities to ensure that he or she is able to allocate the necessary time and resources to effectively manage the fund. In addition, the Adviser or Sub-Adviser could be viewed as having a conflict of interest to the extent that the Adviser, Sub-Adviser or their affiliates and/or portfolio managers have a materially larger investment in Other Accounts than their investment in a fund.

Other Accounts may have investment objectives, strategies and risks that differ from those of the relevant fund. In addition, the funds, as registered investment companies, are subject to different regulations than certain of the Other Accounts and, consequently, may not be permitted to engage in all the investment techniques or transactions, or to engage in such techniques or transactions to the same degree, as the Other Accounts. For these or other reasons, the portfolio managers may purchase different securities for the fund and the Other Accounts, and the performance of securities purchased for the fund may vary from the performance of securities purchased for Other Accounts. The portfolio managers may place transactions on behalf of Other Accounts that are directly or indirectly contrary to investment decisions made for the fund, which could have the potential to adversely impact the fund, depending on market conditions. In addition, if a fund's investment in an issuer is at a different level of the issuer's capital structure than an investment in the issuer by Other Accounts, in the event of credit deterioration of the issuer, there may be a conflict of interest between the fund's and such Other Accounts' investments in the issuer. If the Adviser or Sub-Adviser sells securities short, it may be seen as harmful to the performance of any funds investing "long" in the same or similar securities whose market values fall as a result of short-selling activities.

BNY and its affiliates, including the Adviser and Sub-Adviser and others involved in the management, sales, investment activities, business operations or distribution of the funds, are engaged in businesses and have interests other than that of managing the funds. These activities and interests include potential multiple advisory, transactional, financial and other interests in securities, instruments and companies that may be directly or indirectly purchased or sold by the funds or the funds' service providers, which may cause conflicts that could disadvantage the funds.

BNY and its affiliates may have deposit, loan and commercial banking or other relationships with the issuers of securities purchased by the funds. BNY has no obligation to provide to the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser or the funds, or effect transactions on behalf of the funds in accordance with, any market or other information, analysis, or research in its possession. Consequently, BNY (including, but not limited to, BNY's central Risk Management Department) may have information that could be material to the management of the funds and may not share that information with relevant personnel of the Adviser or Sub-Adviser. Accordingly, in making investment decisions for a fund, the Adviser and Sub-Adviser do not seek to obtain or use material inside information that BNY may possess with respect to such issuers. However, because the Adviser or Sub-Adviser in the course of investing fund assets in loans (as described above), may have access to material non-public information regarding a Borrower, the ability funds advised by the Adviser or Sub-Adviser to purchase or sell publicly-traded securities of such Borrowers may be restricted.

Code of Ethics. The funds, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, and the Distributor each have adopted a Code of Ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such respective Code of Ethics, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by a fund. The Code of Ethics subjects the personal securities transactions of employees to various restrictions to ensure that such trading does not disadvantage any fund. In that regard, portfolio managers and other investment personnel employed by the Adviser or an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser affiliated with the Adviser must preclear and report their personal securities transactions and holdings, which are reviewed for compliance with the Code of Ethics and also are subject to the oversight of BNY's Investment Ethics Committee.

Portfolio managers and other investment personnel may be permitted to purchase, sell or hold securities which also may be or are held in fund(s) they manage or for which they otherwise provide investment advice.

Distributor

The Distributor, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNY, located at 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286, serves as each fund's distributor on a best efforts basis pursuant to an agreement, which continues for two years after its effective date and thereafter is renewable annually, with the fund. Shares will be continuously offered for sale by series of the Trust through the Distributor only in Creation Units, as described in the prospectus and in Part II of this SAI under "Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units." Shares in less than Creation Units are not distributed by the Distributor. The Distributor will deliver the prospectus to persons purchasing Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders placed with it and confirmations of acceptance furnished by it. The Distributor is a broker-dealer registered under the Exchange Act and a member of FINRA. The Distributor has no role in determining the investment policies of the Trust series or which securities are to be purchased or sold. An affiliate of the Distributor may assist Authorized Participants in assembling shares to purchase Creation Units or upon redemption, for which it may receive commissions or other fees from such Authorized Participants. The Distributor also serves as distributor for other affiliated mutual funds.

Service Agents. The Adviser or the Distributor may provide additional cash payments out of its own resources to Service Agents that provide services. Such payments are separate from any 12b-1 fees and/or shareholder services fees or other expenses paid by a fund, as applicable. Because those payments are not made by you or a fund, the fund's total expense ratio will not be affected by any such payments. These additional payments may be made to Service Agents, including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the Service Agent. Cash compensation also may be paid from the Adviser's or the Distributor's own resources to Service Agents for inclusion of a fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. From time to time, the Adviser or the Distributor also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to Service Agents in the form of: occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorships; support for recognition programs; technology or infrastructure support; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations. In some cases, these payments or compensation may create an incentive for a Service Agent to recommend or sell shares of a fund to you. In addition, except when not consistent with legal requirements, the Distributor may provide additional and differing compensation from its own assets to certain of its employees who promote the sale of select funds to certain Service Agents, who in turn may recommend such funds to their clients; in some cases, these payments may create an incentive for the employees of the Distributor to promote a fund for which the Distributor provides a higher level of compensation. This potential conflict of interest may be addressed by policies, procedures or practices that are adopted by the Service Agent. As there may be many different policies, procedures or practices adopted by different Service Agents to address the manner in which compensation is earned through the sale of investments or the provision of related services, the compensation rates and other payment arrangements that may apply to a Service Agent and its representatives may vary by Service Agent.

Please contact your financial intermediary, as a potential Service Agent, for details about any payments it may receive in connection with the sale of fund shares or the provision of services to a fund. The Distributor also may act as a Service Agent. Any payment as well as other payments from the fund to the Distributor's affiliates, such as the management fee payable to the Adviser, may create an incentive for the Distributor to recommend or sell shares of a fund. The Distributor and its representatives generally will be able to accept the applicable payments in exchange for serving as a Service Agent only to the extent consistent with applicable law and any related policies, procedures or practices adopted by the Distributor.

Transfer Agent, Custodian and Administrator

The Transfer Agent, an affiliate of the Adviser, located at 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286, is each fund's transfer and dividend disbursing agent. Pursuant to a transfer agency agreement with the funds, the Transfer Agent will arrange for the maintenance of a record of fund shares held by The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") and prepare and transmit by means of DTC's book entry system, payments for dividends and distributions

on or with respect to the shares declared by the Trust on behalf of the applicable fund. For these services, the Transfer Agent receives a monthly fee from the Adviser, and is reimbursed for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

The Custodian, an affiliate of the Adviser, located at 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286, serves as custodian for the investments of the funds. The Custodian has no part in determining the investment policies of the funds or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the funds. Pursuant to a custody agreement applicable to each fund, the Custodian holds each fund's securities and keeps all necessary accounts and records. For its custody services, the Custodian receives a monthly fee from the Adviser based on the market value of each fund's assets held in custody and receives certain securities transaction charges.

The Administrator, an affiliate of the Adviser, located at 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286, is each fund's administrator and fund accountant. Pursuant to a fund administration and accounting agreement with the Trust, the Administrator will provide, among other things, data processing services, clerical, accounting and bookkeeping services, internal auditing and legal services, internal executive and administrative services; prepare reports to shareholders, tax returns and reports to and filings with the SEC; calculate the net asset value of fund shares; and generally assist in supervising all aspects of fund operations (except investment management). The Administrator has no part in determining the investment policies of a fund or which securities are to be purchased or sold by a fund. For these services, the Administrator receives a monthly fee from the Adviser, which is based on the level of assets of the funds in the Trust, and is reimbursed for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Annual Anti-Money Laundering Program Review

The funds may engage an accounting firm (which may be the independent registered public accounting firm that audits certain of the funds' financial statements) to perform an annual independent review of the funds' anti-money laundering program.

Funds' Compliance Policies and Procedures

The funds have adopted compliance policies and procedures pursuant to Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act that cover, among other matters, certain compliance matters relevant to the management and operations of the funds.

Combined Prospectuses

A fund's prospectus may be combined with the prospectus of one or more funds that are not governed by the same board as such fund. This practice of combining prospectuses is for the convenience of fund shareholders and prospective fund shareholders, so that they can review features of multiple funds simultaneously. However, a fund's board is only responsible for the disclosure in the fund's prospectus applicable to such fund, regardless of other disclosure that may be contained in a combined prospectus for such fund and one or more other funds.

Escheatment

Under certain circumstances, your financial intermediary account may be deemed "abandoned" or "unclaimed" under a state's abandoned or unclaimed property laws. The financial intermediary then may be required to "escheat" or transfer the assets in your account, including a fund's shares, to the applicable state's unclaimed property administration. Escheatment rules vary from state to state, but generally, your account could be escheated if:

- there has been no account activity or contact initiated by you for the period of time specified by your state (usually three or five years) and/or
- mail to the account address is returned as undeliverable by the United States Postal Service

In addition, no interest will accrue on uncashed dividends, capital gains or redemption checks, and such checks may be escheated. Please contact your financial intermediary for more information.

DETERMINATION OF NAV

See the prospectus and "Investments, Investment Techniques and Risks" in Part II of this SAI to determine which sections of the discussion below apply to your fund.

Valuation of Portfolio Securities

The board has designated the Adviser as each fund's valuation designee to make all fair value determinations with respect to each fund's portfolio investments, subject to the board's oversight.

A fund's equity investments (as applicable), including option contracts, shares of REITs and ETFs (but not including investments in other open-end registered investment companies), generally are valued at the last sale price on the day of valuation on the securities exchange or national securities market on which such securities primarily are traded. Securities listed on NASDAQ markets generally will be valued at the official closing price. If there are no transactions in a security, or no official closing prices for a NASDAQ market-listed security on that day, the security will be valued at the average of the most recent bid and asked prices. Bid price is used when no asked price is available. Open short positions for which there is no sale price on a given day are valued at the lowest asked price. Investments in other open-end investment companies are valued at their reported NAVs each day.

Substantially all of a fund's debt securities and instruments generally will be valued, to the extent possible, by one or more independent pricing services (the "Service"). When, in the judgment of the Service, quoted bid prices for debt securities and instruments are representative of the bid side of the market, these investments are valued at the mean between the quoted bid prices (as obtained by the Service from dealers in such securities) and asked prices (as calculated by the Service based upon its evaluation of the market for such securities). The value of other debt securities and instruments is determined by the Service based on methods which include consideration of: yields or prices of securities of comparable quality, coupon, maturity and type; indications as to values from dealers; and general market conditions. The Services are engaged under the general supervision of the board. Overnight and certain other short-term debt securities and instruments (excluding Treasury bills) will be valued by the amortized cost method, which approximates value, unless a Service provides a valuation for such security or, in the opinion of the valuation designee, the amortized cost method would not represent fair value.

Market quotations of foreign securities in foreign currencies and any fund assets or liabilities initially expressed in terms of foreign currency are translated into U.S. dollars at the spot rate, and foreign currency forward contracts generally are valued using the forward rate obtained from a Service. If a fund has to obtain prices as of the close of trading on various exchanges throughout the world, the calculation of the fund's NAV may not take place contemporaneously with the determination of prices of certain of the fund's portfolio securities. Foreign securities held by a fund may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors will not be able to purchase or sell (redeem) fund shares.

Generally, over-the-counter option contracts and interest rate, credit default, CDX, total return and equity swap agreements, and options thereon, will be valued by the Service. Equity-linked instruments, such as contracts for difference, generally will be valued by the Service or at an evaluated price provided by a counterparty based on the value of the underlying reference asset(s). Futures contracts will be valued at the most recent settlement price. Restricted securities, as well as securities or other assets for which recent market quotations are not readily available or are determined not to reflect fair value accurately, are valued at fair value as determined in good faith based on procedures approved by the board. Fair value of investments may be determined by the valuation designee using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. The factors that may be considered when fair valuing a security include 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. Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other funds to calculate their NAVs.

Calculation of NAV

Except as otherwise described in the prospectus, NAV per share of each fund is determined on each day the Exchange is scheduled to be open for regular business, as of the scheduled close of regular session trading on the Exchange (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time). For purposes of determining NAV, certain options and futures contracts may be valued 15 minutes after the scheduled close of trading on the floor of the Exchange. The NAV per share of a fund is computed by dividing the value of the fund's net assets (i.e., the value of its assets less liabilities) by the total number of shares of such fund outstanding.

Fund expenses and fees, including management fees and fees pursuant to Plans (if applicable, and reduced by the fund's expense limitation, if any), are accrued daily and taken into account for the purpose of determining the NAV of a fund's shares.

Expense Allocations

Except as may be otherwise described in "Certain Expense Arrangements and Other Disclosures" in Part II of this SAI, all expenses incurred in the operation of the series of a fund company are borne by the fund company. Expenses attributable to a particular series of a fund company are charged against the assets of that series; other expenses of the fund company are allocated among the series on the basis determined by the board, including, but not limited to, proportionately in relation to the net assets of each series.

Exchange and Transfer Agent Closings

The holidays (as observed) on which both the Exchange and the Transfer Agent are closed currently are: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, the Exchange is closed on Good Friday.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

For each fund, dividends from net investment income, if any, are generally declared and paid monthly, but may vary from period to period. Distributions of net realized capital gains (i.e. the excess of a fund's net long-term capital gains over its net short-term capital losses), if any, generally are declared and paid once a year. A fund may make distributions on a more frequent basis to comply with the distribution requirements of the Code, but in all events in a manner consistent with the provisions of the 1940 Act. A fund may not make distributions from net realized securities gains unless capital loss carryovers, if any, have been utilized or have expired.

Dividends and other distributions on shares are distributed on a pro rata basis to Beneficial Owners of such shares. Dividend payments are made through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners then of record with proceeds received from a fund.

Broker-dealers or other financial intermediaries, at their own discretion, may offer a dividend reinvestment service under which shares are purchased in the secondary market at current market prices. Investors should consult their broker-dealer or other financial intermediary for further information regarding any dividend reinvestment service offered.

Any dividend or distribution paid shortly after an investor's purchase of fund shares may have the effect of reducing the aggregate NAV of the shares below the cost of the investment. Such a dividend or distribution would be a return of capital in an economic sense, although taxable as stated in the prospectus and this SAI. In addition, the Code provides that if a shareholder holds shares of a fund for six months or less and has (or is deemed to have) received a capital gain distribution with respect to such shares, any loss incurred on the sale of such shares will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the capital gain distribution received or deemed to have been received. The Code further provides that if a shareholder holds shares of a municipal or other tax-exempt fund for six months or less and has received an exempt-interest dividend with respect to such shares, any loss incurred on the sale of such shares generally will be disallowed to the extent of the exempt-interest dividend received.

CERTAIN MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain federal income tax considerations generally affecting each fund and its shareholders that supplements the discussions in the prospectus. No attempt is made to present a comprehensive explanation of the federal, state, local or foreign tax treatment of a fund or its shareholders, and the discussion here and in the prospectus is not intended to be a substitute for careful tax planning. The summary is very general, and does not address investors subject to special rules, such as investors who hold shares through an IRA, 401(k) or other tax-advantaged account.

The following general discussion of certain federal income tax consequences is based on the Code and the regulations issued thereunder as in effect on the date of this SAI. New legislation, as well as administrative changes

or court decisions, may significantly change the conclusions expressed herein, and may have a retroactive effect with respect to the transactions contemplated herein.

The following information should be read in conjunction with the section in the prospectus entitled "Additional Tax Information."

Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisers regarding the application of the provisions of tax law described in this SAI in light of the particular tax situations of the shareholders and regarding specific questions as to federal, state, or local taxes.

Taxation of the Funds. Each fund intends to elect and intends to qualify each year to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. As such, a fund should not be subject to federal income tax on its net investment income and capital gains, if any, to the extent that it timely distributes such income and capital gains to its shareholders. In order to qualify for treatment as a RIC, a fund must distribute annually to its shareholders at least the sum of 90% of its taxable net investment income (including for this purpose, dividends, taxable interest, the excess of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses, less operating expenses), computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction, and 90% of its net tax-exempt interest income, if any (the "Distribution Requirement") and also must meet several additional requirements. Among these requirements are the following: (i) at least 90% of the fund's gross income each taxable year must be derived from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including but not limited to gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies, and net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships (the "Qualifying Income Requirement"); and (ii) at the end of each quarter of the fund's taxable year, its assets must be diversified so that (a) at least 50% of the market value of its total assets must be represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other RICs and other securities, with such other securities limited, in respect to any one issuer, to an amount not greater in value than 5% of the value of the fund's total assets and to not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the value of its total assets is invested, including through corporations in which the fund owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or securities of other RICs) of any one issuer, the securities (other than securities of other RICs) of two or more issuers that it controls and that are engaged in the same, similar, or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships (the "Diversification Requirement").

If a fund fails to satisfy the Qualifying Income Requirement or the Diversification Requirement in any taxable year, the fund may be eligible for relief provisions if the failures are due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect and if a penalty tax is paid with respect to each failure to satisfy the applicable requirements. Additionally, relief is provided for certain de minimis failures of the Diversification Requirement where the fund corrects the failure within a specified period of time. In order to be eligible for the relief provisions with respect to a failure to meet the Diversification Requirement, the fund may be required to dispose of certain assets. If these relief provisions were not available to the fund and it were to fail to qualify for treatment as a RIC for a taxable year, all of its taxable income would be subject to tax at the regular corporate rate (currently 21%) without any deduction for distributions to shareholders, and its distributions (including capital gains distributions) generally would be taxable as ordinary income dividends to its shareholders to the extent of the fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, subject to the dividends received deduction for corporate shareholders and the lower tax rates on qualified dividend income received by non-corporate shareholders. In addition, the fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest, and make substantial distributions before requalifying as a RIC. If the fund determines that it will not qualify for treatment as a RIC, the fund will establish procedures to reflect the anticipated tax liability in the fund's NAV. To requalify for treatment as a RIC in a subsequent taxable year, the fund would be required to satisfy the RIC qualification requirements for that year and to distribute any earnings and profits (as calculated for U.S. federal income tax purposes) from any year in which the fund failed to qualify for tax treatment as a RIC. If the fund failed to qualify as a RIC for a period greater than two taxable years, it would generally be required to pay a fund-level tax on certain net built-in gains recognized with respect to certain of its assets upon a disposition of such assets within five years of qualifying as a RIC in a subsequent year. The Board reserves the right not to maintain the qualification of the fund for treatment as a RIC if it determines such course of action to be beneficial to shareholders.

As discussed more fully below, each fund intends to distribute substantially all of its net investment income and its capital gains for each taxable year.

Although each fund intends to distribute substantially all of its net investment income and its capital gains for any taxable year, if the fund meets the Distribution Requirement but retains some or all of its income or gains, it will be subject to federal income tax to the extent any such income or gains are not distributed. The fund may designate certain amounts retained as undistributed net capital gain in a notice to its shareholders, who (i) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, their proportionate shares of the undistributed amount so designated, (ii) will be entitled to credit their proportionate shares of the income tax paid by the fund on that undistributed amount against their federal income tax liabilities and to claim refunds to the extent such credits exceed their liabilities and (iii) will be entitled to increase their tax basis, for federal income tax purposes, in their shares by an amount equal to the excess of the amount of undistributed net capital gain included in their respective income over their respective income tax credits. If the fund failed to satisfy the Distribution Requirement for any taxable year, it would be taxed as a regular corporation, with consequences generally similar to those described in the second paragraph of this section "Taxation of the Fund."

Each fund will be subject to a 4% excise tax on certain undistributed income if it does not distribute to its shareholders in each calendar year an amount at least equal to 98% of its ordinary income for the calendar year plus 98.2% of its capital gain net income for the twelve months ended October 31 of such year, subject to an increase for any shortfall in the prior year's distribution. For this purpose, any ordinary income or capital gain net income retained by the fund and subject to corporate income tax will be considered to have been distributed. The fund intends to declare and distribute dividends and distributions in the amounts and at the times necessary to avoid the application of this 4% excise tax but can make no assurances that such tax liability will be entirely eliminated. For example, the fund may receive delayed or corrected tax reporting statements from its investments that cause the fund to accrue additional income and gains after the fund has already made its excise tax distributions for the year. In such a situation, the fund may incur an excise tax liability resulting from such delayed receipt of such tax information statements. In addition, the fund may in certain circumstances be required to liquidate fund investments in order to make sufficient distributions to avoid federal excise tax liability at a time when the investment adviser might not otherwise have chosen to do so, and liquidation of investments in such circumstances may affect the ability of the fund to satisfy the requirement for qualification as a RIC.

Each fund may elect to treat part or all of any "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in determining the fund's taxable income, net capital gain, net short-term capital gain, and earnings and profits. The effect of this election is to treat any such "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in characterizing fund distributions for any calendar year. A "qualified late year loss" generally includes net capital loss, net long-term capital loss, or net short-term capital loss incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year (commonly referred to as "post-October losses") and certain other late-year losses.

Capital losses in excess of capital gains ("net capital losses") are not permitted to be deducted against a RIC's net investment income. Instead, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, potentially subject to certain limitations, the fund may carry a net capital loss from any taxable year forward to offset its capital gains in future years. The fund is permitted to carry forward a net capital loss to offset its capital gains, if any, in years following the year of the loss. The fund is permitted to carryforward indefinitely a net capital loss. To the extent subsequent capital gains are offset by such losses, they will not result in U.S. federal income tax liability to the fund and may not be distributed as capital gains to its shareholders. Generally, the fund may not carry forward any losses other than net capital losses. Moreover, the carryover of capital losses may be limited under the general loss limitation rules if the fund experiences an ownership change as defined in the Code.

Taxation of Shareholders – Distributions. Each fund receives income generally in the form of dividends and interest on investments. This income, plus net short-term capital gains, if any, less expenses incurred in the operation of the fund, constitutes the fund's net investment income. Each fund intends to distribute annually to its shareholders substantially all of its investment company taxable income (computed without regard to the deduction for dividends paid), its net tax-exempt income, if any, and any net capital gain (net recognized long-term capital gains in excess of net recognized short-term capital losses, taking into account any capital loss carryforwards). The fund will report to shareholders annually the amounts of dividends paid from ordinary income, the amount of distributions of net capital gain, the portion of dividends which may qualify for the dividends-received deduction, and the portion of dividends which may qualify for treatment as qualified dividend income, if any.

Subject to certain limitations, dividends reported by a fund as qualified dividend income will be taxable to non-corporate shareholders at rates of up to 20%. Dividends may be reported by the fund as qualified dividend income if they are attributable to qualified dividend income received by the fund. Qualified dividend income includes, in general, subject to certain holding period requirements and other requirements, dividend income from certain U.S. and foreign corporations. Subject to certain limitations, eligible foreign corporations include those incorporated in possessions of the United States, those incorporated in certain countries with comprehensive tax treaties with the United States and other foreign corporations if the stock with respect to which the dividends are paid is tradable on an established securities market in the United States. A dividend generally will not be treated as qualified dividend income to the extent that (i) the shareholder has not held the stock on which the dividend was paid for more than 60 days during the 121-day period that begins on the date that is 60 days before the date on which the stock becomes ex-dividend (which is the day on which declared distributions (dividends or capital gains) are deducted from the fund's assets before it calculates the NAV) with respect to such dividend or, in the case of certain preferred stock, for more than 90 days during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date, (ii) the shareholder is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to substantially similar or related property, (iii) the fund has not satisfied similar holding period requirements with respect to the securities it holds that paid the dividends distributed to the shareholder, or (iv) the shareholder elects to treat such dividend as investment income under section 163(d)(4)(B) of the Code. The holding period requirements described in this paragraph apply to shareholders' investments in the fund and to the fund's investments in underlying dividend-paying stocks. Dividends treated as received by the fund from an underlying fund taxable as a RIC or from a REIT may be treated as qualified dividend income generally only to the extent so reported by such underlying fund or REIT. A fund's participation in the lending of securities may affect the amount, timing, and character of distributions to its shareholders. If the fund participates in a securities lending transaction and receives a payment in lieu of dividends (a "substitute payment") with respect to securities on loan in a securities lending transaction, such income generally will not constitute qualified dividend income and thus dividends attributable to such income will not be eligible for taxation at the rates applicable to qualified dividend income for individual shareholders and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporate shareholders. If 95% or more of a fund's gross income (calculated without taking into account net capital gain derived from sales or other dispositions of stock or securities) consists of qualified dividend income, the fund may report all distributions of such income as qualified dividend income. The funds' investment strategies are expected to result in the funds earning interest income rather than dividend income. Therefore, the funds do not expect to distribute dividends eligible for the reduced rates applicable to qualified dividend income for non-corporate shareholders.

Certain dividends received by a fund from U.S. corporations (generally, dividends received by the fund in respect of any share of stock (1) with a tax holding period of at least 46 days during the 91-day period beginning on the date that is 45 days before the date on which the stock becomes ex-dividend as to that dividend and (2) that is held in an unleveraged position) when distributed and appropriately so reported by the fund may be eligible for the 50% dividends received deduction generally available to corporations under the Code. Dividends received by the fund from REITs will not be eligible for that deduction. In order to qualify for the deduction, corporate shareholders must meet the minimum holding period requirement stated above with respect to their shares, taking into account any holding period reductions from certain hedging or other transactions or positions that diminish their risk of loss with respect to their shares, and, if they borrow to acquire or otherwise incur debt attributable to shares, they may be denied a portion of the dividends received deduction with respect to those shares. Any corporate shareholder should consult its tax advisor regarding the possibility that its tax basis in its shares may be reduced, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, by reason of "extraordinary dividends" received with respect to the shares and, to the extent such basis would be reduced below zero, current recognition of income may be required. The funds' investment strategies are expected to result in the funds earning interest income rather than dividend income. Therefore, the funds do not expect to distribute dividends eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporate shareholders.

Distributions from a fund's net short-term capital gains will generally be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. Distributions from a fund's net capital gain will be taxable to shareholders at long-term capital gains rates, regardless of how long shareholders have held their shares. Long-term capital gains are generally taxed to non-corporate shareholders at rates of up to 20%.

A RIC that receives business interest income may pass through its net business interest income for purposes of the tax rules applicable to the interest expense limitations under Section 163(j) of the Code. A RIC's total "Section 163(j) Interest Dividend" for a tax year is limited to the excess of the RIC's business interest income over the sum of

its business interest expense and its other deductions properly allocable to its business interest income. A RIC may, in its discretion, designate all or a portion of ordinary dividends as Section 163(j) Interest Dividends, which would allow the recipient shareholder to treat the designated portion of such dividends as interest income for purposes of determining such shareholder's interest expense deduction limitation under Section 163(j). This can potentially increase the amount of a shareholder's interest expense deductible under Section 163(j). In general, to be eligible to treat a Section 163(j) Interest Dividend as interest income, you must have held your shares in a fund for more than 180 days during the 361-day period beginning on the date that is 180 days before the date on which the share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend. Section 163(j) Interest Dividends, if so designated by a fund, will be reported to your financial intermediary or otherwise in accordance with the requirements specified by the IRS.

Although dividends generally will be treated as distributed when paid, any dividend declared by each fund in October, November or December and payable to shareholders of record in such a month that is paid during the following January will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as received by shareholders on December 31 of the calendar year in which it was declared. A taxable shareholder may wish to avoid investing in a fund shortly before a dividend or other distribution, because the distribution will generally be taxable even though it may economically represent a return of a portion of the shareholder's investment.

If a fund's distributions exceed its current and accumulated earnings and profits (as calculated for U.S. federal income tax purposes), all or a portion of the distributions made in the taxable year may be treated as a return of capital to shareholders. A return of capital distribution generally will not be taxable but will reduce the shareholder's cost basis and result in a higher capital gain or lower capital loss when the shares on which the distribution was received are sold. After a shareholder's basis in the shares has been reduced to zero, distributions in excess of earnings and profits (as calculated for U.S. federal income tax purposes) will be treated as gain from the sale of the shareholder's shares.

Distributions that are reinvested in additional shares of a fund through the means of a dividend reinvestment service, if offered by your broker-dealer, will nevertheless be taxable dividends to the same extent as if such dividends had been received in cash.

A 3.8% tax generally applies to all or a portion of the net investment income of a shareholder who is an individual and not a nonresident alien for federal income tax purposes and who has adjusted gross income (subject to certain adjustments) that exceeds a threshold amount (\$250,000 if married filing jointly or if considered a "surviving spouse" for federal income tax purposes, \$125,000 if married filing separately, and \$200,000 in other cases). This 3.8% tax also applies to all or a portion of the undistributed net investment income of certain shareholders that are estates and trusts. For these purposes, interest, dividends and certain capital gains (generally including capital gain distributions and capital gains realized on the sale of shares) are generally taken into account in computing a shareholder's net investment income.

Each fund's shareholders will be notified annually by financial intermediaries, such as brokers, through which a shareholder holds fund shares as to the federal tax status of all distributions made by the fund. Shareholders who have not held the fund's shares for a full year should be aware that the fund may report and distribute to a shareholder, as ordinary dividends or capital gain dividends, a percentage of income that is not equal to the percentage of the fund's ordinary income or net capital gain, respectively, actually earned during the shareholder's period of investment in the fund. Distributions of ordinary income and capital gains may also be subject to foreign, state and local taxes depending on a shareholder's circumstances.

Taxation of Shareholders – Distributions from the BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF, BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF, and BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF (the "Municipal Funds"). If, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, at least 50% of the value of a Municipal Fund's assets consist of obligations the interest on which is exempt from U.S. federal income tax, such Municipal Fund may qualify to pass through to its shareholders the tax-exempt character of its income from such debt obligations by paying tax-exempt interest dividends. "Tax exempt-interest dividends" are dividends (other than capital gain dividends) paid by a RIC that are properly reported as such in a written statement furnished to shareholders. A RIC will generally be eligible to distribute exempt-interest dividends if at least 50% of its total assets at the close of each quarter of its taxable year consist of tax-exempt obligations. The Municipal Funds intend, under normal circumstances, to pay interest that is

exempt from federal income tax. If a Municipal Fund, however, fails to meet this requirement, the income from all of its investments, including its municipal securities, may be subject to federal income tax.

A portion of the Municipal Funds' expenditures that would otherwise be deductible may not be allowed as deductions by reason of a Municipal Fund's investment in municipal securities (such disallowed portion, in general, being the same percentage of such Municipal Fund's aggregate expenses as the percentage of the Municipal Fund's aggregate gross income that constitutes exempt interest income from municipal securities). A similar disallowance rule also applies to interest expense paid or incurred by a Municipal Fund, if any. Any such disallowed deductions will offset the Municipal Fund's gross exempt-interest income for purposes of calculating the dividends that the Municipal Fund can report as exempt-interest dividends. Interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry the Municipal Fund's shares is not deductible to the extent the interest relates to exempt-interest dividends. Under rules used by the IRS for determining when borrowed funds are considered used for the purpose of purchasing or carrying particular assets, the purchase or ownership of shares may be considered to have been made with borrowed funds even though such funds are not directly used for the purchase or ownership of such shares.

An investment in a Municipal Fund may result in an AMT liability for certain shareholders. In the case of non-corporate taxpayers, certain deductions and exemptions have been designated an "item of tax preference" which must be added back to taxable income for purposes of calculating the AMT for such shareholders. Tax preference items generally include tax-exempt interest on certain "private activity bonds." To the extent a Municipal Fund invests in certain private activity bonds, its non-corporate shareholders subject to the AMT will be required to report that portion of such fund's distributions attributable to income from the bonds as a tax preference item in determining their AMT, if any. In addition, exempt-interest dividends may be subject to the federal corporate alternative minimum tax for certain corporations. Shareholders will be notified of the tax status of distributions made by a fund. Interest paid on a municipal bond issued after December 31, 2017, to advance or refund another municipal bond is subject to federal income tax.

Entities or persons who are "substantial users" (or persons related to "substantial users") of facilities financed by industrial development bonds or private activity bonds should consult their tax advisors before purchasing shares of a Municipal Fund. "Substantial user" is defined generally as including a "non-exempt person" who regularly uses in a trade or business a part of a facility financed from the proceeds of industrial development bonds or private activity bonds. Furthermore, non-corporate shareholders subject to the AMT will not be permitted to deduct any of their share of the Municipal Fund's expenses in computing their AMT. Tax-exempt income, including "exempt-interest dividends" paid by a Municipal Fund, is taken into account in calculating the amount of social security and railroad retirement benefits that may be subject to federal income tax.

The percentage of income that constitutes "exempt-interest dividends" will be determined for each year for a Municipal Fund and will be applied uniformly to all dividends declared with respect to such Municipal Fund during that year. This percentage may differ from the actual percentage for any particular day. The Municipal Funds (or their administrative agent) will inform you of the amount of your distributions at the time they are paid, and will advise you of their tax status for federal income tax purposes shortly after the close of each calendar year. The reported portion generally cannot exceed the excess of the amount of interest excludable from gross income under the Code received by a Municipal Fund during the taxable year over any amounts disallowed with respect to deductions for interest expense incurred to purchase or carry tax-exempt obligations.

Shareholders with questions or concerns about the AMT should consult their own tax advisors.

Although tax-exempt interest dividends are generally exempt from U.S. federal income tax (except for certain shareholders subject to the AMT), there may not be a similar exemption under the laws of a particular state or local taxing jurisdiction. Thus, tax-exempt interest dividends may be subject to state and local taxes. You should consult your own tax advisor to discuss the tax consequences of your investment in a Municipal Fund.

Taxation of Shareholders – Sale of Shares. In general, assuming a shareholder holds fund shares as capital assets, a sale of shares results in capital gain or loss and is taxable at a federal rate dependent upon the length of time the shares were held. A sale of shares held for a period of one year or less at the time of such sale will, for federal income tax purposes, generally result in short-term capital gains or losses, and a sale of those held for more than one year will generally result in long-term capital gains or losses. Long-term capital gains are generally taxed to non-corporate shareholders at rates of up to 20%.

Gain or loss on the sale of shares is measured by the difference between the amount received and the adjusted tax basis of the shares. Shareholders should keep records of investments made (including shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends and distributions) so they can compute the tax basis of their shares.

A loss realized on a sale of shares may be disallowed if substantially identical shares are acquired (whether through the reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the date that the shares are disposed of. In such a case, the basis of the shares acquired must be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. Any loss upon the sale of shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions to the shareholder of long-term capital gain (including any amounts credited to the shareholder as undistributed capital gains).

Cost Basis Reporting. The cost basis of shares acquired by purchase will generally be based on the amount paid for the shares and then may be subsequently adjusted for other applicable transactions as required by the Code. The difference between the selling price and the cost basis of shares generally determines the amount of the gain or loss realized on the sale or exchange of shares. Contact the broker through whom you purchased your shares to obtain information with respect to the available cost basis reporting methods and elections for your account.

Taxation of Fund Investments. Certain of a fund's investments may be subject to complex provisions of the Code (including provisions relating to hedging transactions, straddles, integrated transactions, foreign currency contracts, forward foreign currency contracts, and notional principal contracts) that, among other things, may affect the fund's ability to qualify as a RIC, affect the character of gains and losses realized by the fund (e.g., may affect whether gains or losses are ordinary or capital) and affect whether dividends realized by the fund can qualify as qualified dividend income, accelerate recognition of income to the fund and defer losses. These rules could therefore affect the character, amount and timing of distributions to shareholders. These provisions also may require the fund to annually mark-to-market certain types of positions in its portfolio (i.e., treat them as if they were closed out) which may cause the fund to recognize income without receiving cash with which to make distributions to its shareholders in amounts necessary to satisfy the RIC distribution requirements for avoiding income and excise taxes. Each fund intends to monitor its transactions, make appropriate tax elections, and make appropriate entries in its books and records in order to mitigate the effect of these rules and preserve the fund's qualification for treatment as a RIC.

Each fund is required for federal income tax purposes to mark-to-market and recognize as income for each taxable year its net unrealized gains and losses on certain futures and options contracts subject to section 1256 of the Code ("Section 1256 Contracts") as of the end of the year as well as those actually realized during the year. Gain or loss from Section 1256 Contracts on broad-based indexes required to be marked to market will be 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. Application of this rule may alter the timing and character of distributions to shareholders. A fund may be required to defer the recognition of losses on Section 1256 Contracts to the extent of any unrecognized gains on offsetting positions held by the fund.

Any market discount recognized on a bond is taxable as ordinary income. A market discount bond is a bond acquired in the secondary market at a price below redemption value or adjusted issue price if issued with original issue discount. Absent an election by a fund to include the market discount in income as it accrues, gain on a fund's disposition of such an obligation will be treated as ordinary income rather than capital gain to the extent of the accrued market discount.

The funds may invest in inflation-linked debt securities. Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-linked debt security will be original interest discount, which is taxable as ordinary income and is required to be distributed, even though such fund will not receive the principal, including any increase thereto, until maturity. As noted above, if a fund invests in such securities, it may be required to liquidate other investments, including at times when it is not advantageous to do so, in order to satisfy its distribution requirements and to eliminate any possible taxation at the fund level.

A fund's transactions in foreign currencies and forward foreign currency contracts will generally be subject to special provisions of the Code that, among other things, may affect the character of gains and losses realized by the fund (i.e., may affect whether gains or losses are ordinary or capital), accelerate recognition of income to the fund and defer losses. These rules could therefore affect the character, amount and timing of distributions to shareholders. These provisions also may require the fund to mark-to-market certain types of positions in its portfolio (i.e., treat them as if they were closed out) which may cause the fund to recognize income without receiving cash with which

to make distributions in amounts necessary to satisfy the Distribution Requirement and for avoiding the excise tax described above. Each fund intends to monitor its transactions, intends to make the appropriate tax elections, and intends to make the appropriate entries in its books and records when it acquires any foreign currency or forward foreign currency contract in order to mitigate the effect of these rules so as to prevent disqualification of the fund as a RIC and minimize the imposition of income and excise taxes.

Foreign Taxes. Dividends and interest received by a fund on foreign securities may give rise to withholding and other taxes imposed by foreign countries. Any such taxes would, if imposed, reduce the yield on or return from those investments. Tax conventions between certain countries and the United States may reduce or eliminate such taxes.

If a fund meets certain requirements, which include a requirement that more than 50% of the value of the fund's total assets at the close of its respective taxable year consist of certain foreign securities (generally including foreign government securities), then the fund should be eligible to file an election with the IRS that may enable its shareholders, in effect, to receive either the benefit of a foreign tax credit, or a tax deduction, with respect to certain foreign and U.S. possessions income taxes paid by the fund, subject to certain limitations.

Pursuant to this election, the fund would treat the applicable foreign taxes as dividends paid to its shareholders. Each such shareholder would be required to include a proportionate share of those taxes in gross income as income received from a foreign source and must treat the amount so included as if the shareholder had paid the foreign tax directly. The shareholder may then either deduct the taxes deemed paid by him or her in computing his or her taxable income or, alternatively, use the foregoing information in calculating any foreign tax credit the shareholder may be entitled to use against such shareholder's federal income tax. If the fund makes this election, the fund will report annually the respective amounts per share of the fund's income from sources within, and taxes paid to, foreign countries and U.S. possessions. No deduction for such taxes will be permitted to individuals in computing their alternative minimum tax liability. If the fund does not make this election, the fund will be entitled to claim a deduction for certain foreign taxes incurred by the fund. In certain instances, the fund might not elect to apply otherwise allowable U.S. federal income tax deductions for those foreign taxes, whether or not credits or deductions for those foreign taxes could be passed through to its shareholders pursuant to the election described above. If the fund does not elect to apply these deductions, taxable distributions you receive from the fund may be larger than they would have been if the fund had taken deductions for such taxes. Under certain circumstances, if the fund receives a refund of foreign taxes paid in respect of a prior year, the value of shares could be reduced or any foreign tax credits or deductions passed through to shareholders in respect of the fund's foreign taxes for the current year could be reduced.

A shareholder's ability to claim a foreign tax credit or deduction in respect of foreign taxes paid by a fund may be subject to certain limitations imposed by the Code, which may result in a shareholder not receiving a full credit or deduction (if any) for the amount of such taxes. In particular, shareholders must hold their fund shares (without protection from risk of loss) on the ex-dividend date and for at least 15 additional days during the 30-day period surrounding the ex-dividend date to be eligible to claim a foreign tax credit with respect to a given dividend. Shareholders who do not itemize on their federal income tax returns may claim a credit (but no deduction) for such foreign taxes. Even if the fund were eligible to make such an election for a given year, it may determine not to do so. Shareholders that are not subject to U.S. federal income tax, and those who invest in the fund through tax-advantaged accounts (including those who invest through IRAs or other tax-advantaged retirement plans), generally will receive no benefit from any tax credit or deduction passed through by the fund.

Tax-Exempt Shareholders. Certain tax-exempt shareholders, including qualified pension plans, IRAs, salary deferral arrangements, 401(k) plans, and other tax-exempt entities, generally are exempt from federal income taxation except with respect to their unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI"). Under current law, a fund generally serves to block UBTI from being realized by its tax-exempt shareholders. However, notwithstanding the foregoing, tax-exempt shareholders could realize UBTI by virtue of their investment in a fund where, for example, (i) the fund invests in REITs that hold residual interests in REMICs, (ii) the fund invests in a REIT that is a taxable mortgage pool ("TMP") or has a subsidiary that is a TMP or that invests in the residual interest of a REMIC, or (iii) shares constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholders within the meaning of section 514(b) of the Code. Charitable remainder trusts are subject to special rules and should consult their tax advisors. There are no restrictions preventing a fund from holding investments in REITs that hold residual interests in REMICs, and the fund may do so. The IRS has issued guidance with respect to these issues and prospective

shareholders, especially charitable remainder trusts, are strongly encouraged to consult with their tax advisors regarding these issues.

Certain tax-exempt educational institutions will be subject to a 1.4% tax on net investment income. For these purposes, certain dividends and capital gain distributions, and certain gains from the disposition of shares (among other categories of income), are generally taken into account in computing a shareholder's net investment income.

A fund's shares held in a tax-qualified retirement account will generally not be subject to federal taxation on income and capital gains distributions from the fund until a shareholder begins receiving payments from their retirement account.

Foreign Shareholders. Distributions derived from taxable ordinary income and paid by a fund to shareholders who are nonresident aliens or foreign entities will generally be subject to a 30% United States withholding tax unless a reduced rate of withholding or a withholding exemption is provided under applicable treaty law or unless such income is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business carried on through a permanent establishment in the United States. Any foreign shareholders in the fund may be subject to U.S. withholding and estate tax and such shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors concerning the applicability of such taxes and the proper withholding form(s) to be submitted to the fund. A foreign shareholder who fails to provide an appropriate series of IRS Form W-8 may be subject to backup withholding (discussed below) at the appropriate rate.

Dividends reported by a fund as (i) interest-related dividends, to the extent such dividends are derived from the fund's "qualified net interest income," or (ii) short-term capital gain dividends, to the extent such dividends are derived from the fund's "qualified short-term gain," are generally exempt from this 30% withholding tax. "Qualified net interest income" is the fund's net income derived from U.S.-source interest and original issue discount, subject to certain exceptions and limitations. "Qualified short-term gain" generally means the excess of the fund's net short-term capital gain for the taxable year over its net long-term capital loss, if any. In the case of shares held through an intermediary, the intermediary may withhold even if the fund reports the payment as an interest-related dividend or as a short-term capital gain dividend. Short-term capital gain dividends received by a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for a period of periods aggregating 183 days or more during the taxable year are not exempt from the 30% withholding tax. Gains realized by foreign shareholders from the sale or other disposition of shares of a fund generally are not subject to U.S. taxation, unless the recipient is an individual who is physically present in the U.S. for 183 days or more per year. Foreign shareholders should contact their intermediaries with respect to the application of these rules to their accounts.

Under legislation known as "FATCA" (the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act), a U.S. withholding tax of 30% will apply to payments to certain foreign entities of U.S.-source interest and dividends unless various U.S. information reporting and due diligence requirements that are different from, and in addition to, the beneficial owner certification requirements described above have been satisfied. A non-U.S. shareholder may be exempt from the withholding described in this paragraph under an applicable intergovernmental agreement between the U.S. and a foreign government, provided that the shareholder and the applicable foreign government comply with the terms of the agreement. A fund will not pay additional amounts in respect to any amounts withheld. Non-U.S. shareholders should consult their tax advisers regarding the effect, if any, of this legislation on their ownership and sale or disposition of the fund's common shares.

A beneficial holder of shares of a fund who is a foreign person may be subject to foreign, state and local tax and to the U.S. federal estate tax in addition to the federal income tax consequences referred to above. If a shareholder is eligible for the benefits of a tax treaty, any effectively connected income or gain will generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis only if it is also attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base maintained by the shareholder in the United States.

Backup Withholding. Each fund will be required in certain cases to withhold (as "backup withholding") on amounts payable to any shareholder who (1) has provided the fund either an incorrect tax identification number or no number at all, (2) is subject to backup withholding by the IRS for failure to properly report payments of interest or dividends, (3) has failed to certify to the fund that such shareholder is not subject to backup withholding, or (4) has not certified that such shareholder is a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien). The backup withholding rate is currently 24%. Backup withholding will not be applied to payments that have been subject to the 30% withholding tax on shareholders who are neither citizens nor permanent residents of the U.S. Backup withholding is not an

additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the appropriate information is furnished to the IRS.

Creation Units. An Authorized Participant who exchanges securities for Creation Units generally will recognize a gain or a loss. The gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the market value of the Creation Units at the time and the sum of the Authorized Participant's aggregate basis in the securities surrendered plus the amount of cash paid for such Creation Units. An Authorized Participant who redeems Creation Units will generally recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the Authorized Participant's basis in the Creation Units and the sum of the aggregate market value of any securities received plus the amount of any cash received for such Creation Units. The IRS, however, may assert that a loss realized upon an exchange of securities for Creation Units cannot be deducted currently under the rules governing "wash sales," (for an Authorized Participant that does not mark-to-market its holdings) or on the basis that there has been no significant change in economic position.

Any gain or loss realized upon a creation or redemption of Creation Units will be treated as capital or ordinary gain or loss, depending on the holder's circumstances. Any capital gain or loss realized upon a creation of Creation Units will be treated as capital gain or loss if the Authorized Participant holds the securities exchanged therefor as capital assets, and otherwise will be ordinary income or loss. Similarly, any gain or loss realized upon a redemption of Creation Units will be treated as capital gain or loss if the Authorized Participant holds the shares comprising the Creation Units as capital assets, and otherwise will be ordinary income or loss. Any capital gain or loss realized upon the creation of Creation Units will generally be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the securities exchanged for such Creation Units have been held for more than one year, and otherwise will be short-term capital gain or loss. Any capital gain or loss realized upon the redemption of Creation Units will generally be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares comprising the Creation Units have been held for more than one year, and otherwise, will generally be short-term capital gain or loss. Any capital loss realized upon a redemption of Creation Units held for six months or less will be disallowed to the extent of exempt-interest dividends paid with respect to the Creation Units, and to the extent not disallowed will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions to the applicable Authorized Participant of long-term capital gains with respect to the Creation Units (including any amounts credited to the Authorized Participant as undistributed capital gains).

A fund has the right to reject an order for Creation Units if the purchaser (or a group of purchasers) would, upon obtaining the shares so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding shares of the fund and if, pursuant to section 351 of the Code, the fund would have a basis in any deposit securities different from the market value of such securities on the date of deposit. A fund also has the right to require information necessary to determine beneficial share ownership for purposes of the 80% determination. If the fund does issue Creation Units to a purchaser (or a group of purchasers) that would, upon obtaining the shares so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding shares of the fund, the purchaser (or a group of purchasers) may not recognize gain or loss upon the exchange of securities for Creation Units.

A person subject to U.S. federal income tax with the U.S. dollar as its functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes who receives non-U.S. currency upon a redemption of Creation Units and does not immediately convert the non-U.S. currency into U.S. dollars may, upon a later conversion of the non-U.S. currency into U.S. dollars, or upon the use of the non-U.S. currency to pay expenses or acquire assets, recognize as ordinary gains or losses any gains or losses resulting from fluctuations in the value of the non-U.S. currency relative to the U.S. dollar since the date of the redemption. Authorized Participants purchasing or redeeming Creation Units should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the tax treatment of any creation or redemption transaction.

Authorized Participants purchasing or redeeming Creation Units should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the tax treatment of any creation or redemption transaction and whether the wash sales rule applies and when a loss might be deductible.

Certain Potential Tax Reporting Requirements. Under promulgated Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss on disposition of a fund's shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder (or certain greater amounts over a combination of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on IRS Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a RIC are not excepted. A shareholder who fails to make the required disclosure to the IRS may be subject to adverse tax consequences, including significant penalties. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal

determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

State Tax Matters. Depending upon state and local law, distributions by a fund to its shareholders and the ownership of such shares may be subject to state and local taxes. Rules of state and local taxation of dividend and capital gains distributions from RICs often differ from the rules for federal income taxation described above. It is expected that the fund will not be liable for any corporate excise, income or franchise tax in Massachusetts if the fund qualifies as a RIC for federal income tax purposes.

The foregoing discussion is a summary only and is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning. Purchasers of shares should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of investing in such shares, including under state, local and other tax laws. Finally, the foregoing discussion is based on applicable provisions of the Code, regulations, judicial authority and administrative interpretations in effect on the date hereof. Changes in applicable authority could materially affect the conclusions discussed above, and such changes often occur.

PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

The Adviser assumes general supervision over the placement of securities purchase and sale orders on behalf of each fund. Each fund employs a Sub-Adviser.¹ Each fund uses the research facilities, and is subject to the internal policies and procedures, of the Sub-Adviser and executes portfolio transactions through the trading desk of the Sub-Adviser (collectively the "Trading Desk").

¹ The funds do not use a dual employee arrangement between the Adviser and an Affiliated Entity as referenced in this and certain other sections.

Trading the Funds' Portfolio Securities

Debt securities purchased and sold by a fund generally are traded on a net basis (i.e., without a commission) through dealers acting for their own account and not as brokers, or otherwise involve transactions directly with the issuer of the instrument. This means that a dealer makes a market for securities by offering to buy at one price and sell at a slightly higher price. The difference between the prices is known as a "spread." Other portfolio transactions may be executed through brokers acting as agents, which are typically paid a commission.

The Trading Desk generally has the authority to select brokers (for equity securities) or dealers (for fixed-income securities) and the commission rates or spreads to be paid. Allocation of brokerage transactions is made in the best judgment of the Trading Desk and in a manner deemed fair and reasonable. In choosing brokers or dealers, the Trading Desk evaluates the ability of the broker or dealer to execute the transaction at the best combination of price and quality of execution.

In general, brokers or dealers involved in the execution of portfolio transactions on behalf of a fund are selected on the basis of their professional capability and the value and quality of their services. The Trading Desk seeks to obtain best execution by choosing brokers or dealers to execute transactions based on a variety of factors, which may include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) price; (ii) liquidity; (iii) the nature and character of the relevant market for the security to be purchased or sold; (iv) the quality and efficiency of the broker's or dealer's execution; (v) the broker's or dealer's willingness to commit capital; (vi) the reliability of the broker or dealer in trade settlement and clearance; (vii) the level of counterparty risk (i.e., the broker's or dealer's financial condition); (viii) the commission rate or the spread; (ix) the value of research provided; (x) the availability of electronic trade entry and reporting links; and (xi) the size and type of order (e.g., foreign or domestic security, large block, illiquid investment). In selecting brokers or dealers no factor is necessarily determinative; however, at various times and for various reasons, certain factors will be more important than others in determining which broker or dealer to use. Seeking to obtain best execution for all trades takes precedence over all other considerations.

Investment decisions for one fund or account are made independently from those for other funds or accounts managed by the portfolio managers. Under the Trading Desk's procedures, portfolio managers and their corresponding Trading Desks may, but are not required to, seek to aggregate (or "bunch") orders that are placed or received concurrently for more than one fund or account, and available investments or opportunities for sales will be allocated equitably to each. In some cases, this policy may adversely affect the size of the position obtained or sold

or the price paid or received by a fund. When transactions are aggregated, but it is not possible to receive the same price or execution on the entire volume of securities purchased or sold, the various prices may be averaged, and the fund will be charged or credited with the average price.

The portfolio managers will make investment decisions for the funds as they believe are in the best interests of the funds. Investment decisions made for a fund may differ from, and may conflict with, investment decisions made for other funds and accounts advised by the Adviser, an Affiliated Entity, or a Sub-Adviser. Actions taken with respect to such other funds or accounts may adversely impact a fund, and actions taken by a fund may benefit the Adviser, an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser or other funds or accounts advised by the Adviser, an Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser. Funds and accounts managed by the Adviser, an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser may own significant positions in an issuer of securities which, depending on market conditions, may affect adversely the ability to dispose of some or all of such positions. Regulatory restrictions (including, but not limited to, those related to the aggregation of positions among other funds and accounts or those restricting trading while in possession of material non-public information, such as may be deemed to be received by a fund's portfolio manager by virtue of the portfolio manager's position or other relationship with a fund's portfolio company) and internal BNY policies, guidance or limitations (including, but not limited to, those related to the aggregation of positions among all fiduciary accounts managed or advised by BNY and all its affiliates (including the Adviser and its Affiliated Entities) and the aggregate exposure of such accounts may restrict investment activities of the funds. While the allocation of investment opportunities among a fund and other funds and accounts advised by the Adviser and its Affiliated Entities may raise potential conflicts because of financial, investment or other interests of BNY or its personnel, or, the Sub-Adviser and its affiliates, the portfolio managers will make allocation decisions consistent with the interests of the fund and other funds and accounts and not solely based on such other interests.

Portfolio managers may deem it appropriate for one fund or account they manage to sell a security while another fund or account they manage is purchasing the same security. Under such circumstances, the portfolio managers may arrange to have the purchase and sale transactions effected directly between the funds and/or accounts ("cross transactions"). Cross transactions will be effected in accordance with procedures adopted pursuant to Rule 17a-7 under the 1940 Act.

The Adviser, an Affiliated Entity, or a Sub-Adviser may buy for a fund securities of issuers in which other funds or accounts advised by the Adviser, the Affiliated Entity, or the Sub-Adviser may have, or are making, an investment in the same issuer that are subordinate or senior to the securities purchased for the fund. For example, a fund may invest in debt securities of an issuer at the same time that other funds or accounts are investing, or currently have an investment, in equity securities of the same issuer. To the extent that the issuer experiences financial or operational challenges which may impact the price of its securities and its ability to meet its obligations, decisions by the Adviser, an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser relating to what actions are to be taken may raise conflicts of interests, and the Adviser, the Affiliated Entity or the Sub-Adviser, as applicable, may take actions for certain funds or accounts that have negative impacts on other funds or accounts.

Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year as well as within a year. In periods in which extraordinary market conditions prevail, portfolio managers will not be deterred from changing a fund's investment strategy as rapidly as needed, in which case higher turnover rates can be anticipated which would result in greater brokerage expenses. The overall reasonableness of brokerage commissions paid is evaluated by the Trading Desk based upon its knowledge of available information as to the general level of commissions paid by other institutional investors for comparable services. Higher portfolio turnover rates usually generate additional brokerage commissions and transaction costs, and any short-term gains realized from these transactions are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income.

To the extent that a fund invests in foreign securities, certain of such fund's transactions in those securities may not benefit from the negotiated commission rates available to funds for transactions in securities of domestic issuers. For funds that permit foreign exchange transactions, such transactions are made with banks or institutions in the interbank market at prices reflecting a mark-up or mark-down and/or commission. The Adviser (and, where applicable, an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser) may utilize the services of an affiliate to effect certain client transactions when it determines that the use of such affiliate is consistent with its fiduciary obligations, including its obligation to obtain best execution, and the transactions are in the best interests of its clients. Procedures have been adopted in conformity with Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act to provide that all brokerage commissions paid by the funds to the Adviser (and, where applicable, an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser) are reasonable and fair.

For funds that invest in municipal securities, portfolio securities are purchased from and sold to parties acting as either principal or agent. Newly-issued securities ordinarily are purchased directly from the issuer or from an underwriter; other purchases and sales usually are placed with those dealers from which it appears that the best price or execution will be obtained. Usually no brokerage commissions as such are paid by a fund for such purchases and sales, although the price paid usually includes an undisclosed compensation to the dealer acting as agent. The prices paid to underwriters of newly-issued securities usually include a concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter and purchases of after-market securities from dealers ordinarily are executed at a price between the bid and asked price.

Soft Dollars

The term "soft dollars" is commonly understood to refer to arrangements where an investment adviser uses client (or fund) brokerage commissions to pay for research and brokerage services to be used by the investment adviser. Section 28(e) of the Exchange Act provides a "safe harbor" that permits investment advisers to enter into soft dollar arrangements if the investment adviser determines in good faith that the amount of the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided. Eligible products and services under Section 28(e) include those that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to the investment adviser in the performance of its investment decision-making responsibilities.

As of the date of this SAI, the funds do not engage in any soft dollar arrangements or transactions with respect to their assets.

DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

Policy on Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings

The Trust has adopted a policy regarding the disclosure of information about the funds' portfolio holdings. The board must approve all material amendments to this policy. The funds' portfolio holdings are publicly disseminated each day a fund is open for business through financial reporting and news services including publicly accessible Internet web sites. In addition, a basket composition file, which includes the security names and share quantities to deliver in exchange for shares, together with estimates and actual cash components, is publicly disseminated daily prior to the opening of the Exchange via the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC"). The basket represents one Creation Unit of a fund. The Trust, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser or BNY will not disseminate non-public information concerning the Trust, except information may be made available prior to its public availability: (i) to a party for a legitimate business purpose related to the day-to-day operations of the funds including (a) a service provider, (b) the stock exchanges upon which an ETF is listed, (c) the NSCC, (d) the Depository Trust Company, and (e) financial data/research companies such as Morningstar, Bloomberg L.P., FactSet, Barra LLC and RiskMetrics Group, and Reuters, or (ii) to any other party for a legitimate business or regulatory purpose, upon waiver or exception, with the consent of an applicable Trust officer.

SUMMARY OF THE PROXY VOTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The board has delegated to the Adviser and the Adviser has delegated to each fund's Sub-Adviser, the authority to vote proxies of companies held in the fund's portfolio, except that the board has delegated to Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS") the sole authority to vote proxies of Designated BHCs (defined below) for certain funds as described below. INA's proxy voting policies are attached at the end of this SAI as Appendix A.

Proxy Voting Operations

The funds have engaged ISS as their proxy voting agent to administer the ministerial, non-discretionary elements of proxy voting and reporting.

Policies and Procedures; Oversight

The CCO is responsible for confirming that each Sub-Adviser has adopted and implemented written policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that the funds' proxies are voted in the best interests of the fund. In addition, the adequacy of such policies and procedures are reviewed at least annually, and proxy voting for the funds is monitored to ensure compliance with each Sub-Adviser's procedures, as applicable, such as by sampling

votes cast for the funds, including routine proposals as well as those that require more analysis, to determine whether they complied with the Sub-Adviser's proxy voting procedures.

Review of Proxy Voting

The Adviser reports annually to the board on the funds' proxy voting, including information regarding: (1) proxy voting proposals that were voted; (2) proxy voting proposals that were voted against the management company's recommended vote, but in accordance with the applicable proxy voting guidelines; and (3) proxy voting proposals that were not voted, including the reasons the proxy voting proposals were not voted.

Availability of Fund Proxy Voting Records

Information regarding how a fund's proxies were voted during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30th is available, by the following August 31st, at www.bny.com/investments, on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and without charge, upon request by calling 833-ETF-BNYM (383-2696) (inside the U.S. only).

Voting Shares of Certain Registered Investment Companies

Under certain circumstances, when the fund owns shares of another registered investment company (an "Acquired Fund"), the fund may be required by the 1940 Act or the rules thereunder, to vote such Acquired Fund shares in a certain manner, such as voting the Acquired Fund shares in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of the same type of such Acquired Fund shares.

Voting Proxies of Designated BHCs

BNY is subject to the requirements of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the "BHCA"). Among other things, the BHCA prohibits BNY, funds that BNY "controls" by virtue of share ownership ("Bank Controlled Funds"), and any fund or other investment account over which BNY exercises sole voting discretion (collectively, the "BNY Entities"), in the aggregate, from owning or controlling or holding sole voting discretion with respect to 5% or more of any class of voting stock of certain U.S. bank holding companies, savings and loan holding companies, insured depository institutions and companies that control an insured depository institution (collectively, "BHCs"), without the prior approval of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "BHCA Rules").

For all funds except Bank Controlled Funds, the board has delegated to ISS the sole authority to vote proxies of BHCs for which one or more funds or other investment accounts over which BNY Entities, in the aggregate, exercise sole voting discretion with respect to 5% or more of any class of voting stock of the BHC (collectively, the "Designated BHCs"). Because ISS has sole voting authority over voting securities issued by the Designated BHCs, the holdings of such securities by the funds (other than Bank Controlled Funds) are excluded from the 5% aggregate computation under the BHCA Rules and the funds (other than Bank Controlled Funds) are permitted to purchase and hold securities of BHCs without limits imposed by the BHCA. (Voting securities of BHCs held by funds that are Bank Controlled Funds, however, continue to be aggregated with the holdings of other BNY Entities because of BNY's share ownership in those funds.)

An issuer that is a BHC will be identified as a Designated BHC (and voting authority over its voting securities will be delegated to ISS) when BNY Entities in the aggregate own, control or hold sole voting discretion with respect to approximately 4.9% of any class of voting securities issued by the BHC. If such aggregate level of ownership, control or voting discretion decreases to approximately 3%, the issuer will no longer be considered a Designated BHC and the Sub-Adviser will be redelegated sole voting authority over the BHC's voting securities held by the fund.

ISS votes proxies delegated by the board in accordance with the voting guidelines of ISS, available at <https://www.issgovernance.com/policy-gateway/voting-policies/>.

Material Conflicts of Interest. ISS has policies and procedures in place to manage potential conflicts of interest that may arise as a result of work that ISS's subsidiary performs for a corporate governance client and any voting of proxies relating to such client's securities that ISS performs on behalf of the fund. Such policies and procedures

include separate staffs for the work performed for corporate governance clients and ISS's proxy voting services; a firewall that includes legal, physical and technological separations of the two businesses; and the employment of a blackout period on work performed with a corporate governance client during the pendency of a live voting issue in respect of securities of such client.

BNY Proxy Conflicts Policy

Under certain circumstances, BNY has determined that it may not be appropriate for its subsidiaries and business units with discretionary authority to vote proxies on behalf of clients, including INA (each, a "Voting Firm"), and has established a Proxy Voting Conflicts Policy (the "BNY Policy") that sets forth the required actions and reporting of Voting Firms when actual or potential conflicts of interest involving BNY arise. The BNY Policy identifies several specific types of proxy solicitations that are considered "Primary Conflicts" for all Voting Firms. Primary Conflicts typically arise when proxies are issued by BNY or by a pooled vehicle when relating to services provided by a BNY affiliate and may also arise due to relationships between a proxy issuer and BNY or BNY's Chief Executive Officer or Board of Directors. The BNY Policy directs the manner in which such Primary Conflicts are to be addressed (e.g., application of pre-determined, written guidelines, client consent, or delegation to an independent fiduciary). The BNY Policy also identifies as "Secondary Conflicts" situations that, while not identified as a Primary Conflict, may present an actual, potential or perceived material conflict for Voting Firms because of a relationship between a proxy issuer and BNY or its executive officers or Board of Directors.

When Primary Conflicts or Secondary Conflicts are voted in accordance with a Voting Firm's pre-determined, written voting guidelines, it is BNY's view that these votes do not present the potential for a material conflict of interest and no additional safeguards are needed.

The Voting Firms, including INA, are also subject to the policies and decisions of BNY's Proxy Conflicts Committee (the "PCC"). Among other responsibilities, BNY has empowered the PCC to maintain, interpret and effect the BNY Policy. If a Voting Firm needs interpretive guidance concerning a Primary Conflict or identifies a Secondary Conflict, the PCC shall review the matter, and (in the case of identified conflicts) determine how best to resolve the conflict (e.g., independent fiduciary, abstention, or mirror voting).

Securities on Loan

Each fund may participate in a securities lending program to generate income for its portfolio. Generally, the voting rights pass with the securities on loan and any securities on loan as of record date cannot be voted by a fund. In certain circumstances, the Adviser may seek to recall a security on loan before a record date in order to cast a vote (for example, if the fund's Sub-Adviser determines, based on the information available at the time, that there is a material proxy event that could affect the value of the loaned security and recalling the security for voting purposes would be in the best interest of the fund). However, the Adviser anticipates that, in most cases, the potential income a fund may derive from a loaned security would outweigh the benefit the fund could receive from voting the security. In addition, the ability to timely recall securities on a loan is not entirely within the control of the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser. Under certain circumstances, the recall of securities in time for such securities to be voted may not be possible due to applicable proxy voting record dates occurring before the proxy statements are released or other administrative considerations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDS' STRUCTURE; FUND SHARES AND VOTING RIGHTS; SHAREHOLDER ACTIONS

Massachusetts Business Trusts

If a fund is a series of a fund company organized as an unincorporated business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, shareholders of the fund could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of the fund. However, the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Trust Agreement") disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Trust or a board member. The Trust Agreement provides for indemnification from a fund's property for all losses and expenses of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the fund itself would be unable

to meet its obligations, a possibility which management believes is remote. Upon payment of any liability incurred by a fund, the shareholder paying such liability will be entitled to reimbursement from the general assets of the fund. The Trust intend to conduct their operations in such a way so as to avoid, as far as possible, ultimate liability of the shareholders for liabilities of a fund.

Fund Shares and Voting Rights

Fund shares have equal rights as to dividends and in liquidation. Shares have no preemptive, subscription rights or, except as described in the prospectus or this SAI, conversion rights and are freely transferable. Each fund share has one vote and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of its offering, is fully paid and non-assessable.

Unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act, ordinarily it will not be necessary for a fund to hold annual meetings of shareholders. As a result, shareholders may not consider each year the election of board members or the appointment of an independent registered public accounting firm. However, for a fund that is organized as a Massachusetts business trust or a series of a Massachusetts business trust, the holders of at least 30% of shares outstanding and entitled to vote may require a special meeting of shareholders to be held, including for purposes of removing a board member from office. In addition, the board will call a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing board members if, at any time, less than a majority of the board members then holding office have been elected by shareholders.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that any matter required to be submitted under the provisions of the 1940 Act or applicable state law or otherwise to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company will not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each series, if any, affected by such matter. Rule 18f-2 further provides that a series shall be deemed to be affected by a matter unless it is clear that the interests of each series in the matter are identical or that the matter does not affect any interest of such series. Rule 18f-2 exempts the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm and the election of board members from the separate voting requirements of the rule.

Shareholder Actions

The Trust Agreement establishes a process that permits legitimate inquiries and claims to be made and considered while avoiding the time, expense, distraction, and other harm that can be caused to the Trust and its shareholders as a result of spurious shareholder claims, demands, and derivative actions. Certain aspects of the process are discussed here. With respect to a derivative action, which is where one or more shareholders bring an action in the name of the Trust or a series against parties allegedly causing harm to the Trust or the series, prior to the commencement of a derivative action, a shareholder must make a written demand on the board members requesting that the board members cause the Trust to file the action itself on behalf of the Trust or the affected series. Such written demand must comply with the requirements of Section 9.8(b)(iii) of the Trust Agreement. Within 150 calendar days of the receipt of a shareholder demand submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Trust Agreement, the Independent Board Members will consider the merits of the claim and determine whether maintaining a suit would be in the best interests of the Trust or the affected series, as applicable. If a majority of the Independent Board Members determine that maintaining a suit would not be in the best interests of the Trust or the affected series, as applicable, the demand shall be rejected and the shareholder shall not be permitted to maintain a derivative action unless the shareholder first sustains the burden of proof to the court that the decision of the Independent Board Members not to pursue the requested action was not a good faith exercise of their business judgment on behalf of the Trust (provided, however, that this provision does not apply to claims arising under the federal securities laws). With respect to a direct action, no shareholder may bring a direct action claiming injury as a shareholder of the Trust, or an affected series, where the matters alleged (if true) would give rise to a claim by the Trust or by the Trust on behalf of an affected series, unless the shareholder has suffered an injury distinct from that suffered by the shareholders of the Trust, or the affected series, generally (provided, however, that this provision does not apply to claims arising under the federal securities laws).

Pursuant to the Trust Agreement, any action commenced by a shareholder (i) directly against (A) the Trust or a series, (B) board members or officers related to, arising out of, or concerning the Trust, its business, or operations, or (C) otherwise related to, arising out of, or concerning the Trust, its business or operations or (ii) derivatively in the right or name of, or on behalf of, the Trust, or series (collectively, the "Covered Actions"), shall be brought only in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts (Boston Division) or, if such Covered Action may not be

brought in that court, then such action shall be brought in the Business Litigation Session of Suffolk Superior Court in Massachusetts (the "Chosen Courts") (provided, however, that this provision does not apply to claims arising under the federal securities laws). A Chosen Court may be less convenient and/or less favorable for a shareholder than one or more other courts. In any Covered Action, there shall be no right to a jury trial.

No provision of the Trust Agreement shall restrict any shareholder rights granted by, the Securities Act, the Exchange Act or the 1940 Act, or of any valid rule, regulation, or order of the SEC thereunder.

LOCAL MARKET HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

The Trust generally intends to effect deliveries of portfolio securities on a T+1 basis. The ability of the Trust to effect in-kind redemptions within the standard settlement period following receipt of a redemption request is subject, among other things, to the condition that, within the time period from the date of the request to the date of delivery of the securities, there are no days that are local market holidays on the relevant Business Days. For every occurrence of one or more intervening holidays in the local market that are not holidays observed in the United States, the redemption settlement cycle may be extended by the number of such intervening local holidays. In addition to holidays, other unforeseeable closings in a foreign market due to emergencies may also prevent the Trust from delivering securities within the standard settlement period. The securities delivery cycles currently practicable for transferring portfolio securities to redeeming investors, coupled with local market holiday schedules, may require a delivery process longer than the standard settlement period. In certain circumstances during the calendar year, the settlement period may be greater than seven calendar days.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, Ernst & Young LLP, audits and reports on each fund's annual financial statements. The financial statements include the "Schedule of Investments", "Statement of Assets and Liabilities", "Statement of Operations", "Statements of Changes in Net Assets", "Financial Highlights" and "Notes to Financial Statements". The funds have adopted the financial statements of the corresponding Predecessor Funds. Those financial statements were audited by the Predecessor Funds' registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, and are incorporated by reference herein.

GLOSSARY

The following are definitions of certain terms used in this Statement of Additional Information. Other terms are defined in the Statement Additional Information.

Term	Meaning
12b-1 Plan	A Plan adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act
1940 Act	Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended
ACH	Automated Clearing House
Accumulation Period	The period beginning on a fund's ex-dividend date and ending on the day preceding the next ex-dividend date
Administrator	The Bank of New York Mellon
ADRs	American Depository Receipts and American Depository Shares
Adviser	BNY Mellon ETF Investment Adviser, LLC
Advisers Act	Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended
Adviser-sponsored	An IRA or Retirement Plan sponsored by the Adviser or its affiliates, including the Distributor
Affiliated Broker	A broker that is (1) an affiliate of a fund, or an affiliated person of such person or (2) an affiliated person of which is an affiliated person of a fund, its Adviser or the Distributor
Affiliated Entity	An affiliate of the Adviser that, along with the Adviser, employs fund portfolio managers who are dual employees of the Adviser and such affiliate
AMT	Federal alternative minimum tax
Authorized Participant	A Participating Party or DTC Participant that has executed a Participant Agreement with the Distributor, and has been accepted by the Trust, with respect to purchases and redemptions of Creation Units
Business Day	Generally, any day on which the NYSE is open for business, although fixed income ETFs will also not be open for orders on Veterans Day and Columbus Day
BNY	The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation; BNY Mellon and BNY are the corporate brands of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation. BNY Mellon may also refer to BNY Mellon and its direct and indirect subsidiaries
Cash Component	The deposit of a specified cash payment, which together with the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash is deposited for a Creation Unit
CCO	Chief Compliance Officer
CEA	Commodities Exchange Act
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFTC	Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Code	Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended
CPO	Commodity pool operator
Creation Unit	Aggregations of a specified number of shares offered and issued by a fund

Term	Meaning
Custodian	The Bank of New York Mellon
Deposit Cash	A cash payment equal in value to the Deposit Securities
Deposit Securities	The basket of securities part of an underlying portfolio of a fund accepted for deposit for a Creation Unit
Distributor	BNY Mellon Securities Corporation
Dividend Equivalent Payment	A complete distribution of dividends on the day preceding the next dividend payment date of a fund, and is an amount equal, on a per Creation Unit basis, to the dividends on all the portfolio securities of the fund ("Dividend Securities") with ex-dividend dates within the accumulation period for such distribution (the "Accumulation Period"), net of expenses and liabilities for such period, as if all of the Dividend Securities had been held by the fund for the entire Accumulation Period
Dividend Securities	An amount equal, on a per Creation Unit basis, to the dividends on all the portfolio securities of a fund
Dodd-Frank Act	Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act
DTC	Depository Trust Company
DTC Participants	Participants of DTC who hold their securities there
EDRs	European Depository Receipts
ETFs	Exchange-traded funds and similar exchange-traded products
ETNs	Exchange-traded notes
Exchange	For the BNY Mellon Core Plus ETF and BNY Mellon Active Core Bond ETF: NYSE Arca, Inc. For the BNY Mellon Municipal Intermediate ETF, BNY Mellon Municipal Short Duration ETF, and BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities ETF: The NASDAQ Stock
Exchange Act	Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
FDIC	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Federal Funds	Monies of member banks within the Federal Reserve System which are held on deposit at a Federal Reserve Bank
FINRA	Financial Industry Regulatory Authority
Fitch	Fitch Ratings
FNMA	Federal National Mortgage Association
Fund Deposit	The Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable, and the Cash Component, which represent the minimum initial and subsequent investment amount for a Creation Unit of a fund
GDRs	Global Depository Receipts
Ginnie Mae	GNMA Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates
GNMA	Government National Mortgage Association
In-Kind Redemption	Distribution to a redeeming Authorized Participant of redemption proceeds in whole or in part in securities or other assets of the fund
Independent Board Member	A board member who is not an "interested person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust
Intraday Indicative Value	A measure of the intraday NAV
INA	Insight North America LLC

Term	Meaning
IPO	Initial public offering
IRAs	Individual retirement accounts (including, without limitation, traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs, Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, IRA "Rollover Accounts" or IRAs set up under Simplified Employee Pension Plans ("SEP-IRAs"), Salary Reduction Simplified Employee Pension Plans ("SARSEPs") or Savings Incentive Match Plans for Employees ("SIMPLE IRAs"))
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
ISS	Institutional Shareholder Services Inc.
MLP	Master limited partnership
Moody's	Moody's Investors Service, Inc.
Municipal Bonds	Debt obligations or other securities issued by states, territories and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia and their political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, including cities, counties, municipalities, municipal agencies and regional districts, or multi-state agencies or authorities, and certain other specified securities, the interest from which is, in the opinion of bond counsel to the issuer, exempt from federal personal income tax
NASDAQ	The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc.
NAV	Net asset value
NFA	National Futures Association
NSCC	National Securities Clearing Corporation
NYSE	New York Stock Exchange
Participant Agreement	An agreement entered into with a financial participant so that the participant may engage in Creation Unit transactions
Participating Party	A broker-dealer or other participant in the clearing process through the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC
Plans	Distribution Plans, Service Plans and Shareholder Services Plans
Predecessor Funds	BNY Mellon Corporate Bond Fund, BNY Mellon Intermediate Bond Fund, BNY Mellon National Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund, BNY Mellon National Intermediate Municipal Bond Fund and BNY Mellon Municipal Opportunities Fund, series of BNY Mellon Funds Trust
Rating Agencies	S&P, Moody's, Fitch and Morningstar DBRS
REIT	Real estate investment trust, as defined in the Code
REMIC	Real estate mortgage investment conduit, as defined in the Code
Retirement Plans	Qualified or non-qualified employee benefit plans, such as 401(k), 403(b)(7), Keogh, pension, profit-sharing and other deferred compensation plans, whether established by corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, non-profit entities, trade or labor unions, or state and local governments, but not including IRAs

Term	Meaning
RIC	Regulated investment company, as defined in the Code
S&P	Standard & Poor's Ratings Services
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
Securities Act	Securities Act of 1933, as amended
Securities Lending Agent	The Bank of New York Mellon
Service Agents	Certain financial intermediaries (which may include banks), securities dealers and other industry professionals that have entered into an agreement with the Distributor
Sub-Adviser	A fund's sub-investment adviser, if any, as described in the prospectus; certain funds may have more than one Sub-Adviser in the future
Sub-Advised Funds	Funds that use a Sub-Adviser
TIPS	Treasury Inflation-Protection Securities
Transfer Agent	The Bank of New York Mellon
Treasury	U.S. Department of the Treasury
Trust	BNY Mellon ETF Trust II
USA PATRIOT Act	Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001

APPENDIX A

PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF FIRM DELEGATED FUND PROXY VOTING AUTHORITY

Insight North America LLC

1. Introduction

Insight seeks to actively exercise its rights and responsibilities in regard to proxy voting on behalf of Clients and is an essential part of maximizing shareholder value, ensuring good governance and delivering investment performance aligned with our Clients' long-term economic interests.

The Insight Proxy Voting Policy ("Policy") sets out the arrangements employed by Insight Investment Management (Global) Limited, Insight Investment Management (Europe) Limited, Insight North America LLC and Insight Investment International Limited (collectively "Insight").

2. Policy Statement

Insight is committed to supporting good governance practices and also voting all our proxies where it is deemed appropriate and responsible to do so for the relevant asset class. In such cases, Insight's objective is to vote proxies in the best interests of its Clients.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to financial instruments with voting rights where Insight has discretionary voting authority. Alternatively where a Client retains control over the voting decision, Insight will only lodge votes in instances where the client agreement hands responsibility to Insight to cast the votes on their behalf.

4. Proxy Voting Process

Insight's proxy voting activity adheres to best-practice standards and is a component of Insight's Stewardship and Responsible Investment Policies. In implementing its Proxy Voting Policy, Insight will take into account a number of factors used to provide a framework for voting each proxy. These include:

Leadership: Every company should be led by an effective board whose approach is consistent with creating sustainable long-term growth.

- **Strategy:** Company leadership should define a clear purpose and set long term objectives for delivering value to shareholders.
- **Culture:** The board should promote a diverse and inclusive culture which strongly aligns to the values of the company. It should seek to monitor culture and ensure that it is regularly engaging with its workforce.
- **Engagement with Shareholders:** The board and senior management should be transparent and engaged with existing shareholders. The board should have a clear understanding of the views of shareholders. The board should seek to minimize unnecessary dilution of equity and preserve the rights of existing shareholders.
- **Sustainability:** The board should aim to take account of environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities when setting strategy and in their company monitoring role.

Structure: The board should have clear division of responsibilities.

- **The Chair:** The Independent Chair, or Lead Independent Director, of the board should demonstrate objective judgment and promote transparency and facilitate constructive debate to promote overall effectiveness.

- **The Board:** There should be an appropriate balance of executive and non-executive directors. Non-executive directors should be evaluated for independence. No one individual should have unfettered decision-making powers. There should be a clear division of responsibilities, between the independent board members and the executive leadership of the company.
- **Resources:** The board should ensure it has sufficient governance policies, influence and resources to function effectively. Non-executive directors should have sufficient time to fulfil their obligations to the company as directors.

Effectiveness: The board should seek to build strong institutional knowledge to ensure long term efficient and sustainable operations.

- **Appointment:** There should be a formal appointment process, which ensures that the most qualified individuals are selected for the board. This process should be irrespective of bias to ensure appropriate diversity of the board.
- **Knowledge:** The board should be comprised of those with the knowledge, skills and experience to effectively discharge their duties. The board should have sufficient independence to serve as an effective check on company management and ensure the best outcomes for shareholders.
- **Evaluation:** The board should be evaluated for effectiveness on a regular basis. Board member's contributions should be considered individually.

Independence: The board should present a fair and balanced view of the company's position and prospects.

- **Integrity:** The board should ensure that all reports produced accurately reflect the financial position, prospects and risks relevant to the company. The board should ensure the independence and effectiveness of internal and external audit functions.
- **Audit:** The board should ensure that clear, uncontentious accounts are produced. These should conform to the relevant best accountancy practices and accurately represent the financial position of the company. Deviations from standard accounting practices should be clearly documented with a corresponding rationale.
- **Risk:** The board should ensure the company has sound risk management and internal control systems. There should be a regular assessment and communication of the company's emerging and principal risks.

Remuneration: Levels of remuneration should be sufficient to attract, retain and motivate talent of the quality required to run the company successfully.

- **Goal Based:** The board should base remuneration on goal-based, qualitative, discretionary cash incentives. Remuneration should consider underlying industry and macroeconomic conditions and not be structured in a tax oriented manner.
- **Transparent:** Remuneration arrangements should be transparent and should avoid complexity.
- **Sustainable:** Remuneration should not be excessively share based and should be accurately represented and controlled as an operational cost. The remuneration of executives should promote long term focus and respect the interests of existing shareholders.

The relevant factors are used by Insight to develop Voting Guidelines enabling a consistent approach to proxy voting, which are reviewed annually by the Proxy Voting Group ("PVG") – (see section 6).

Voting activity is most usually performed by the Chair of the PVG, a senior portfolio manager with no day to day investment discretion. This creates an independent governance structure for voting, helping to mitigate actual and potential conflicts of interest (see section 5).

The Chair of the PVG can seek support from portfolio managers, who have active discretion over the securities, to provide additional input into the voting decision such as company background. However the vote will be cast by the Chair of the PVG or their delegate. Insight seeks to vote on all holdings with associated voting rights in one of three ways: in support of, against, or in abstention. If the chair is unable to cast a vote, the decision will be cast by the deputy chair. Insight uses a Voting Agent to assist in the analysis and administration of the vote (see section 4.1). The rationale for voting for, against, or abstaining is retained on a case-by-case basis as appropriate and reviewed by the PVG on a regular basis.

4.1 Voting Agent

To assist Insight professionals with implementing its proxy voting strategy, Insight retains the services of an independent proxy voting service, namely Minerva ("Voting Agent"). The Voting Agent's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, monitoring company meeting agendas and items to be voted on, reviewing each vote against Insight's Voting Guidelines and providing a voting analysis based upon the Voting Guidelines. The Voting Agent also identifies resolutions that require specific shareholder judgement – often relating to corporate transactions or shareholder resolutions. This enables Insight to review situations where the Voting Guidelines require additional consideration or assist in the identification of potential conflicts of interest impacting the proxy vote decision. The Chair of the PVG will review for contentious resolutions, and in the event of one will determine if an actual or potential conflict exists in which case the resolution will be escalated to the PVG voting committee (see section 5.1).

Voting decisions are communicated by Insight to the Voting Agent and submitted to shareholder meetings through a specific proxy.

On a monthly basis the Voting Agent provides reports on voting activity to Insight. Voting data is available to Clients upon request and is posted on its website (see section 7). Insight conducts an annual due diligence to review the Voting Guidelines and the Voting Agent's related services.

5. Conflicts of Interest

Effective stewardship requires protecting our Clients against any potential conflicts of interest and managing them with appropriate governance. To comply with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, Insight believes managing perceived conflicts is as important as managing actual conflicts.

In the course of normal business, Insight and its personnel may encounter situations where it faces a conflict of interest or a conflict of interest could be perceived. A conflict of interest occurs whenever the interests of Insight or its personnel could diverge from those of a Client or when Insight or its personnel could have obligations to more than one party whose interests are different to each other or those of Insight's Clients.

In identifying a potential conflict situation, as a minimum, consideration will be made as to whether Insight, or a member of staff, is likely to:

- make a financial gain or avoid a financial loss at the expense of the Client
- present material differences in the thoughts of two PM's who own the same security
- benefit if it puts the interest of one Client over the interests of another Client
- gain an interest from a service provided to, or transaction carried out on behalf of a Client which may not be in, or which may be different from, the Client's interest
- obtain a higher than usual benefit from a third party in relation to a service provided to the Client
- receive an inducement in relation to a service provided to the Client, in the form of monies, goods or services other than standard commission or fee for that service or have a personal interest that could be seen to conflict with their duties at Insight

- create a conflict where Insight invests in firms which are Clients or potential Clients of Insight. Insight might give preferential treatment in its research (including external communication of the same) and/or investment management to issuers of publicly traded debt or equities which are also clients or closely related to clients (e.g., sponsors of pension schemes). This includes financial and ESG considerations.
- create a conflict between investment teams with fixed income holdings in publicly listed firms or material differences in the thoughts of two PM's who own the same security

5.1 Escalation of Contentious Voting Issue

When a contentious voting issue is identified, the PVG Chairman or delegate will review, evaluate and determine whether an actual material conflict of interest exists, and if so, will escalate the matter to the PVG voting committee. Depending upon the nature of the material conflict of interest, Insight may elect to take one or more of the following measures:

- removing certain Insight personnel from the proxy voting process
- walling off personnel with knowledge of the material conflict to ensure that such personnel do not influence the relevant proxy vote and
- voting in accordance with the applicable Voting Guidelines, if any, if the application of the Voting Guidelines would objectively result in the casting of a proxy vote in a predetermined manner

An unconflicted contentious resolution will be voted by the Chair or their delegate. Where a conflict is deemed to exist the vote, widened to the PVG voting committee, will be determined by majority vote.

The resolution of all contentious voting issues, will be documented in order to demonstrate that Insight acted in the best interests of its Clients. Any voting decision not resolved by the PVG will be escalated to the Insight Chief Investment Officer ("CIO") or their delegate for additional input.

6. Proxy Voting Group

The PVG is responsible for overseeing the implementation of voting decisions where Insight has voting authority on behalf of Clients. The PVG meets at least quarterly, or more frequently as required. In ensuring that votes casted are in the best interest of Clients, the PVG will oversee the following proxy voting activities:

- Casting votes on behalf of Clients
- **Voting Policy:** Oversee and set the Proxy Voting Policy
- **Voting Guidelines:** Oversee and set the Voting Guidelines which are reviewed and approved on an annual basis
- **Stewardship Code & Engagement Policy:** Review for consistency with Proxy Voting Policy and Voting Guidelines
- **Conflicts of Interest:** Manage conflicts when making voting instructions in line with Insight's Conflict of Interest Policy
- **Resolution Assessment:** Review upcoming votes that cannot be made using Voting Guidelines and make voting decisions
- **Voting Agent:** Appoint and monitor third-party proxy agencies, including the services they perform for Insight in implementing its voting strategy and

Reporting: Ensure voting activity aligns with local regulations and standards

The PVG is chaired by a Senior Portfolio Manager (who has no direct day to day investment discretion) and attended by portfolio management personal, the Senior Stewardship Analyst (Deputy Chair), Corporate Risk, Compliance, and Operations personal. The PVG is accountable to and provides quarterly updates to the Investment Management Group ("IMG").

7. Disclosure and Recording Keeping

In certain foreign jurisdictions, the voting of proxies can result in additional restrictions that have an economic impact to the security, such as "share-blocking." If Insight votes on the proxy share- blocking may prevent Insight from selling the shares of the security for a period of time. In determining whether to vote proxies subject to such restrictions Insight, in consultation with the PVG, considers whether the vote, either in itself or together with the votes of other shareholders, is expected to affect the value of the security that outweighs the cost of voting. If Insight votes on a proxy and during the "share-blocking period" Insight would like to sell the affected security Insight, in consultation with the PVG, will attempt to recall the shares (as allowable within the market time-frame and practices).

US Proxy Reporting: Form N-PX

Rule 14Ad-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") requires institutional investment managers (i.e., those managers subject to reporting requirements under Section 13(f) of the Exchange Act), such as Insight North America LLC (INA), to report annually on Form N-PX each "say-on-pay" and "say-on-frequency" vote over which they exercised voting power. Managers must file the form annually by August 31 of each year, covering the previous 12-month period ending on June 30. INA will leverage BNY's Global Holdings Reporting Group to effectuate required filings under Rule 14Ad-1. The PVG will ensure data required to satisfy INA's Rule 14Ad-1 reporting requirements is collected and reviewed for completeness and accuracy, in alignment with the reporting deadlines noted above.

Insight publishes its voting activity in full on its website. This can be found at www.insightinvestment.com/ri.

8. Proxy Voting Policy Review

Insight will review its Proxy Voting arrangements regularly through the PVG. Insight reviews this Policy at least annually or whenever a material change occurs and will notify Clients of any material change that affects our ability to vote in line with the best interests of its Clients.

A material change shall be a significant event that could impact Insight's ability to vote proxies such as a change in voting agent.