

**Destra Flaherty & Crumine Preferred and Income Fund**  
**a series of Destra Investment Trust (the “Trust”)**

Class A	DPIAX
Class C	DPICX
Class I	DPIIX

**October 25, 2024**

**Supplement to the**  
**Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”),**  
**each dated February 1, 2024**

Effective October 21, 2024, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC replaced UMB Fund Services, Inc. as the Fund’s administrator, accountant, and transfer agent. Accordingly, effective October 21, 2024 the disclosure in the Fund’s current Prospectus and SAI are amended as follows:

Any and all references to the phone number 844-9DESTRA(933-7872) in both the Fund’s Prospectus and the Fund’s SAI are deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following phone number: 833-597-5348.

1. The first paragraph of the section entitled “**SECTION 2 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND**” on page 9 of the Prospectus is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

To help you better understand the Fund, this section provides a detailed discussion of the Fund’s investment and risk management strategies. However, this Prospectus does not describe all of the Fund’s investment practices. For additional information on these matters, please see the Statement of Additional Information (the “*SAI*”), which is available by calling 833-597-5348, writing to Destra Funds C/O Ultimus Fund Solutions, 4221 N 203<sup>rd</sup> Street., Suite 200, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022, or visiting <http://www.destracapital.com/strategies/destra-preferred-and-income-securities-fund>.

2. The section entitled “**Fund Service Providers**” on page 33 of the Prospectus is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

The custodian of the assets of the Fund is UMB Bank N.A., 1010 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64106. Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, provides certain accounting, transfer agency, shareholder services and dividend paying agent services to the Fund. Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC. also performs bookkeeping, data processing and administrative services for the maintenance of shareholder accounts.

3. The following section is added to the section entitled “**SECTION 3 SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION**” immediately following the subsection entitled “Valuation of Shares” on page 19 of the Prospectus:

#### **Unclaimed Property Requirements – California and Texas**

An account may be turned over as unclaimed property to the investor’s last known state of tax residence if the account is deemed “inactive” or “lost” during the time frame specified within the applicable state’s unclaimed property laws. Investors who are residents of the state of Texas may designate a representative to receive legislatively required unclaimed property due diligence notifications. A Texas Designation of Representative Form is available for making such an election.

4. The section entitled “**Administrator**” on page 40 of the SAI is deleted in its entirety and replaced with:

#### **Administrator**

The Administrator for the Fund is Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, (“UFS” or the “Administrator”), which has its principal office at 4221 North 203rd Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022, and is primarily in the business of providing administrative, fund accounting and transfer agent services to retail and institutional mutual funds.

Pursuant to a Fund Services Agreement with the Fund, the Administrator provides administrative and fund accounting services to the Fund, subject to the supervision of the Board. The Administrator may provide persons to serve as officers of the Fund. Such officers may be directors, officers or employees of the Administrator or its affiliates.

The Fund Services Agreement became effective on March 13, 2024 and will remain in effect for two years from the effective date, and will continue thereafter in effect from year to year subject to annual approval of the Board. The Fund Services Agreement is terminable by the Board or the Administrator with respect to the Fund on ninety days’ written notice and may be assigned provided the non-assigning party provides prior written consent. This Agreement provides that in the absence of willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Administrator or reckless disregard of its obligations thereunder, the Administrator shall not be liable for any action or failure to act in accordance with its duties thereunder.

Under the Agreement, UFS performs administrative services, including: (1) monitoring the performance of administrative and professional services rendered to the Trust by other service providers; (2) monitoring Fund holdings and operations for post-trade compliance with the Fund’s registration statement and applicable laws and rules; (3) preparing and coordinating the printing of semi-annual and annual financial statements; (4) preparing selected management reports for performance and compliance analyses; (5) preparing and disseminating materials for and attend

and participate in meetings of the Board; (6) determining income and capital gains available for distribution and calculating distributions required to meet regulatory, income, and excise tax requirements; (7) reviewing the Trust's federal, state, and local tax returns as prepared and signed by the Trust's independent public accountants; (8) preparing and maintaining the Trust's operating expense budget to determine proper expense accruals to be charged to the Fund to calculate its daily net asset value; (9) assisting in and monitoring the preparation, filing, printing and where applicable, dissemination to shareholders of amendments to the Trust's Registration Statement on Form N-1A, periodic reports to the Trustees, shareholders and the SEC, notices pursuant to Rule 24f-2, proxy materials and reports to the SEC on Forms N-CEN, N-CSR, N-PORT and N-PX; (10) coordinating the Trust's audits and examinations by assisting the Fund's independent public accountants; (11) determining, in consultation with others, the jurisdictions in which shares of the Trust shall be registered or qualified for sale and facilitate such registration or qualification; (12) monitoring sales of shares and ensuring that the shares are properly and duly registered with the SEC; (13) monitoring the calculation of performance data for the Fund; (14) preparing, or causing to be prepared, expense and financial reports; (15) preparing authorization for the payment of Trust expenses and pay, from Trust assets, all bills of the Trust; (16) providing information typically supplied in the investment company industry to companies that track or report price, performance or other information with respect to investment companies; (17) upon request, assisting the Fund in the evaluation and selection of other service providers, such as independent public accountants, printers, EDGAR providers and proxy solicitors (such parties may be affiliates of UFS); and (18) performing other services, recordkeeping and assistance relating to the affairs of the Trust as the Trust may, from time to time, reasonably request.

UFS also provides the Fund with accounting services, including: (i) daily computation of NAV; (ii) maintenance of security ledgers and books and records as required by the 1940 Act; (iii) production of the Fund's listing of portfolio securities and general ledger reports; (iv) reconciliation of accounting records; (v) calculation of yield and total return for the Fund; (vi) maintenance of certain books and records described in Rule 31a-1 under the 1940 Act, and reconciliation of account information and balances among the Custodian and Adviser; and (vii) monitoring and evaluation of daily income and expense accruals, and sales and redemptions of shares of the Fund.

For the services rendered to the Fund by UFS, the Fund pays UFS the greater of an annual minimum fee or an asset-based fee, which scales downward based upon net assets for fund administration fees. The Fund also pays UFS for any out-of-pocket expenses.

The following table displays the fees paid by the Fund to the previous provider of administration and accounting services for the specified periods:

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021	\$227,758
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022	\$239,103
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023	\$201,484

5. The third paragraph in the “**Other Service Providers**” section on page 54 of the SAI is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

The Fund’s administrator, fund accountant, transfer agent, and dividend paying agent is Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, 4221 N 203<sup>rd</sup> Street., Suite 100, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022.

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

**DESTRA FLAHERTY & CRUMRINE PREFERRED AND INCOME FUND**  
**a series of Destra Investment Trust**

**OCTOBER 1, 2024**

**Supplement to the**  
**Statement of Additional Information dated February 1, 2024 (the “SAI”)**

2. *Effective immediately, the following disclosure is added as the last paragraph under the section entitled “Purchases – Class I Shares” on page 28 of the SAI:*

*Holders through Financial Intermediaries:* Investors who hold Class I shares of the Fund through a fee-based program at a financial intermediary but who subsequently become ineligible to participate in the program, withdraw from the program, or change to a non-fee based program, may be subject to conversion of their Class I shares by their financial intermediary to another class of shares of the Fund having expenses (including Rule 12b-1 fees) that may be higher than the expenses of the Class I shares. Investors should contact their program provider to obtain information about their eligibility for the provider’s program and the class of shares they would receive upon such a conversion. Investors do not pay a sales charge, including a CDSC, upon the conversion of their Class I Shares to Class A Shares. Such conversions are not expected to be a taxable event for federal income tax purposes. Investors are not charged a redemption/exchange fee by the Fund.

**Please retain this Supplement with your SAI for future reference.**

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**Statement of Additional Information**

**February 1, 2024**

**Destra Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred and Income Fund**

A portfolio of Destra Investment Trust

Ticker: Class A-DPIAX, Class C-DPICX, Class I-DPIIX

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus. This SAI is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the Prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus dated February 1, 2024 for the Destra Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred and Income Fund (the “Fund”), a series of the Destra Investment Trust. Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge from the Fund’s website at [destracapital.com/strategies/literature](http://destracapital.com/strategies/literature) or by calling 844-9DESTRA (933-7872). The audited financial statements for the Fund’s most recent fiscal year appear in the Fund’s [Annual Report](#) dated September 30, 2023. The audited financial statements and the financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2023 are incorporated herein by reference and are available without charge from the Fund’s website at [destracapital.com/strategies/literature](http://destracapital.com/strategies/literature) or by calling 844-9DESTRA (933-7872). No other part of the Annual Report is incorporated herein by reference.

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## Fund History

The Fund is a separate investment portfolio of the Destra Investment Trust (the “Trust”), an open-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust on May 25, 2010. The Fund is diversified and represents shares of beneficial interest in a separate portfolio of securities and other assets, with its own investment objective, policies and strategies. The Fund has retained DFC Preferred Advisors LLC (“DFC” or the “Adviser”) to serve as its investment adviser. DFC has retained Flaherty & Crumrine Incorporated (“Flaherty & Crumrine” or the “Sub-Adviser”) to serve as the Fund’s investment sub-adviser, responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund’s portfolio of securities.

On September 9, 2015, the Fund changed its name to Destra Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred and Income Fund from Destra Preferred and Income Securities Fund.

Prior to September 30, 2016, the Fund was a series of Destra Investment Trust II, which is an open-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust on January 27, 2011.

## Investment Restrictions

The investment objective and certain fundamental investment policies of the Fund are described in the Prospectus for the Fund. The fundamental investment policies, together with the investment objective of the Fund and certain other policies specifically identified in the Prospectus, cannot be changed without approval by holders of a “majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting shares.” As defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), this means the vote of (i) 67% or more of the Fund’s shares present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the Fund’s shares are present or represented by proxy, or (ii) more than 50% of the Fund’s shares, whichever is less. Certain matters under the 1940 Act, which must be submitted to a vote of the holders of the outstanding voting securities of a series, shall not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting shares of each series affected by such matter. The Fund, as a fundamental policy, may not, without the approval of the holders of a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting shares:

- (1) Purchase or sell real estate or real estate limited partnership interests, provided, however, that the Fund may invest in securities secured by real estate or interests therein or issued by companies which invest in real estate or interests therein when consistent with the other policies and limitations described in the Prospectus.
- (2) Invest in physical commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments (but this shall not prevent the Fund from purchasing or selling non-U.S. currency, options, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, forward contracts, swaps, caps, floors, collars, securities on a forward-commitment or delayed-delivery basis, and other similar financial instruments).
- (3) Engage in the business of underwriting securities issued by others, except to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of securities, the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under federal securities law.
- (4) Lend any security or make any other loan except (i) as otherwise permitted under the 1940 Act, (ii) pursuant to a rule, order or interpretation issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) or its staff, (iii) through the purchase of a portion of an issue of debt securities in accordance with the Fund’s investment objective, policies and limitations, or (iv) by engaging in repurchase agreements with respect to portfolio securities.
- (5) Issue any senior security except as otherwise permitted (i) under the 1940 Act or (ii) pursuant to a rule, order or interpretation issued by the SEC or its staff.
- (6) Borrow money, except as otherwise permitted under the 1940 Act or pursuant to a rule, order or interpretation issued by the SEC or its staff, including (i) as a temporary measure, (ii) by entering into reverse repurchase agreements, and (iii) by lending portfolio securities as collateral. For purposes of this investment limitation, the purchase or sale of options, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, forward contracts, swaps, caps, floors, collars and other similar financial instruments shall not constitute borrowing.



(7) Invest 25% or more of its total assets in the securities of companies primarily engaged in any one industry, except that the Fund will invest at least 25% of its total assets in companies in the financial services sector, provided that: (i) this limitation does not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities; and (ii) tax-exempt securities issued by municipalities and their agencies and authorities are not deemed to be industries.

The above percentage limits are based upon asset values at the time of the applicable transaction; accordingly, apart from borrowing (as described below), a subsequent change in asset values will not affect a transaction that was in compliance with the investment restrictions at the time such transaction was effected.

For purposes of applying investment restriction (5) above, under the 1940 Act as currently in effect, the Fund is not permitted to issue senior securities, except that the Fund may borrow from any bank if immediately after such borrowing the value of the Fund's total assets is at least 300% of the principal amount of all of the Fund's borrowings (*i.e.*, the principal amount of the borrowings may not exceed 33 1/3% of the Fund's total assets). In the event that such asset coverage shall at any time fall below 300%, the Fund shall, within three days thereafter (not including Sundays and holidays), reduce the amount of its borrowings to an extent that the asset coverage of such borrowings shall be at least 300%. The fundamental investment limitations set forth above limit the Fund's ability to engage in certain investment practices and purchase securities or other instruments to the extent permitted by, or consistent with, applicable law. As such, these limitations will change as the statutes, rules, regulations or orders (or, if applicable, interpretations) change, and no shareholder vote will be required or sought. Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act eliminated the asset segregation framework previously used by funds to comply with Section 18 of the 1940 Act with respect to funds' use of derivatives. Moreover, Rule 18f-4 imposes limits on the amount of derivatives a fund can enter into, treats derivatives as senior securities so that a failure to comply with the limits would result in a statutory violation, and requires funds whose use of derivatives is more than a limited specified exposure to establish and maintain a comprehensive derivatives risk management program and appoint a derivatives risk manager. The Fund is not subject to the full requirements of Rule 18f-4 as a limited derivatives user (as defined in Rule 18f-4), and the Trust intends to rely on this limited derivatives user exception by maintaining a maximum derivatives exposure of 10% of its net assets. Reliance on the limited derivatives user exception does not absolve the Fund of its responsibility to manage risks associated with the use of derivatives. Should the Fund increase its use of derivatives beyond the 10% threshold, the Fund will present an extended derivatives risk management program to the Fund's Board of Trustees (the "*Board*" or "*Board of Trustees*").

For the purpose of investment restriction (7), the Fund will consider all relevant factors in determining who is the issuer of the security, including: the credit quality of the issuer, the amount and quality of the collateral, the terms of the loan agreement and other relevant agreements (including inter-creditor agreements), the degree to which the credit of such interpositioned person was deemed material to the decision to purchase the security, the interest rate environment, and general economic conditions applicable to the issuer and such interpositioned person. Further, the electric, gas, water and telephone utility industries, commercial banks, thrift institutions and finance companies will be treated as separate industries for the purpose of this restriction.

The following non-fundamental investment restrictions apply to the Fund (except where noted otherwise) and may be changed with respect to the Fund by a vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees. The Fund may not:

- (1) Invest more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments (taken at market value), including time deposits and repurchase agreements that mature in more than seven days; or
- (2) Purchase securities on margin or effect short sales, except that the Fund may (a) obtain such short term credits as may be necessary for the clearance of purchases or sales of securities, (b) make margin deposits in connection with transaction in options on securities, futures and options on futures, and (c) make short sales of securities "against the box."

All percentage limitations on investments will apply at the time of the making of an investment and shall not be considered violated unless an excess or deficiency occurs or exists immediately after and as a result of such investment. Except for the investment restrictions listed above as fundamental or to the extent designated as such in the Prospectus with respect to the Fund, the other investment policies described in this SAI or in the Prospectus are not fundamental and may be changed by approval of the Board of Trustees.

The Fund has adopted a non-fundamental investment policy pursuant to Rule 35d-1 under the 1940 Act (the “Name Policy”) whereby the Fund, under normal market conditions, will invest at least 80% of its net assets in preferred and income-producing securities. As a result, the Fund must provide shareholders with a notice meeting the requirement of Rule 35d-1(c) at least 60 days prior to any change of the Name Policy. For purpose of the Name Policy, the Fund considers the term “investments” to include both direct investments and indirect investments (e.g., investments in an underlying fund, derivatives and synthetic instruments with economic characteristics similar to the underlying asset), and the Fund may achieve exposure to a particular investment, industry, country or geographic region through direct investment or indirect investments.

#### **Investment Strategies and Risks**

In addition to the discussion of investment strategies and risks that appears in the Prospectus, the Fund may (except where indicated otherwise) also implement the following strategies:

#### **144A Securities**

The Fund may purchase securities that can be offered and sold only to “qualified institutional buyers” pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). The Board has determined to treat as liquid Rule 144A securities that are either freely tradable in their primary markets offshore or have been determined to be liquid in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted by the Board. The Board has adopted guidelines and delegated to the Sub-Adviser the daily function of determining and monitoring liquidity of 144A securities. The Board, however, will retain sufficient oversight and will ultimately be responsible for the determinations. Since it is not possible to predict with assurance exactly how the market for securities sold and offered under Rule 144A will continue to develop, the Board will carefully monitor the Fund’s investments in these securities. This investment practice could have the effect of increasing the level of illiquidity in the Fund to the extent that qualified institutional buyers become for a time uninterested in purchasing these securities.

#### **Cash Management**

A portion of the Fund’s assets may be invested in certain types of instruments with remaining maturities of 397 days or less for liquidity purposes. Such instruments would consist of: (i) obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies, instrumentalities, authorities or political subdivisions (“U.S. Government Securities”); (ii) other fixed-income securities rated Aa or higher by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. (“Moody’s”) or AA or higher by S&P Global Ratings (“S&P”) or, if unrated, of comparable quality in the opinion of the Sub-Adviser; (iii) commercial paper; (iv) bank obligations, including negotiable certificates of deposit, time deposits and bankers’ acceptances; and (v) repurchase agreements. At the time the Fund invests in commercial paper, bank obligations or repurchase agreements, the issuer or the issuer’s parent must have outstanding debt rated Aa or higher by Moody’s or AA or higher by S&P or outstanding commercial paper, bank obligations or other short-term obligations rated Prime-1 by Moody’s or A-1 by S&P; or, if no such ratings are available, the instrument must be of comparable quality in the opinion of the Sub-Adviser.

## Commercial Paper

Commercial paper purchasable by the Fund includes “Section 4(a)(2) paper,” a term that includes debt obligations issued in reliance on the “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 is frequently sold (and resold) to institutional investors such as the Fund through or with the assistance of investment dealers who make a market in the Section 4(a)(2) paper, thereby providing liquidity. Certain transactions in Section 4(a)(2) paper may qualify for the registration exemption provided in Rule 144A under the Securities Act. The Fund can purchase commercial paper rated (at the time of purchase) “A-1” by S&P or “Prime-1” by Moody’s or when deemed advisable by the Sub-Adviser, “high quality” issues rated “A-2”, “Prime-2” or “F-2” by S&P, Moody’s or Fitch, respectively.

## Convertible Securities

A convertible security is a bond, debenture, note, preferred stock or other security that may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of common stock or other equity security of the same or a different issuer within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. A convertible security entitles the holder to receive interest paid or accrued on debt or the dividend paid on preferred stock until the convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. Before conversion, convertible securities have characteristics similar to nonconvertible income securities in that they ordinarily provide a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than those of common stocks of the same or similar issuers, but lower yields than comparable nonconvertible securities. The value of a convertible security is influenced by changes in interest rates, with investment value declining as interest rates increase and increasing as interest rates decline. The credit standing of the issuer and other factors also may have an effect on the convertible security’s investment value. Convertible securities rank senior to common stock in a corporation’s capital structure but are usually subordinated to comparable nonconvertible securities. Convertible securities may be subject to redemption at the option of the issuer at a price established in the convertible security’s governing instrument.

The characteristics of convertible securities make them potentially attractive investments for an investment company seeking a high total return from capital appreciation and investment income. These characteristics include the potential for capital appreciation as the value of the underlying common stock increases, the relatively high yield received from dividend or interest payments as compared to common stock dividends and decreased risks of decline in value relative to the underlying common stock due to their fixed income nature. As a result of the conversion feature, however, the interest rate or dividend preference on a convertible security is generally less than would be the case if the securities were issued in nonconvertible form.

In analyzing convertible securities, the Sub-Adviser will consider both the yield on the convertible security relative to its credit quality and the potential capital appreciation that is offered by the underlying common stock, among other things.

Convertible securities are issued and traded in a number of securities markets. Even in cases where a substantial portion of the convertible securities held by the Fund are denominated in U.S. dollars, the underlying equity securities may be quoted in the currency of the country where the issuer is domiciled. As a result, fluctuations in the exchange rate between the currency in which the debt security is denominated and the currency in which the share price is quoted will affect the value of the convertible security. With respect to convertible securities denominated in a currency different from that of the underlying equity securities, the conversion price may be based on a fixed exchange rate established at the time the security is issued, which may increase the effects of currency risk. As described below, the Fund is authorized to enter into non-U.S. currency hedging transactions in which it may seek to reduce the effect of exchange rate fluctuations.

Apart from currency considerations, the value of convertible securities is influenced by both the yield on nonconvertible securities of comparable issuers and by the value of the underlying common stock. The value of a convertible security viewed without regard to its conversion feature (*i.e.*, strictly on the basis of its yield) is sometimes referred to as its “investment value.” To the extent interest rates change, the investment value of the convertible security typically will fluctuate. At the same time, however, the value of the convertible security will be influenced by its “conversion value,” which is the market value of the underlying common stock that would be obtained if the convertible security were converted. Conversion value fluctuates directly with the price of the underlying common stock. If the conversion value of a convertible security is substantially below its investment value, the price of the convertible security is governed principally by its investment value. To the extent the conversion value of a convertible security increases to a point that approximates or exceeds its investment value, the price of the convertible security will be influenced principally by its conversion value. A convertible security will sell at a premium over the conversion value to the extent investors place value on the right to acquire the underlying common stock while holding a fixed income security. The yield and conversion premium of convertible securities issued in Japan and the Euromarket are frequently determined at levels that cause the conversion value to affect their market value more than the securities’ investment value.

Holders of convertible securities generally have a claim on the assets of the issuer prior to the claim of the common stockholders but it may be subordinated to other debt securities of the same issuer. A convertible security may be subject to redemption at the option of the issuer at a price established in a charter provision, indenture or other governing instrument pursuant to which the convertible security was issued. If a convertible security held by the Fund is called for redemption, the Fund will be required to redeem the security, convert it into the underlying common stock or sell it to a third party. Certain convertible debt securities may provide a put option to the holder, which entitles the holder to cause the security to be redeemed by the issuer at a premium over the stated principal amount of the debt security under certain circumstances.

*Contingent Capital Securities.* Certain preferred and debt securities may include loss absorption characteristics that make the securities more equity-like. This is particularly true in the financial services sector. While loss absorption language is relatively rare in the preferred and debt markets today, it may become more prevalent. One preferred or debt structure with loss absorption characteristics is the contingent capital security (“CoCo”). These securities provide for mandatory conversion into common stock of the issuer under certain circumstances. The mandatory conversion might be automatically triggered for instance, if a company fails to meet the capital minimum described in the security, the company’s regulator makes a determination that the security should convert, or the company receives specified levels of extraordinary public support. 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 would deepen the subordination of the investor, hence worsening standing in a bankruptcy. In addition, some such instruments have a set stock conversion rate that would cause an automatic write-down of capital if the price of the stock is below the conversion price on the conversion date. In another version of a security with loss absorption characteristics, the liquidation value of the security may be adjusted downward to below the original par value under certain circumstances similar to those which would trigger a CoCo. The write down of the par value would occur automatically and would not entitle the holders to seek bankruptcy of the company.

## **Debt Securities**

Debt securities, such as bonds, involve credit risk. This is the risk that the issuer will not make timely payments of, or will be unable to pay, principal and interest. The degree of credit risk depends on the issuer’s financial condition and on the terms of the debt securities. Changes in an issuer’s credit rating or the market’s perception of an issuer’s creditworthiness may also affect the value of the Fund’s investment in that issuer. Credit risk is reduced to the extent the Fund limits its debt investments to U.S. Government Securities. All debt securities, however, are subject to interest rate risk. This is the risk that the value of the security may fall when interest rates rise. If interest rates move sharply in a manner not anticipated by Fund management, the Fund’s investments in debt securities could be adversely affected and the Fund could lose money. Debt securities with longer maturities, which tend to produce higher yields, are subject to potentially greater capital appreciation and depreciation than securities with shorter maturities. In general, the market price of debt securities with longer maturities will go up or down more in response to changes in interest rates than will the market price of shorter-term debt securities. The Fund is not restricted to any maximum or minimum time to maturity in purchasing individual portfolio securities, and the average maturity of the Fund’s assets will vary.

During periods of rising interest rates, the average life of certain debt securities is extended because of slower than expected principal payments. This may lock in a below-market interest rate and extend the duration of these debt securities, especially mortgage-related securities, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. As a result, in a period of rising interest rates, these securities may exhibit additional volatility and lose value. This is known as extension risk.

*Corporate Debt Securities.* Because of the wide range of types and maturities of corporate debt securities, as well as the range of creditworthiness of their issuers, corporate debt securities have widely varying potentials for return and risk profiles. For example, commercial paper issued by a large established domestic corporation that is rated investment-grade may have a modest return on principal but carry relatively limited risk. On the other hand, a long-term corporate note issued by a small non-U.S. corporation from an emerging market country that has not been rated by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (“NRSROs”) may have the potential for relatively large returns on principal but carry a relatively high degree of risk.

## Depository Receipts (ADRs, EDRs and GDRs)

The Fund may invest in the securities of non-U.S. issuers in the form of depository receipts or other securities convertible into securities of non-U.S. issuers. Depository receipts may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the underlying securities into which they may be converted. The Fund may invest in both sponsored and unsponsored American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”), European Depositary Receipts (“EDRs”), Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”) and other similar global instruments. ADRs typically are issued by an American bank or trust company and evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by a non-U.S. corporation. EDRs, which are sometimes referred to as Continental Depositary Receipts, are receipts issued in Europe, typically by non-U.S. banks and trust companies, that evidence ownership of either foreign or domestic underlying securities. GDRs are depository receipts structured like global debt issues to facilitate trading on an international basis. Unsponsored ADR, EDR and GDR programs are organized independently and without the cooperation of the issuer of the underlying securities. As a result, available information concerning the issuer may not be as current compared to sponsored ADRs, EDRs and GDRs, and the prices of unsponsored ADRs, EDRs and GDRs may be more volatile than if such instruments were sponsored by the issuer. Depository Receipts are generally subject to the same risks as the non-U.S. securities that they evidence or into which they may be converted. Investments in ADRs, EDRs and GDRs present additional investment considerations as described under “Non-U.S. Investments.”

## Derivatives

The Fund may use instruments referred to as derivative securities on a limited basis. Derivatives are financial instruments the value of which is derived from another security, a commodity (such as gold or oil), a currency or an index (a measure of value or rates, such as the S&P 500 Index or the prime lending rate). Derivatives allow the Fund to increase or decrease the level of risk to which the Fund is exposed more quickly and efficiently than transactions in other types of instruments. The Fund may use derivatives for hedging purposes. The Fund may also use derivatives for speculative purposes to seek to enhance returns. The use of a derivative is speculative if the Fund is primarily seeking to achieve gains, rather than offset the risk of other positions. When the Fund invests in a derivative for speculative purposes, the Fund will be fully exposed to the risks of loss of that derivative, which may sometimes be greater than the derivative’s cost. The Fund may not use any derivative to gain exposure to an asset or class of assets that it would be prohibited by its investment restrictions from purchasing directly.

The Fund may use derivative instruments and trading strategies, including the following:

*Hedging.* Hedging is a strategy in which a derivative is used to offset the risks associated with other Fund holdings. Losses on the other investment may be substantially reduced by gains on a derivative that reacts in an opposite manner to market movements. While hedging can reduce losses, it can also reduce or eliminate gains or cause losses if the market moves in a manner different from that anticipated by the Fund or if the cost of the derivative outweighs the benefit of the hedge. Hedging also involves correlation risk, *i.e.*, the risk that changes in the value of the derivative will not match those of the holdings being hedged as expected by the Fund, in which case any losses on the holdings being hedged may not be reduced or may be increased. The inability to close options and futures positions also could have an adverse impact on the Fund’s ability to effectively hedge its portfolio. There is also a risk of loss by the Fund of margin deposits or collateral in the event of bankruptcy of a broker with whom the Fund has an open position in an option, a futures contract or a related option. There can be no assurance that the Fund’s hedging strategies will be effective. The Fund is not required to engage in hedging transactions and the Fund may choose not to do so.

*Indexed and Inverse Securities.* The Fund may invest in securities the potential return of which is based on an index or interest rate. As an illustration, the Fund may invest in a debt security that pays interest based on the current value of an interest rate index, such as the prime rate. The Fund may also invest in a debt security that returns principal at maturity based on the level of a securities index or a basket of securities, or based on the relative changes of two indices. In addition, the Fund may invest in securities the potential return of which is based inversely on the change in an index or interest rate (that is, a security the value of which will move in the opposite direction of changes to an index or interest rate). For example, the Fund may invest in securities that pay a higher rate of interest when a particular index decreases and pay a lower rate of interest (or do not fully return principal) when the value of the index increases. If the Fund invests in such securities, it may be subject to reduced or eliminated interest payments or loss of principal in the event of an adverse movement in the relevant interest rate, index or indices. Indexed and inverse securities involve credit risk, and certain indexed and inverse securities may involve leverage risk, liquidity risk and currency risk. When used for hedging purposes, indexed and inverse securities involve correlation risk. Furthermore, where such a security includes a contingent liability, in the event of an adverse movement in the underlying index or interest rate, the Fund may be required to pay substantial additional margin to maintain the position.

*Swap Agreements.* Swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. In a standard “swap” transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments, which can be adjusted for an interest factor. The gross returns to be exchanged or “swapped” between the parties are generally calculated with respect to a “notional amount,” *i.e.*, the return on or increase in value of a particular dollar amount invested at a particular interest rate or in a “basket” of securities representing a particular index.

Whether the Fund’s use of swap agreements or options on swap agreements (“*swaptions*”) will be successful in furthering its investment objectives will depend on the Sub-Adviser’s ability to predict correctly whether certain types of investments are likely to produce greater returns than other investments. Because they are two-party contracts and because they may have terms of greater than seven days, swap agreements may be considered to be illiquid. Moreover, the Fund bears the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a swap agreement in the event of the default or bankruptcy of a swap agreement counterparty. The Fund will enter into swap agreements only with counterparties that meet certain standards of creditworthiness. If there is a default by the other party to such a transaction, the Fund will have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction. Swap agreements are also subject to the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its obligations to the counterparty. The Fund, however, will deposit in a segregated account, liquid assets permitted to be so segregated by the SEC in an amount equal to or greater than the market value of the liabilities under the swap agreement or the amount it would cost the Fund initially to make an equivalent direct investment, plus or minus any amount the Fund is obligated to pay or is to receive under the swap agreement. The swap market has grown substantially in recent years with a large number of banks and investment banking firms acting both as principals and as agents utilizing standardized swap documentation. As a result, the swap market has become relatively liquid. The swaps market is largely unregulated. It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect the Fund’s ability to terminate existing swap agreements, if any, or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

*Credit Derivatives.* The Fund may enter into credit derivative transactions, either to hedge credit exposure or to gain exposure to an issuer or group of issuers more economically than can be achieved by investing directly in preferred or debt securities. Credit derivatives fall into two broad categories: credit default swaps and market spread swaps, both of which can reference either a single issuer or obligor or a portfolio of preferred and/or debt securities. See “Additional Considerations for Interest Rate Swaps, Swaptions and Credit Derivatives” below.

*Credit Default Swap Agreements and Similar Instruments.* The Fund may enter into credit default swap agreements and similar agreements, and may also buy credit-linked securities. The credit default swap agreement or similar instrument may have as reference obligations one or more securities that are not currently held by the 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. The Fund may be either the buyer or seller in the transaction. If the Fund is a buyer 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, the Fund generally receives an up-front 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.

Credit default swaps and similar instruments involve greater risks than if the Fund had invested in the reference obligation directly, since, in addition to general market risks, they are subject to illiquidity risk, counterparty risk and credit risk. The Fund will enter into credit default swap agreements and similar instruments only with counterparties who are rated investment grade quality by at least one NRSRO at the time of entering into such transaction or whose creditworthiness is believed by the Sub-Adviser to be equivalent to such rating. A buyer also will lose its investment and recover nothing should no credit event occur and the swap is held to its termination date. If a credit event were to occur, the value of any deliverable obligation received by the seller, coupled with the up front or periodic payments previously received, may be less than the full notional value it pays to the buyer, resulting in a loss of value to the Fund. When the Fund acts as a seller of a credit default swap or a similar instrument, it is exposed to many of the same risks of leverage since, if a credit event occurs, the seller may be required to pay the buyer the full notional value of the contract net of any amounts owed by the buyer related to its delivery of deliverable obligations.

*Credit-Linked Securities.* Among the income producing securities in which the Fund may invest are credit-linked securities, which 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, interest rate swaps and other securities, in order to provide exposure to certain fixed income markets. For instance, the Fund may invest in credit-linked securities as a cash management tool in order to gain exposure to a certain market and/or to remain fully invested when more traditional income producing securities are not available.

Like an investment in a bond, investments in these credit-linked securities represent 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 the derivative instruments and other securities in which the issuer invests. For instance, the issuer may sell one or more credit default swaps, under which the issuer would 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. This, in turn, would reduce the amount of income and principal that the Fund would receive. The Fund's investments in these instruments are indirectly subject to the risks associated with derivative instruments, including, among others, credit risk, default or similar event risk, counterparty risk, interest rate risk, leverage risk and management risk. It is also expected that the securities will be exempt from registration under the Securities Act. Accordingly, there may be no established trading market for the securities and they may constitute illiquid investments.

*Market Spread Swap.* In a market spread swap, two counterparties agree to exchange payments at future dates based on the spread between a reference security (or index) and a benchmark security (or index). The buyer (fixed-spread payer) would receive from the seller (fixed-spread receiver) the difference between the market rate and the reference rate at each payment date, if the market rate were above the reference rate. If the market rate were below the reference rate, then the buyer would pay to the seller the difference between the reference rate and the market rate. The Fund may utilize market spread swaps to "lock in" the yield (or price) of a security or index without having to purchase the reference security or index. Market spread swaps may also be used to mitigate the risk associated with a widening of the spread between the yield or price of a security in the Fund's portfolio relative to a benchmark Treasury security. Market spread options, which are analogous to swaptions, give the buyer the right but not the obligation to buy (in the case of a call) or sell (in the case of a put) the referenced market spread at a fixed price from the seller. Similarly, the seller of a market spread option has the obligation to sell (in the case of a call) or buy (in the case of a put) the referenced market spread at a fixed price from the buyer. Credit derivatives are highly specialized investments and are not traded on or regulated by any securities exchange or regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") or the SEC.

*Interest Rate Swaps.* The Fund may enter into interest rate swap agreements. The Fund will enter into such transactions for hedging some or all of its interest rate exposure in its holdings of preferred securities and debt securities. Interest rate swap agreements are highly specialized investments and are not traded on or regulated by any securities exchange.

An interest rate swap is an agreement between two parties where one party agrees to pay a contractually stated fixed income stream, usually denoted as a fixed percentage of an underlying “notional” amount, in exchange for receiving a variable income stream, and denoted as a percentage of the underlying notional amount. From the perspective of a fixed rate payer, if interest rates rise, the payer will expect a rising level of income since the payer is a receiver of floating rate income. This would cause the value of the swap contract to rise in value, from the payer’s perspective, because the discounted present value of its obligatory payment stream is diminished at higher interest rates, all at the same time it is receiving higher income. Alternatively, if interest rates fall, the reverse occurs and it simultaneously faces the prospects of both a diminished floating rate income stream and a higher discounted present value of its fixed rate payment obligation. For purposes of completing the analysis, these value changes all work in reverse from the perspective of a fixed rate receiver.

*Additional Interest Rate Transactions and Swaptions.* The Fund, to the extent permitted under applicable law, may also enter into forms of swap agreements including interest rate caps, under which, in return for a premium, one party agrees to make payments to the other to the extent that interest rates exceed a specified rate, or “cap”; and interest rate floors, under which, in return for a premium, one party agrees to make payments to the other to the extent that interest rates fall below a specified rate, or “floor”. Caps and floors are less liquid than swaps.

The Fund may write (sell) and purchase put and call swaptions. A swaption is a contract that gives a counterparty the right (but not the obligation) 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. The Fund may also enter into swaptions on either an asset-based or liability-based basis, depending on whether the Fund is hedging its assets or its liabilities. The Fund may enter into these transactions primarily to preserve a return or spread on a particular investment or portion of their holdings, as a duration management technique or to protect against an increase in the price of securities the Fund anticipates purchasing at a later date. They may also be used for speculation to increase returns.

In a pay-fixed swaption, the holder of the swaption has the right to enter into an interest rate swap as a payer of fixed rate and receiver of variable rate, while the writer of the swaption has the obligation to enter into the other side of the interest rate swap. In a received-fixed swaption, the holder of the swaption has the right to enter into an interest rate swap as a receiver of fixed rate and a payer of variable rate, while the writer of the swaption has the obligation to enter into the opposite side of the interest rate swap. A pay fixed swaption is analogous to a put option on Treasury securities in that it rises in value as interest rate swap yields rise. A receive fixed swaption is analogous to a call option on Treasury securities in that it rises in value as interest rate swap yields decline. As with other options on securities, indices, or futures contracts, the price of any swaption will reflect both an intrinsic value component, which may be zero, and a time premium component. The intrinsic value component represents what the value of the swaption would be if it were immediately exercisable into the underlying interest rate swap. The intrinsic value component measures the degree to which an option is in-the-money, if at all. The time premium represents the difference between the actual price of the swaption and the intrinsic value.

It is customary market practice for swaptions to be “cash settled” rather than an actual position in an interest rate swap being established at the time of swaption expiration. The Sub-Adviser expects to enter strictly into cash settled swaptions, *i.e.*, where the exercise value of the swaption is determined by reference to the market for interest rate swaps then prevailing.

Depending on the terms of the particular option agreement, the Fund will generally incur a greater degree of risk when it writes a swaption than it will incur when it purchases a swaption. When the Fund purchases a swaption, it risks losing only the amount of the premium it has paid should it decide to let the option expire unexercised. However, when the Fund writes a swaption, upon exercise of the option the Fund will become obligated according to the terms of the underlying agreement.

The Fund will accrue the net amount of the excess, if any, of its obligations over its entitlements with respect to each interest rate or currency swap or swaption on a daily basis and the Sub-Adviser will designate liquid assets on its books and records in an amount having an aggregate net asset value (“NAV”) at least equal to the accrued excess to the extent required by SEC guidelines. If the other party to an interest rate swap defaults, the Fund’s risk of loss consists of the net amount of interest payments that the Fund is contractually entitled to receive.



*Additional Considerations for Interest Rate Swaps, Swaptions and Credit Derivatives.* The pricing and valuation terms of interest rate swaps, swaptions and credit derivatives are not standardized and there is no clearinghouse whereby a party to the agreement can enter into an offsetting position to close out a contract. Interest rate swaps, swaptions, and credit derivatives are usually (1) between an institutional investor and a broker-dealer firm or bank or (2) between institutional investors. In addition, substantially all swaps are entered into subject to the standards set forth by the International Swaps & Derivatives Association (“ISDA”). ISDA represents participants in the privately negotiated derivatives industry. It helps formulate the investment industry’s position on regulatory and legislative issues, develops international contractual standards, and offers arbitration on disputes concerning market practice.

The Sub-Adviser expects that the Fund will be subject to the initial and subsequent mark-to-market collateral requirements that are standard among ISDA participants. These requirements help ensure that the party who is a net obligor at current market value has pledged for safekeeping, to the counterparty or its agent, sufficient collateral to cover any losses should the obligor become incapable, for whatever reason, of fulfilling its commitments under the swap or swaption agreements. This is analogous, in many respects, to the collateral requirements in place on regular futures and options exchanges. The Fund will be responsible for monitoring the market value of all derivative transactions to ensure that they are properly collateralized.

The Fund has instituted procedures for valuing interest rate swap, swaption, or credit derivative positions to which it is party. Interest rate swaps, swaptions, and credit derivatives will be valued by the counterparty to the swap or swaption in question. Such valuation will then be compared with the valuation provided by a broker-dealer or bank that is not a party to the contract. In the event of material discrepancies, the Fund has procedures in place for valuing the swap or swaption, subject to the direction of the Board, which include reference to (1) third-party information services, such as Bloomberg, and (2) comparison with the Sub-Adviser’s valuation models.

The use of interest rate swaps, swaptions and credit derivatives are subject to risks and complexities beyond what might be encountered in standardized, exchange traded options and futures contracts. Such risks include operational risks, valuation risks, credit risks, and/or counterparty risk (*i.e.*, the risk that the counterparty cannot or will not perform its obligations under the agreement). In addition, at the time the interest rate swap, swaption, or credit derivative reaches its scheduled termination date, there is a risk that the Fund will not be able to obtain a replacement transaction or that the terms of the replacement will not be as favorable as on the expiring transaction. If this occurs, it could have a negative impact on the performance of the Fund.

While the Fund may utilize interest rate swaps, swaptions, and credit derivatives for hedging purposes or to enhance total return, their use might result in poorer overall performance for the Fund than if it had not engaged in any such transactions. If, for example, the Fund had insufficient cash, it might have to sell or pledge a portion of its underlying portfolio of securities in order to meet daily mark-to-market collateralization requirements at a time when it might be disadvantageous to do so. There may be an imperfect correlation between the Fund’s portfolio holdings and swaps, swaptions, or credit derivatives entered into by the Fund, which may prevent the Fund from achieving the intended hedge or expose the Fund to risk of loss. Further, the Fund’s use of swaps, swaptions, and credit derivatives to reduce risk involves costs and will be subject to the Adviser’s ability to predict correctly changes in interest rate relationships, volatility, credit quality or other factors. No assurance can be given that the Sub-Adviser’s judgment in this respect will be correct.

*Total Return Swap Agreements.* Total return swap agreements are contracts in which one party agrees to make periodic payments to another party based on the change in market value of the assets underlying the contract, which may include a specified security, basket of securities or securities indices during the specified period, in return for periodic payments based on a fixed or variable interest rate or the total return from other underlying assets. Total return swap agreements may be used to obtain exposure to a security or market without owning or taking physical custody of such security or investing directly in such market. Total return swap agreements may effectively add leverage to the Fund’s portfolio because, in addition to its total net assets, the Fund would be subject to investment exposure on the notional amount of the swap. Total return swap agreements are subject to the risk that a counterparty will default on its payment obligations to the Fund thereunder. Swap agreements also bear the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its obligation to the counterparty.

*Options on Securities and Securities Indices.* The Fund may engage in transactions in options on individual securities, baskets of securities or securities indices, or particular measurements of value or rates (an “*index*”), such as an index of the price of treasury securities or an index representative of short-term interest rates. Such investments may be made on exchanges and in the over-the-counter (“*OTC*”) markets. In general, exchange-traded options have standardized exercise prices and expiration dates and require the parties to post margin against their obligations, and the performance of the parties’ obligations in connection with such options is guaranteed by the exchange or a related clearing corporation. OTC options have more flexible terms negotiated between the buyer and the seller, but generally do not require the parties to post margin and are subject to greater credit risk. OTC options also involve greater liquidity risk. See “Additional Risk Factors of OTC Transactions; Limitations on the Use of OTC Derivatives” below.

*Call Options.* The Fund may purchase call options on any of the types of securities or instruments in which it may invest. A purchased call option gives the Fund the right to buy, and obligates the seller to sell, the underlying security at the exercise price at any time during the option period. The Fund also may purchase and sell call options on indices. Index options are similar to options on securities except that, rather than taking or making delivery of securities underlying the option at a specified price upon exercise, an index option gives the holder the right to receive cash upon exercise of the option if the level of the index upon which the option is based is greater than the exercise price of the option.

The Fund also is authorized to write (*i.e.*, sell) covered call options on the securities or instruments in which it may invest and to enter into closing purchase transactions with respect to certain of such options. A covered call option is an option in which the Fund, in return for a premium, gives another party a right to buy specified securities owned by the Fund at a specified future date and price set at the time of the contract. The principal reason for writing call options is the attempt to realize, through the receipt of premiums, a greater return than would be realized on the securities alone. By writing covered call options, the Fund gives up the opportunity, while the option is in effect, to profit from any price increase in the underlying security above the option exercise price. In addition, the Fund’s ability to sell the underlying security will be limited while the option is in effect unless the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction. A closing purchase transaction cancels out the Fund’s position as the writer of an option by means of an offsetting purchase of an identical option prior to the expiration of the option it has written. Covered call options also serve as a partial hedge to the extent of the premium received against the price of the underlying security declining.

A call option written by the Fund on a security is “covered” if the Fund owns the security underlying the call or has an absolute and immediate right to acquire that security without additional cash consideration upon conversion or exchange of other securities held by the Fund.

Covered call risk is the risk that the Fund, as a writer of a covered call option, does not generate increased income from the asset. There are several additional risks associated with transactions in covered call options on securities used in connection with the Fund’s option strategy. A decision as to whether, when and how to use covered call options involves the exercise of skill and judgment, and even a well-conceived transaction may be unsuccessful to some degree because of market behavior or unexpected events.

*Risks Associated with Options.* There are several risks associated with transactions in options on securities and indices. For example, there are significant differences between the securities and options markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between these markets, causing a given transaction not to achieve its objectives. In addition, a liquid secondary market for particular options, whether traded OTC or on a national securities exchange, may be absent for reasons which include the following: there may be insufficient trading interest in certain options; restrictions may be imposed by a national securities exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both; trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options or underlying securities; unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on a national securities exchange; the facilities of a national securities exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading volume; or one or more national securities exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options), in which event the secondary market on that national securities exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist, although outstanding options that had been issued by the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that national securities exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms. In addition, the hours of trading for options may not conform to the hours during which the underlying securities are traded. To the extent that the options markets close before the markets for the underlying securities, significant price and rate movements can take place in the underlying markets that cannot be reflected in the options markets.

If the Fund is unable to close out a call option on securities that it has written before the option is exercised, the Fund may be required to purchase the optioned securities in order to satisfy its obligation under the option to deliver such securities. If the Fund is unable to effect a closing sale transaction with respect to options on securities that it has purchased, it would have to exercise the option in order to realize any profit and would incur transaction costs upon the purchase and sale of the underlying securities.

The writing and purchasing of options is a highly specialized activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. Imperfect correlation between the options and securities markets may detract from the effectiveness of attempted hedging. Imperfect correlation between the options and securities markets may detract from the effectiveness of attempted hedging. Options transactions may result in significantly higher transaction costs for the Fund.

*Futures.* The Fund may engage in transactions in futures and options on futures. Futures are standardized, exchange-traded contracts that obligate a purchaser to take delivery, and a seller to make delivery, of a specific amount of an asset at a specified future date at a specified price. No price is paid upon entering into a futures contract. Rather, upon purchasing or selling a futures contract, the Fund is required to deposit collateral ("*margin*") equal to a percentage (generally less than 10%) of the contract value. From time to time thereafter until the futures position is closed, the Fund will pay additional margin representing any loss experienced as a result of the futures position the prior day or be entitled to a payment representing any profit experienced as a result of the futures position the prior day. Futures involve substantial leverage risk. The Fund may only enter into futures contracts traded on regulated commodity exchanges.

The sale of a futures contract limits the Fund's risk of loss from a decline in the market value of portfolio holdings correlated with the futures contract prior to the futures contract's expiration date. In the event the market value of the portfolio holdings correlated with the futures contract increases rather than decreases, however, the Fund will realize a loss on the futures position and a lower return on the portfolio holdings than would have been realized without the purchase of the futures contract.

The purchase of a futures contract may protect the Fund from having to pay more for securities as a consequence of increases in the market value for such securities during a period when the Fund was attempting to identify specific securities in which to invest in a market the Fund believes to be attractive. In the event that such securities decline in value or the Fund determines not to complete an anticipatory hedge transaction relating to a futures contract, however, the Fund may realize a loss relating to the futures position.

The Fund is also authorized to purchase or sell call and put options on futures contracts including financial futures and stock indices. A stock index futures contract is an agreement to take or make delivery of an amount of cash equal to the difference between the value of the index at the beginning and at the end of the contract period. Generally, these strategies would be used under the same market and market sector conditions (*i.e.*, conditions relating to specific types of investments) in which the Fund entered into futures transactions. The Fund may purchase put options or write call options on futures contracts and stock indices in lieu of selling the underlying futures contract in anticipation of a decrease in the market value of its securities. Similarly, the Fund can purchase call options, or write put options on futures contracts and stock indices, as a substitute for the purchase of such futures to hedge against the increased cost resulting from an increase in the market value of securities which the Fund intends to purchase.

To maintain greater flexibility, the Fund may invest in instruments which have characteristics similar to futures contracts. These instruments may take a variety of forms, such as debt securities with interest or principal payments determined by reference to the value of a security, an index of securities or a commodity at a future point in time. The risks of such investments could reflect the risks of investing in futures and securities, including volatility and illiquidity.

*Interest Rate and Stock Index Futures.* The Fund may enter into interest rate and stock index futures contracts and may purchase and sell put and call options on such futures contracts for hedging and other appropriate risk-management purposes or to increase return, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the CFTC and the SEC. An interest rate futures contract is a standardized contract for the future delivery of a specified security (such as a U.S. Treasury Bond or U.S. Treasury Note) or its equivalent at a future date at a price set at the time of the contract. An option on an interest rate futures contract or stock index futures contract, as contrasted with the direct investment in such a contract, gives the purchaser of the option the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a stock index futures contract or interest rate futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time on or before the expiration date of the option. Upon exercise of an option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer's futures margin account, which represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract exceeds, in the case of a call, or is less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. The potential loss related to the purchase of an option on a futures contract is limited to the premium paid for the option (plus transaction costs). With respect to options purchased by the Fund, there are no daily cash payments made by the Fund to reflect changes in the value of the underlying contract; however, the value of the option does change daily and that change would be reflected in the NAV of the Fund.

The Fund may either accept or make delivery of cash or the underlying instrument specified at the expiration of an interest rate futures contract or cash at the expiration of a stock index futures contract or, prior to expiration, enter into a closing transaction involving the purchase or sale of an offsetting contract. Closing transactions with respect to futures contracts are effected on the exchange on which the contract was entered into (or a linked exchange). There is no guarantee that such closing transactions can be effected at any particular time or at all. In addition, daily limits on price fluctuations on exchanges on which the Fund conducts its futures and options transactions may prevent the prompt liquidation of positions at the optimal time, thus subjecting the Fund to the potential of greater losses.

*Risks Associated with Futures and Options on Futures.* While the Fund may enter into futures contracts and options on futures contracts for hedging purposes, the use of futures contracts and options on futures contracts might result in a poorer overall performance for the Fund than if it had not engaged in any such transactions. If, for example, the Fund had insufficient cash, it might have to sell a portion of its underlying portfolio of securities in order to meet daily variation margin requirements on its futures contracts or options on futures contracts at a time when it might be disadvantageous to do so. Further, the Fund's use of futures contracts and options on futures contracts to reduce risk involves costs and will be subject to the Sub-Adviser's ability to predict correctly changes in interest rate relationships, the direction of securities prices, currency exchange rates or other factors. No assurance can be given that the Sub-Adviser's judgment in this respect will be correct. Additional risks associated with the use of futures contracts and options include (a) the imperfect correlation between the change in market value of the instruments held by the Fund and the price of the futures contract or option, which may prevent the Fund from achieving the intended hedge or expose the Fund to risk of loss; (b) possible lack of a liquid secondary market for a futures contract and the resulting inability to close a futures contract when desired; (c) losses caused by unanticipated market movements, which are potentially unlimited; and (d) the possibility that the counterparty will default in the performance of its obligations.

*Asset Segregation.* Under regulations of the CFTC currently in effect, which may change from time to time, with respect to futures contracts to purchase securities or stock indices, call options on futures contracts purchased by the Fund and put options on futures contracts written by the Fund, the Fund will set aside, in a segregated account, liquid securities with a value at least equal to the value of instruments underlying such futures contracts less the amount of initial margin on deposit for such contracts. The current view of the staff of the SEC is that the Fund's long and short positions in futures contracts as well as put and call options on futures written by it must be collateralized with cash or certain liquid assets held in a segregated account or "covered" in a manner similar to that described for covered options on securities.

*Federal Income Tax Treatment of Futures Contracts and Options.* The Fund's transactions in futures contracts and options will be subject to special provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (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, or short-term or long-term), may accelerate recognition of income to the Fund and may defer Fund losses. These rules could, therefore, affect the character, amount and timing of distributions to shareholders. These provisions also (a) will require the Fund to mark-to-market certain types of the positions in its portfolio (*i.e.*, treat them as if they were closed out), and (b) may cause the Fund to recognize income without receiving cash with which to make distributions in amounts necessary to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement for qualifying to be taxed as a regulated investment company and the distribution requirement for avoiding excise taxes.

*Non-U.S. Exchange Transactions.* The Fund may engage in spot and forward non-U.S. exchange transactions and currency swaps, purchase and sell options on currencies and purchase and sell currency futures and related options thereon (collectively, "Currency Instruments") for purposes of hedging against the decline in the value of currencies in which its portfolio holdings are denominated against the U.S. dollar. Such transactions could be effected with respect to hedges on non-U.S. dollar denominated securities owned by the Fund, sold by the Fund but not yet delivered, or committed or anticipated to be purchased by the Fund. As an illustration, the Fund may use such techniques to hedge the stated value in U.S. dollars of an investment in a yen-denominated security. In such circumstances, for example, the Fund may purchase a non-U.S. currency put option enabling it to sell a specified amount of yen for dollars at a specified price by a future date. To the extent the hedge is successful, a loss in the value of the yen relative to the dollar will tend to be offset by an increase in the value of the put option. To offset, in whole or in part, the cost of acquiring such a put option, the Fund may also sell a call option which, if exercised, requires it to sell a specified amount of yen for dollars at a specified price by a future date (a technique called a "straddle"). By selling such a call option in this illustration, the Fund gives up the opportunity to profit without limit from increases in the relative value of the yen to the dollar. "Straddles" of the type that may be used by the Fund are considered to constitute hedging transactions.

*Forward Non-U.S. Exchange Transactions.* Forward non-U.S. exchange transactions are OTC contracts to purchase or sell a specified amount of a specified currency or multinational currency unit at a price and future date set at the time of the contract. Spot non-U.S. exchange transactions are similar but require current, rather than future, settlement. The Fund may enter into non-U.S. exchange transactions for purposes of hedging either a specific transaction or a portfolio position. The Fund may enter into a non-U.S. exchange transaction for purposes of hedging a specific transaction by, for example, purchasing a currency needed to settle a security transaction or selling a currency in which the Fund has received or anticipates receiving a dividend or distribution. The Fund may enter into a non-U.S. exchange transaction for purposes of hedging a portfolio position by selling forward a currency in which a portfolio position of the Fund is denominated or by purchasing a currency in which the Fund anticipates acquiring a portfolio position in the near future. The Fund may also hedge portfolio positions through currency swaps, which are transactions in which one currency is simultaneously bought for a second currency on a spot basis and sold for the second currency on a forward basis. The Fund may also engage in proxy hedging transactions to reduce the effect of currency fluctuations on the value of existing or anticipated holdings of portfolio securities. Proxy hedging is often used when the currency to which the Fund is exposed is difficult to hedge or to hedge against the dollar. Proxy hedging entails entering into a forward contract to sell a currency whose changes in value are generally considered to be linked to a currency or currencies in which some or all of the Fund's securities are, or are expected to be, denominated, and to buy U.S. dollars. Proxy hedging involves some of the same risks and considerations as other transactions with similar instruments. Currency transactions can result in losses to the Fund if the currency being hedged fluctuates in value to a degree or in a direction that is not anticipated. In addition, there is the risk that the perceived linkage between various currencies may not be present or may not be present during the particular time that the Fund is engaged in proxy hedging. The Fund may also cross-hedge currencies by entering into forward contracts to sell one or more currencies that are expected to decline in value relative to other currencies to which the Fund has or in which the Fund expects to have portfolio exposure. For example, the Fund may hold both Canadian government bonds and Japanese government bonds, and the Sub-Adviser may believe that Canadian dollars will deteriorate against Japanese yen. This strategy would be a hedge against a decline in the value of Canadian dollars, although it would expose the Fund to declines in the value of the Japanese yen relative to the U.S. dollar. Forward non-U.S. exchange transactions involve substantial currency risk, and also involve credit and liquidity risk. The Fund may also hedge a currency by entering into a transaction in a Currency Instrument denominated in a currency other than the currency being hedged.

Some of the forward non-U.S. currency contracts that may be entered into by the Fund are classified as non-deliverable forwards (“NDF”). NDFs are cash-settled, short-term forward contracts that may be thinly traded or are denominated in non-convertible non-U.S. currency, where the profit or loss at the time at the settlement date is calculated by taking the difference between the agreed upon exchange rate and the spot rate at the time of settlement, for an agreed upon notional amount of funds. All NDFs have a fixing date and a settlement date. The fixing date is the date at which the difference between the prevailing market exchange rate and the agreed upon exchange rate is calculated. The settlement date is the date by which the payment of the difference is due to the party receiving payment. NDFs are commonly quoted for time periods of one month up to two years and are normally quoted and settled in U.S. dollars. They are often used to gain exposure to and/or hedge exposure to non-U.S. currencies that are not internationally traded.

*Currency Futures.* The Fund may also seek to enhance returns or hedge against the decline in the value of a currency through use of currency futures or options thereon. Currency futures are similar to forward non-U.S. exchange transactions except that futures are standardized, exchange-traded contracts while forward non-U.S. exchange transactions are traded in the OTC market. Currency futures involve substantial currency risk, and also involve leverage risk.

*Currency Options.* The Fund may also seek to enhance returns or hedge against the decline in the value of a currency through the use of currency options. Currency options are similar to options on securities. For example, in consideration for an option premium, the writer of a currency option is obligated to sell (in the case of a call option) or purchase (in the case of a put option) a specified amount of a specified currency on or before the expiration date for a specified amount of another currency. The Fund may engage in transactions in options on currencies either on exchanges or OTC markets. The Fund may write covered call options on up to 100% of the currencies in its portfolio. See types of options above and “Additional Risk Factors of OTC Transactions; Limitations on the Use of OTC Derivatives” below. Currency options involve substantial currency risk, and may also involve credit, leverage or liquidity risk.

*Currency Swaps.* In order to protect against currency fluctuations, the Fund may enter into currency swaps. The Fund may also hedge portfolio positions through currency swaps, which are transactions in which one currency is simultaneously bought for a second currency on a spot basis and sold for the second currency on a forward basis. Currency swaps involve the exchange of the rights of the Fund and another party to make or receive payments in specified currencies. Currency swaps usually involve the delivery of the entire principal value of one designated currency in exchange for the other designated currency. Because currency swaps usually involve the delivery of the entire principal value of one designated currency in exchange for the other designated currency, the entire principal value of a currency swap is subject to the risk that the other party to the swap will default on its contractual delivery obligations.

*Limitations on Currency Transactions.* The Fund will not hedge a currency in excess of the aggregate market value of the securities that it owns (including receivables for unsettled securities sales), or has committed to purchase or anticipates purchasing, which are denominated in such currency. Open positions in forward non-U.S. exchange transactions used for non-hedging purposes will be covered by the segregation of liquid assets and are marked to market daily. The Fund’s exposure to futures or options on currencies will be covered as described below under “Risks and Special Considerations Concerning Derivatives.”

*Risk Factors in Hedging Non-U.S. Currency.* Hedging transactions involving Currency Instruments involve substantial risks, including correlation risk. While the Fund’s use of Currency Instruments to effect hedging strategies is intended to reduce the volatility of the NAV of the Fund’s shares, the NAV of the Fund’s shares will fluctuate. Moreover, although Currency Instruments will be used with the intention of hedging against adverse currency movements, transactions in Currency Instruments involve the risk that anticipated currency movements will not be accurately predicted and that the Fund’s hedging strategies will be ineffective. To the extent that the Fund hedges against anticipated currency movements that do not occur, the Fund may realize losses and decrease its total return as the result of its hedging transactions. Furthermore, the Fund will only engage in hedging activities from time to time and may not be engaging in hedging activities when movements in currency exchange rates occur.

In connection with its trading in forward non-U.S. currency contracts, if any, the Fund will contract with a foreign or domestic bank, or foreign or domestic securities dealer, to make or take future delivery of a specified amount of a particular currency. There are no limitations on daily price moves in such forward contracts, and banks and dealers are not required to continue to make markets in such contracts. There have been periods during which certain banks or dealers have refused to quote prices for such forward contracts or have quoted prices with an unusually wide spread between the price at which the bank or dealer is prepared to buy and that at which it is prepared to sell. Governmental imposition of credit controls might limit any such forward contract trading. With respect to its trading of forward contracts, if any, the Fund will be subject to the risk of bank or dealer failure and the inability of, or refusal by, a bank or dealer to perform with respect to such contracts. Any such default would deprive the Fund of any profit potential or force the Fund to cover its commitments for resale, if any, at the then market price and could result in a loss to the Fund.

It may not be possible for the Fund to hedge against currency exchange rate movements, even if correctly anticipated, in the event that (i) the currency exchange rate movement is so generally anticipated that the Fund is not able to enter into a hedging transaction at an effective price, or (ii) the currency exchange rate movement relates to a market with respect to which Currency Instruments are not available and it is not possible to engage in effective non-U.S. currency hedging. The cost to the Fund of engaging in non-U.S. currency transactions varies with such factors as the currencies involved, the length of the contract period and the market conditions then prevailing. Since transactions in non-U.S. currency exchange usually are conducted on a principal basis, no fees or commissions are involved.

*Risks and Special Considerations Concerning Derivatives.* Derivatives are volatile and involve significant risks, including:

- *Correlation Risk.* Correlation risk is the risk that there might be an imperfect correlation, or even no correlation, between price movements of a derivative instrument and price movements of investments being hedged (or of a particular market or security to which the Fund seeks exposure). When a derivative transaction is used to completely hedge another position, changes in the market value of the combined position (the derivative instrument plus the position being hedged) result from an imperfect correlation between the price movements of the two instruments. This might occur due to factors unrelated to the value of the investments being hedged, such as speculative or other pressures on the markets in which these instruments are traded.
- *Credit Risk.* Credit risk is the risk that a loss may be sustained as a result of the failure or unwillingness of a counterparty (or reference entity in a credit default swap or similar derivative) to comply with the terms of a derivative instrument and honor its financial obligations, and the related risks of having concentrated exposure to such a counterparty. The counterparty risk for exchange-traded derivatives is generally less than for privately negotiated or OTC derivatives, since generally a clearing agency, which is the issuer or counterparty to each exchange-traded instrument, provides a guarantee of performance. For privately-negotiated instruments, there is no similar clearing agency guarantee. In all transactions, the Fund will bear the risk that the counterparty will default, and this could result in a loss of the expected benefit of the derivative transactions and possibly other losses to the Fund.
- *Currency Risk.* Currency risk is the risk that changes in the exchange rate between two currencies will adversely affect the value (in U.S. dollar terms) of an investment. Generally, when the U.S. dollar rises in value against a non-U.S. currency, a security denominated in that currency loses value because the currency is worth fewer U.S. dollars. Conversely, when the U.S. dollar decreases in value against a non-U.S. currency, a security denominated in that currency gains value because the currency is worth more U.S. dollars. This risk, generally known as “currency risk,” means that a strong U.S. dollar will reduce returns for U.S. investors while a weak U.S. dollar will increase those returns.
- *Index Risk.* If the derivative is linked to the performance of an index, it will be subject to the risks associated with changes in that index. If the index changes, the Fund could receive lower interest payments or experience a reduction in the value of the derivative to below what that Fund paid. Certain indexed securities, including inverse securities (which move in an opposite direction to the index), may create leverage, to the extent that they increase or decrease in value at a rate that is a multiple of the changes in the applicable index.
- *Legal Risk.* Legal risk is the risk of loss caused by the unenforceability of a party’s obligations under the derivative. While a party seeking price certainty agrees to surrender the potential upside in exchange for downside protection, the party taking the risk is looking for a positive payoff. Despite this voluntary assumption of risk, a counterparty that has lost money in a derivative transaction may try to avoid payment by exploiting various legal uncertainties about certain derivative products.

- *Leverage Risk.* Leverage risk is the risk that the Fund may be more volatile than if it had not been leveraged due to leverage's tendency to exaggerate the effect of any increase or decrease in the value of the Fund's portfolio securities. The use of leverage may also cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or to meet segregation requirements. Certain investments or trading strategies that involve leverage can result in losses that greatly exceed the amount originally invested. Relatively small market movements may result in large changes in the value of a derivatives position and can result in losses that greatly exceed the amount originally invested.
- *Liquidity Risk.* Liquidity risk is the risk that a derivative instrument cannot be sold, closed out, or replaced quickly at or very close to its fundamental value. Generally, exchange contracts are very liquid because the exchange clearinghouse is the counterparty of every contract. OTC transactions are less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives since they often can only be closed out with the other party to the transaction. The Fund might be required by applicable regulatory requirements to maintain assets as "cover," maintain segregated accounts, and/or make margin payments when it takes positions in derivative instruments involving obligations to third parties (*i.e.*, instruments other than purchase options). If the Fund is unable to close out its positions in such instruments, it might be required to continue to maintain such assets or accounts or make such payments until the position expires, matures, or is closed out. These requirements might impair the Fund's ability to sell a security or make an investment at a time when it would otherwise be favorable to do so, or require that the Fund sell a portfolio security at a disadvantageous time. The Fund's ability to sell or close out a position in an instrument prior to expiration or maturity depends upon the existence of a liquid secondary market or, in the absence of such a market, the ability and willingness of the counterparty to enter into a transaction closing out the position. Due to liquidity risk, there is no assurance that any derivatives position can be sold or closed out at a time and price that is favorable to the Fund.
- *Market Risk.* Market risk is the risk that the value of the underlying assets may go up or down. Adverse movements in the value of an underlying asset can expose the Fund to losses. Market risk is the primary risk associated with derivative transactions. Derivative instruments may include elements of leverage and, accordingly, fluctuations in the value of the derivative instrument in relation to the underlying asset may be magnified. The successful use of derivative instruments depends upon a variety of factors, particularly the portfolio manager's ability to predict movements of the securities, currencies, and commodities markets, which may require different skills than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. There can be no assurance that any particular strategy adopted will succeed.
- *Systemic or "Interconnection" Risk.* Systemic or "interconnection" risk is the risk that a disruption in the financial markets will cause difficulties for all market participants. In other words, a disruption in one market will spill over into other markets, perhaps creating a chain reaction. Much of the OTC derivatives market takes place among the OTC dealers themselves, thus creating a large, interconnected web of financial obligations. This interconnectedness raises the possibility that a default by one large dealer could create losses for other dealers and destabilize the entire market for OTC derivative instruments.

There can be no assurance that, at any specific time, either a liquid secondary market will exist for a derivative or the Fund will otherwise be able to sell such instrument at an acceptable price. It may, therefore, not be possible to close a position in a derivative without incurring substantial losses, if at all.

Certain transactions in derivatives (such as futures transactions or sales of put options) involve substantial leverage risk and may expose the Fund to potential losses that exceed the amount originally invested by the Fund. When the Fund engages in such a transaction, the Fund will deposit, in a segregated account, liquid assets with a value at least equal to the Fund's exposure, on a mark-to-market basis, to the transaction (as calculated pursuant to requirements of the SEC). Such segregation will ensure that the Fund has assets available to satisfy its obligations with respect to the transaction, but will not limit the Fund's exposure to loss.



*Additional Risk Factors of OTC Transactions; Limitations on the Use of OTC Derivatives.* Certain derivatives traded in OTC markets, including indexed securities, swaps and OTC options, involve substantial liquidity risk. The absence of liquidity may make it difficult or impossible for the Fund to sell such instruments promptly at an acceptable price. The absence of liquidity may also make it more difficult for the Fund to ascertain a market value for such instruments. Because derivatives traded in OTC markets are not guaranteed by an exchange or clearing corporation and generally do not require payment of margin, to the extent that the Fund has unrealized gains in such instruments or has deposited collateral with its counterparty, the Fund is at risk that its counterparty will become bankrupt or otherwise fail to honor its obligations. The Fund will attempt to minimize these risks by engaging in transactions in derivatives traded in OTC markets only with financial institutions that have substantial capital or that have provided the Fund with a third-party guaranty or other credit enhancement.

*CFTC Regulation and the Code.* DFC has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” under the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended (“CEA”) pursuant to Rule 4.5 under the CEA. DFC is not, therefore, subject to registration or regulation as a “commodity pool operator” under the CEA and the Fund is operated so as not to be deemed a “commodity pool” under the regulations of the CFTC, limiting the Fund’s use of certain derivative transactions for non-bona fide hedging” purposes. In addition, certain provisions of the Code may limit the extent to which the Fund may enter into futures contracts or engage in options transactions.

#### **Dollar Rolls**

A dollar roll transaction involves a sale by the Fund of a mortgage-backed or other security concurrently with an agreement by the Fund to repurchase a similar security at a later date at an agreed-upon price. The securities that are repurchased will bear the same interest rate and a similar maturity as those sold, but pools of mortgages collateralizing those securities may have different prepayment histories than those sold. During the period between the sale and repurchase, the Fund will not be entitled to receive interest and principal payments on the securities sold. Proceeds of the sale will be invested in additional instruments for the Fund, and the income from these investments will generate income for the Fund. If such income does not exceed the income, capital appreciation and gain or loss that would have been realized on the securities sold as part of the dollar roll, the use of this technique will diminish the investment performance of the Fund compared with what the performance would have been without the use of dollar rolls.

Dollar rolls are a type of forward commitment transaction. Dollar rolls involve the risk that the market value of the securities subject to the Fund’s forward purchase commitment may decline below, or the market value of the securities subject to the Fund’s forward sale commitment may increase above, the exercise price of the forward commitment. In the event the buyer of the securities files for bankruptcy or becomes insolvent, the Fund’s use of the proceeds of the current sale portion of the transaction may be restricted pending a determination by the other party, or its trustee or receiver, whether to enforce the Fund’s obligation to purchase the similar securities in the forward transaction. Dollar rolls are speculative techniques that can be deemed to involve leverage. At the time the Fund sells securities and agrees to repurchase securities at a future date, the Fund will segregate liquid assets with a value equal to the repurchase price. The Fund may engage in dollar roll transactions to enhance return. Each dollar roll transaction is accounted for as a sale or purchase of a portfolio security and a subsequent purchase or sale of a substantially similar security in the forward market. Successful use of mortgage dollar rolls may depend upon the Sub-Adviser’s ability to correctly predict interest rates and prepayments. There is no assurance that dollar rolls can be successfully employed.

## Equity Securities

Equity securities include common stocks and other securities with equity characteristics. Common stocks represent units of ownership in a company and typically have voting rights and earn dividends. Dividends on common stocks are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of a company's board. Equity securities may also include equity securities of investment companies and exchange-traded funds ("ETFs").

While investing in stocks allows shareholders to participate in the benefits of owning a company, such shareholders must accept the risks of ownership. Unlike bondholders, who have preference to a company's earnings and cash flow, preferred stockholders, followed by common stockholders in order of priority, are entitled only to the residual amount after a company meets its other obligations. For this reason, the value of a company's stock will usually react more strongly to actual or perceived changes in the company's financial condition or prospects than its debt obligations. Stockholders of a company that fares poorly can lose money.

Stock markets tend to move in cycles with short or extended periods of rising and falling stock prices. The value of a company's stock may fall because of:

- Factors that directly relate to that company, such as decisions made by its management or lower demand for the company's products or services;
- Factors affecting an entire industry, such as increases in production costs; and
- Changes in financial market conditions that are relatively unrelated to the company or its industry, such as changes in interest rates, currency exchange rates or inflation rates.

The Fund may invest in securities of issuers with small or medium market capitalizations, which may involve greater risk and price volatility than that customarily associated with investments in larger, more established companies. This increased risk may be due to the greater business risks of their small or medium size, limited markets and financial resources, narrow product lines and frequent lack of management depth. The securities of small and medium capitalization companies are often traded in the OTC market, and might not be traded in volumes typical of securities traded on a national securities exchange. Thus, the securities of small and medium capitalization companies are likely to be less liquid and subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than securities of larger, more established companies.

## LIBOR Risk

Many credit instruments, derivatives and other financial instruments, including those in which the Fund may invest, utilized the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") as the reference or benchmark rate for variable interest rate calculations. However, in July 2017, the Financial Conduct Authority announced plans to phase out the use of LIBOR by the end of 2021. The ICE Benchmark Administration Limited, the administrator of LIBOR, ceased publishing most LIBOR tenors, including some USD LIBOR tenors, on December 31, 2021, and ceased publishing the remaining and most liquid USD LIBOR tenors on June 30, 2023. The Financial Conduct Authority has announced that it will require the publication of synthetic LIBOR for the one-month, three-month and six-month USD LIBOR settings after June 30, 2023 through at least September 30, 2024. Various financial industry groups around the world have been planning the transition to the use of different benchmarks. In the United States, the Federal Reserve Board and the New York Fed convened the Alternative Reference Rates Committee, comprised of a group of private-market participants, which recommended the Secured Overnight Financing Rate as an alternative reference rate to USD LIBOR. While the transition away from LIBOR became increasingly well-defined in advance of the anticipated discontinuation of LIBOR, the impact on certain debt securities, derivatives and other financial instruments has not been determined and may remain uncertain for some time. Many market participants have transitioned to the use of alternative reference or benchmark rates prior to the applicable LIBOR publication cessation date or have otherwise amended certain legacy instruments referencing LIBOR to include fallback provisions and other measures that contemplate the discontinuation of LIBOR or other similar market disruption events. However, neither the effect of the transition process, in the United States or elsewhere, nor its ultimate success, can yet be known. While some instruments tied to LIBOR may include a replacement rate to LIBOR, not all instruments have such fallback provisions and the effectiveness of such replacement rates remains uncertain. The transition process may lead to increased volatility and illiquidity in markets that relied on the LIBOR to determine interest rates. The cessation of LIBOR could affect the value and liquidity of investments tied to LIBOR, especially those that do not include fallback provisions, and may result in costs incurred in connection with closing out positions and entering into new trades.

## Non-U.S. Investments

The Fund may invest in non-U.S. securities, including securities from issuers located in emerging market countries. These securities may be denominated in U.S. dollars or in a non-U.S. currency. Securities issued by certain companies organized outside the United States may not be deemed to be non-U.S. securities (but rather deemed to be U.S. securities) if the company's principal operations are conducted from the United States, the company's equity securities trade principally on a U.S. stock exchange or the company does a substantial amount of business in the United States.

In addition to equity securities, non-U.S. investments of the Fund may include: (a) debt obligations issued or guaranteed by non-U.S. sovereign governments or their agencies, authorities, instrumentalities or political subdivisions, including a foreign state, province or municipality; (b) debt obligations of supranational organizations; (c) debt obligations of non-U.S. banks and bank holding companies; (d) debt obligations of domestic banks and corporations issued in non-U.S. currencies; (e) debt obligations denominated in the Euro; and (f) non-U.S. corporate debt securities and commercial paper. Such securities may include loan participations and assignments, convertible securities and zero-coupon securities.

Dividends or interest on, or proceeds from the sale of, non-U.S. securities may be subject to foreign withholding taxes.

*Non-U.S. Market Risk.* Funds that may invest in non-U.S. securities offer the potential for more diversification than funds that invest only in the United States because securities traded on non-U.S. markets have often (though not always) performed differently from securities traded in the United States. However, such investments often involve risks not typically associated with investments in securities of companies organized and operated in the United States that can increase the chances that the Fund will lose money. In particular, the Fund is subject to the risk that, because there are generally fewer investors on non-U.S. exchanges and a smaller number of shares traded each day, it may be difficult for the Fund to buy and sell securities on those exchanges. In addition, prices of non-U.S. securities may fluctuate more than prices of securities traded in the United States. Investments in non-U.S. markets may also be adversely affected by governmental actions such as the imposition of punitive taxes. In addition, the governments of certain countries may prohibit or impose substantial restrictions on non-U.S. investment in their capital markets or in certain industries. Any of these actions could severely affect security prices, impair the Fund's ability to purchase or sell non-U.S. securities or transfer the Fund's assets or income back into the United States, or otherwise adversely affect the Fund's operations. Other potential non-U.S. market risks include exchange controls, difficulties in pricing securities, defaults on non-U.S. government securities, difficulties in enforcing favorable legal judgments in non-U.S. courts, and political and social conditions, such as diplomatic relations, confiscatory taxation, expropriation, limitation on the removal of funds or assets, or imposition of (or change in) exchange control regulations. Legal remedies available to investors in certain foreign countries may be less extensive than those available to investors in the United States or other foreign countries. In addition, changes in government administrations or economic or monetary policies in the U.S. or abroad could result in appreciation or depreciation of portfolio securities and could favorably or adversely affect the Fund's operations. Also, brokerage commissions and other costs of buying or selling securities often are higher in foreign countries than they are in the United States. This reduces the amount the Fund can earn on its investments. The expense ratios of the Fund investing significantly in non-U.S. securities can be expected to be higher than those of investment funds investing primarily in domestic securities. The costs attributable to investing abroad are usually higher for several reasons, such as the higher cost of custody of non-U.S. securities, higher commissions paid on comparable transactions on non-U.S. markets and additional costs arising from delays in settlements of transactions involving non-U.S. securities.

In certain countries, banks or other financial institutions may be among the leading companies or have actively traded securities available for investment. The 1940 Act restricts the Fund's investments in any equity securities of an issuer that, in its most recent fiscal year, derived more than 15% of its revenues from "securities related activities," as defined by the rules thereunder. These provisions may restrict the Fund's investments in certain non-U.S. banks and other financial institutions.

*Non-U.S. Economy Risk.* The economies of certain non-U.S. markets often do not compare favorably with that of the United States with respect to such issues as growth of gross national product, reinvestment of capital, resources and balance of payments position. Certain such economies may rely heavily on particular industries or non-U.S. capital and are more vulnerable to diplomatic developments, the imposition of economic sanctions against a particular country or countries, changes in international trading patterns, trade barriers, and other protectionist or retaliatory measures.

*Currency Risk and Exchange Risk.* Because non-U.S. securities generally are denominated and pay dividends or interest in non-U.S. currencies, the value of a fund that invests in non-U.S. securities as measured in U.S. dollars will be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in exchange rates. Generally, when the U.S. dollar rises in value against a non-U.S. currency, a security denominated in that currency loses value because the currency is worth fewer U.S. dollars. Conversely, when the U.S. dollar decreases in value against a non-U.S. currency, a security denominated in that currency gains value because the currency is worth more U.S. dollars. This risk, generally known as “currency risk,” means that a stronger U.S. dollar will reduce returns for U.S. investors while a weak U.S. dollar will increase those returns.

*Governmental Supervision and Regulation/Accounting Standards.* Many foreign governments supervise and regulate stock exchanges, brokers and the sale of securities with less rigor than the United States. Some countries may not have laws to protect investors comparable to the U.S. securities laws. For example, some foreign countries may have no laws or rules against insider trading. Insider trading occurs when a person buys or sells a company’s securities based on nonpublic information about that company. Accounting standards in other countries are not necessarily the same as in the United States. If the accounting standards in another country do not require as much detail as U.S. accounting standards, it may be harder for Fund management to completely and accurately determine a company’s financial condition. In addition, the U.S. government has from time to time in the past imposed restrictions, through penalties and otherwise, on non-U.S. investments by U.S. investors such as the Fund. If such restrictions should be reinstated, it might become necessary for the Fund to invest all or substantially all of its assets in U.S. securities.

*Certain Risks of Holding Fund Assets Outside the United States.* The Fund generally holds its non-U.S. securities in non-U.S. banks and securities depositories. Some non-U.S. banks and securities depositories may be recently organized or new to the non-U.S. custody business. In addition, there may be limited or no regulatory oversight over their operations. Also, the laws of certain countries may put limits on the Fund’s ability to recover its assets if a non-U.S. bank or depository or issuer of a security or any of their agents goes bankrupt. In addition, it is often more expensive for the Fund to buy, sell and hold securities in certain non-U.S. markets than in the United States. The increased expense of investing in non-U.S. markets reduces the amount the Fund can earn on its investments and typically results in a higher operating expense ratio for the Fund as compared to investment companies that invest only in the United States.

*Publicly Available Information.* In general, less information is publicly available with respect to non-U.S. issuers than is available with respect to U.S. companies. Most non-U.S. companies are also not subject to the uniform accounting and financial reporting requirements applicable to issuers in the United States. While the volume of transactions effected on non-U.S. stock exchanges has increased in recent years, it remains appreciably below that of the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”). Accordingly, the Fund’s non-U.S. investments may be less liquid, and their prices may be more volatile than comparable investments in securities in U.S. companies.

*Settlement Risk.* Settlement and clearance procedures in certain non-U.S. markets differ significantly from those in the United States. Non-U.S. settlement procedures and trade regulations also may involve certain risks (such as delays in payment for or delivery of securities) not typically generated by the settlement of U.S. investments. Communications between the United States and emerging market countries may be unreliable, increasing the risk of delayed settlements or losses of security certificates in markets that still rely on physical settlement. Settlements in certain foreign countries at times have not kept pace with the number of securities transactions. These problems may make it difficult for the Fund to carry out transactions. If the Fund cannot settle or is delayed in settling a purchase of securities, it may miss attractive investment opportunities and certain of its assets may be uninvested with no return earned thereon for some period. If the Fund cannot settle or is delayed in settling a sale of securities, it may lose money if the value of the security then declines or, if it has contracted to sell the security to another party, the Fund could be liable to that party for any losses incurred.

### **Illiquid or Restricted Investments**

Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act (the “*Liquidity Rule*”), the Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. An illiquid investment, as defined in the Liquidity Rule, is an investment that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions within 7 calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. Illiquid investments may trade at a discount from comparable, more liquid investments. Investment of the Fund’s assets in illiquid investments may restrict the ability of the Fund to dispose of its investments in a timely fashion and for a fair price as well as its ability to take advantage of market opportunities. The risks associated with illiquidity will be particularly acute where the Fund’s operations require cash, such as when the Fund redeems shares or pays dividends and could result in the Fund borrowing to meet short-term cash requirements or incurring capital losses on the sale of illiquid investments.

The Fund may invest in securities that are not registered under the Securities Act (“*restricted securities*”). Restricted securities may be sold in private placement transactions between issuers and their purchasers and may be neither listed on an exchange nor traded in other established markets. In many cases, privately placed securities may not be freely transferable under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction or due to contractual restrictions on resale. As a result of the absence of a public trading market, privately placed securities may be less liquid and more difficult to value than publicly traded securities. To the extent that privately placed securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices realized from the sales, due to illiquidity, could be less than those originally paid by the Fund or less than their fair market value. In addition, issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to the disclosure and other investor protection requirements that may be applicable if their securities were publicly traded. If any privately placed securities held by the Fund are required to be registered under the securities laws of one or more jurisdictions before being resold, the Fund may be required to bear the expenses of registration. Certain of the Fund’s investments in private placements may consist of direct investments and may include investments in smaller, less seasoned issuers, which may involve greater risks. These issuers may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or they may be dependent on a limited management group. In making investments in such securities, the Fund may obtain access to material nonpublic information, which may restrict the Fund’s ability to conduct portfolio transactions in such securities.

Some of these securities are new and complex and trade only among institutions, and the markets for these securities are still developing and may not function as efficiently as established markets. Owning a large percentage of restricted or illiquid investments could hamper the Fund’s ability to raise cash to meet redemptions. Also, because there may not be an established market price for these investments, the Fund may have to estimate their value, which means that their valuation (and, to a much smaller extent, the valuation of the Fund) may have a subjective element. Transactions in restricted or illiquid investments may entail registration expense and other transaction costs that are higher than those for transactions in unrestricted or liquid investments. Where registration is required for restricted or illiquid investments, a considerable time period may elapse between the time the Fund decides to sell the security and the time it is actually permitted to sell the security under an effective registration statement. If during such period, adverse market conditions were to develop, the Fund might obtain less favorable pricing terms than when it decided to sell the security.

The Trust has implemented a liquidity risk management program and related procedures pursuant to the Liquidity Rule. If the limitation on illiquid investments is exceeded, other than by a change in market values, the condition will be reported to the Board and, when required, to the SEC.

### **Inflation Risk**

Like all mutual funds, the Fund is subject to inflation risk. Inflation risk is the risk that the present value of assets or income from investments will be less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the present value of the Fund’s assets can decline as can the value of the Fund’s distributions.

## Investment Companies

The Fund may, subject to applicable law, invest in other investment companies, including money market funds and ETFs, which are typically open-end funds or unit investment trusts listed on a stock exchange. In accordance with the 1940 Act, the Fund may not own more than 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of any investment company.

As with other investments, investments in other investment companies are subject to market and selection risk. In addition, if the Fund acquires shares in investment companies, including affiliated investment companies, shareholders would bear both their proportionate share of expenses in the Fund (including management and advisory fees) and, indirectly, the expenses of such investment companies (including management and advisory fees). Investments by the Fund in wholly owned investment entities created under the laws of certain countries will not be deemed an investment in other investment companies. Certain ETFs or closed-end funds traded on exchanges may be thinly traded and experience large spreads between the “ask” price quoted by a seller and the “bid” price offered by a buyer.

The SEC has adopted certain regulatory changes and took other actions related to the ability of an investment company to invest in the securities of another investment company. These changes include, among other things, the rescission of certain SEC exemptive orders permitting investments in excess of the statutory limits and the withdrawal of certain related SEC staff no-action letters, and the adoption of Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act. Rule 12d1-4, which became effective on January 19, 2021, permits the Fund to invest in other investment companies beyond the statutory limits, subject to certain conditions. The rescission of the applicable exemptive orders and the withdrawal of the applicable no-action letters became effective on January 19, 2022. These regulatory changes may adversely impact the Fund’s investment strategies and operations.

*Restrictions on Certain Investments.* A number of publicly traded closed-end investment companies have been organized to facilitate indirect non-U.S. investment in developing countries, and certain of such countries, such as Thailand, South Korea, Chile and Brazil, have specifically authorized such funds. There also are investment opportunities in certain of such countries in pooled vehicles that resemble open-end investment companies. The 1940 Act restrictions on investments in securities of investment companies may limit opportunities for the Fund to invest indirectly in certain developing countries. Shares of certain investment companies may at times be acquired only at market prices representing premiums to their NAVs.

## Portfolio Turnover Rates

The Fund’s annual portfolio turnover rate will not be a factor preventing a sale or purchase when the Sub-Adviser believes investment considerations warrant such sale or purchase. Portfolio turnover may vary greatly from year to year as well as within a particular year. High portfolio turnover (*i.e.*, 100% or more) may result in increased transaction costs to the Fund, including brokerage commissions, dealer mark-ups and other transaction costs on the sale of the securities and reinvestment in other securities. The sale of the Fund’s securities may result in the recognition of capital gain or loss. Given the frequency of sales, such gain or loss will likely be short-term capital gain or loss. These effects of higher than normal portfolio turnover may adversely affect the Fund’s performance.

The portfolio turnover rates for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2023 and 2022 are set forth below:

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022
12%	12%

## Preferred Stock

The Fund may invest in preferred stocks. Preferred stock has a preference over common stock in liquidation (and generally dividends as well) but is subordinated to the liabilities of the issuer in all respects. As a general rule, the market value of preferred stock with a fixed-dividend rate and no conversion element varies inversely with interest rates and perceived credit risk, while the market price of convertible preferred stock generally also reflects some element of conversion value. Because preferred stock is junior to debt securities and other obligations of the issuer, deterioration in the credit quality of the issuer will cause greater changes in the value of a preferred stock than in a more senior debt security with similar stated yield characteristics. Unlike interest payments on debt securities, preferred stock dividends are payable only if declared by the issuer’s board of directors. Preferred stock also may be subject to optional or mandatory redemption provisions.

## Repurchase Agreements and Purchase and Sale Contracts

Under repurchase agreements and purchase and sale contracts, the other party agrees, upon entering into the contract with the Fund, to repurchase a security sold to the Fund at a mutually agreed-upon time and price in a specified currency, thereby determining the yield during the term of the agreement.

A purchase and sale contract differs from a repurchase agreement in that the contract arrangements stipulate that securities are owned by the Fund and the purchaser receives any interest on the security paid during the period. In the case of repurchase agreements, the prices at which the trades are conducted do not reflect accrued interest on the underlying obligation; whereas, in the case of purchase and sale contracts, the prices take into account accrued interest. The Fund may enter into “tri-party” repurchase agreements. In “tri-party” repurchase agreements, an unaffiliated third-party custodian maintains accounts to hold collateral for the Fund and its counterparties and, therefore, the Fund may be subject to the credit risk of those custodians.

Repurchase agreements and purchase and sale contracts result in a fixed rate of return insulated from market fluctuations during the term of the agreement, although such return may be affected by currency fluctuations. However, in the event of a default under a repurchase agreement or under a purchase and sale contract, instead of the contractual fixed rate, the rate of return to the Fund would be dependent upon intervening fluctuations of the market values of the securities underlying the contract and the accrued interest on those securities. In such event, the Fund would have rights against the seller for breach of contract with respect to any losses arising from market fluctuations following the default.

Both types of agreement usually cover short periods, such as less than one week, although they may have longer terms, and may be construed to be collateralized loans by the purchaser to the seller secured by the securities transferred to the purchaser. In the case of a repurchase agreement, as a purchaser, the Sub-Adviser will monitor the creditworthiness of the seller, and the Fund will require the seller to provide additional collateral if the market value of the securities falls below the repurchase price at any time during the term of the repurchase agreement. The Fund does not have this right to seek additional collateral as a purchaser in the case of purchase and sale contracts. The Adviser or Sub-Adviser will mark-to-market daily the value of the securities. Securities subject to repurchase agreements and purchase and sale contracts will be held by the Fund’s custodian (or sub-custodian) in the Federal Reserve/Treasury book-entry system or by another authorized securities depository.

In the event of default by the seller under a repurchase agreement construed to be a collateralized loan, the underlying securities are not owned by the Fund but only constitute collateral for the seller’s obligation to pay the repurchase price. Therefore, the Fund may suffer time delays and incur costs or possible losses in connection with disposition of the collateral. If the seller becomes insolvent and subject to liquidation or reorganization under applicable bankruptcy or other laws, the Fund’s ability to dispose of the underlying securities may be restricted. Finally, it is possible that the Fund may not be able to substantiate its interest in the underlying securities. To minimize this risk, the securities underlying the repurchase agreement will be held by the custodian at all times in an amount at least equal to the repurchase price, including accrued interest. If the seller fails to repurchase the securities, the Fund may suffer a loss to the extent proceeds from the sale of the underlying securities are less than the repurchase price.

The Fund may not invest in repurchase agreements or purchase and sale contracts maturing in more than seven days if such investments, together with the Fund’s other illiquid investments, would exceed 15% of the Fund’s net assets. Repurchase agreements and purchase and sale contracts may be entered into only with financial institutions that have capital of at least \$50 million or whose obligations are guaranteed by an entity that has capital of at least \$50 million.

## Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”)

In pursuing its investment strategy, the Fund may invest in shares of REITs. REITs possess certain risks that differ from those of an investment in common stocks. REITs are financial vehicles that pool investors’ capital to purchase or finance real estate. REITs may concentrate their investments in specific geographic areas or in specific property types, i.e., hotels, shopping malls, residential complexes and office buildings.

REITs are subject to management fees and other expenses, and so the Fund will bear its proportionate share of the costs of the REITs’ operations. There are three general categories of REITs: Equity REITs, Mortgage REITs and Hybrid REITs. Equity REITs invest primarily in direct fee ownership or leasehold ownership of real property; they derive most of their income from rents. Mortgage REITs invest mostly in mortgages on real estate, which may secure construction, development or long-term loans; the main source of their income is mortgage interest payments. Hybrid REITs hold both ownership and mortgage interests in real estate.

Investing in REITs involves certain unique risks in addition to those risks associated with investing in the real estate industry in general. The market value of REIT shares and the ability of the REITs to distribute income may be adversely affected by several factors, including rising interest rates; changes in the national, state and local economic climate and real estate conditions; perceptions of prospective tenants of the safety, convenience and attractiveness of the properties; the ability of the owners to provide adequate management, maintenance and insurance; the cost of complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended; increased competition from new properties; the impact of present or future environmental legislation and compliance with environmental laws; failing to maintain their exemptions from registration under the 1940 Act; changes in real estate taxes and other operating expenses; adverse changes in governmental rules and fiscal policies; adverse changes in zoning laws; and other factors beyond the control of the issuers of the REITs. In addition, distributions received by the Fund from REITs may consist of dividends, capital gains and/or return of capital. As REITs generally pay a higher rate of dividends (on a pre-tax basis) than operating companies, to the extent application of the Fund’s investment strategy results in the Fund investing in REIT shares, the percentage of the Fund’s dividend income received from REIT shares will likely exceed the percentage of the Fund’s portfolio that is comprised of REIT shares. Generally, dividends received by the Fund from REIT shares and distributed to the Fund’s shareholders will not constitute “qualified dividend income” eligible for the reduced tax rate applicable to qualified dividend income; therefore, the tax rate applicable to that portion of the dividend income attributable to REIT shares held by the Fund that shareholders of the Fund receive will be taxed at a higher rate than dividends eligible for the reduced tax rate applicable to qualified dividend income. To the extent, however, that the Fund designates dividends it pays to its shareholders as “section 199A dividends” such shareholder may be eligible for a 20% deduction with respect to such dividends through 2025. The amount of section 199A dividends that the Fund may pay and report to its shareholders is limited to the excess of the ordinary REIT dividends, other than capital gain dividends and portions of REIT dividends designated as qualified dividend income, that the Fund receives from REITs for a taxable year over the Fund’s expenses allocable to such dividends.

REITs (especially mortgage REITs) are also subject to interest rate risk. Rising interest rates may cause REIT investors to demand a higher annual yield, which may, in turn, cause a decline in the market price of the equity securities issued by a REIT. Rising interest rates also generally increase the costs of obtaining financing, which could cause the value of the Fund’s REIT investments to decline. During periods when interest rates are declining, mortgages are often refinanced. Refinancing may reduce the yield on investments in mortgage REITs. In addition, since REITs depend on payment under their mortgage loans and leases to generate cash to make distributions to their shareholders, investments in REITs may be adversely affected by defaults on such mortgage loans or leases.

Investing in certain REITs, which often have small market capitalizations, may also involve the same risks as investing in other small capitalization companies. REITs may have limited financial resources and their securities may trade less frequently and in limited volume and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements than larger company securities. Historically, small capitalization stocks, such as REITs, have been more volatile in price than the larger capitalization stocks such as those included in the S&P 500 Index. The management of a REIT may be subject to conflicts of interest with respect to the operation of the business of the REIT and may be involved in real estate activities competitive with the REIT. A REIT may own properties through joint ventures or in other circumstances in which the REIT may not have control over its investments. REITs may incur significant amounts of leverage.



## Securities Lending

The Fund may lend portfolio securities with a value not exceeding 33⅓% of its total assets or the limit prescribed by applicable law to banks, brokers and other financial institutions. In return, the Fund receives collateral in cash or securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, which will be maintained at all times in an amount equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned securities. The Fund maintains the ability to obtain the right to vote or consent on proxy proposals involving material events affecting securities loaned. The Fund receives the income on the loaned securities. Where the Fund receives securities as collateral, the Fund receives a fee for its loans from the borrower and does not receive the income on the collateral. Where the Fund receives cash collateral, it may invest such collateral and retain the amount earned, net of any amount rebated to the borrower. As a result, the Fund's yield may increase. Loans of securities are terminable at any time and the borrower, after notice, is required to return borrowed securities within the standard time period for settlement of securities transactions. The Fund is obligated to return the collateral to the borrower at the termination of the loan. The Fund could suffer a loss in the event the Fund must return the cash collateral and there are losses on investments made with the cash collateral. In the event the borrower defaults on any of its obligations with respect to a securities loan, the Fund could suffer a loss where there are losses on investments made with the cash collateral or where the value of the securities collateral falls below the market value of the borrowed securities. The Fund could also experience delays and costs in gaining access to the collateral. The Fund may pay reasonable finder's, lending agent, administrative and custodial fees in connection with its loans.

The Fund would continue to accrue interest on loaned securities and would also earn income on investment collateral for such loans. Any cash collateral received by the Fund in connection with such loans may be invested in a broad range of high quality, U.S. dollar-denominated money market instruments that meet the restrictions for money market funds under Rule 2a-7 of the 1940 Act. Specifically, cash collateral may be invested in any of the following instruments: (a) securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government or by its agencies or instrumentalities and related custodial receipts; (b) "first tier" quality commercial paper and other obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. and foreign corporations and other issuers rated (at the time of purchase) in the highest rating category by at least two NRSROs, or one if only rated by one NRSRO; (c) U.S. dollar-denominated obligations issued or supported by the credit of U.S. or foreign banks or savings institutions with total assets in excess of \$1 billion (including obligations of foreign branches of such banks) (i.e., CDs, BAs and time deposits); (d) repurchase agreements relating to the above instruments, as well as corporate debt; and (e) unaffiliated and, to the extent permitted by SEC guidelines, affiliated money market funds. Any such investments must be rated "first tier" and must have a maturity of 397 days or less from the date of purchase.

## Temporary Defensive Position

While assuming a temporary defensive position, the Fund may invest in cash or cash equivalent short-term investment-grade obligations, including: obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities; corporate debt securities, such as commercial paper, master demand notes, loan participation interests, medium-term notes and funding agreements; Yankee dollar and Eurodollar bank certificates of deposit, time deposits, and bankers' acceptances; asset-backed securities; and repurchase agreements involving the foregoing obligations. Eurodollar obligations are U.S. dollar obligations issued outside the United States by domestic or foreign entities, while Yankee dollar obligations are U.S. dollar obligations issued inside the United States by foreign entities. There is generally less publicly available information about non-U.S. issuers and there may be less governmental regulation and supervision of non-U.S. stock exchanges, brokers and listed companies. Non-U.S. issuers may use different accounting and financial standards, and the addition of non-U.S. governmental restrictions may affect adversely the payment of principal and interest on non-U.S. investments. In addition, not all foreign branches of United States banks are supervised or examined by regulatory authorities as are United States banks, and such branches may not be subject to reserve requirements.

## Utility Industries

Risks that are intrinsic to the utility industries include difficulty in obtaining an adequate return on invested capital, difficulty in financing large construction programs during an inflationary period, restrictions on operations and increased cost and delays attributable to environmental considerations and regulation, difficulty in raising capital in adequate amounts on reasonable terms in periods of high inflation and unsettled capital markets, technological innovations that may render existing plants, equipment or products obsolete, the potential impact of natural or man-made disasters, increased costs and reduced availability of certain types of fuel, occasional reduced availability and high costs of natural gas for resale, the effects of energy conservation, the effects of a national energy policy and lengthy delays and greatly increased costs and other problems associated with the design, construction, licensing, regulation and operation of nuclear facilities for electric generation, including, among other considerations, the problems associated with the use of radioactive materials and the disposal of radioactive wastes. There are substantial differences among the regulatory practices and policies of various jurisdictions, and any given regulatory agency may make major shifts in policy from time to time. There is no assurance that regulatory authorities will, in the future, grant rate increases or that such increases will be adequate to permit the payment of dividends on common stocks issued by a utility company. Additionally, existing and possible future regulatory legislation may make it even more difficult for utilities to obtain adequate relief. Certain of the issuers of securities held in the Fund's portfolio may own or operate nuclear generating facilities. Governmental authorities may from time to time review existing policies and impose additional requirements governing the licensing, construction and operation of nuclear power plants. Prolonged changes in climatic conditions can also have a significant impact on both the revenues of an electric and gas utility as well as the expenses of a utility, particularly a hydro-based electric utility.

Utility companies in the United States and in foreign countries are generally subject to regulation. In the United States, most utility companies are regulated by state and/or federal authorities. Such regulation is intended to ensure appropriate standards of service and adequate capacity to meet public demand. Generally, prices are also regulated in the United States and in foreign countries with the intention of protecting the public while ensuring that the rate of return earned by utility companies is sufficient to allow them to attract capital in order to grow and continue to provide appropriate services. There can be no assurance that such pricing policies or rates of return will continue in the future.

The nature of regulation of the utility industries continues to evolve both in the United States and in foreign countries. In recent years, changes in regulation in the United States increasingly have allowed utility companies to provide services and products outside their traditional geographic areas and lines of business, creating new areas of competition within the industries. In some instances, utility companies are operating on an unregulated basis. Because of trends toward deregulation and the evolution of independent power producers as well as new entrants to the field of telecommunications, non-regulated providers of utility services have become a significant part of their respective industries. The Sub-Adviser believes that the emergence of competition and deregulation will result in certain utility companies being able to earn more than their traditional regulated rates of return, while others may be forced to defend their core business from increased competition and may be less profitable. Reduced profitability, as well as new uses of funds (such as for expansion, operations or stock buybacks) could result in cuts in dividend payout rates. The Sub-Adviser seeks to take advantage of favorable investment opportunities that may arise from these structural changes. Of course, there can be no assurance that favorable developments will occur in the future.

Non-U.S. utility companies are also subject to regulation, although such regulations may or may not be comparable to those in the United States. Non-U.S. utility companies may be more heavily regulated by their respective governments than utilities in the United States and, as in the United States, generally are required to seek government approval for rate increases. In addition, many non-U.S. utilities use fuels that may cause more pollution than those used in the United States, which may require such utilities to invest in pollution control equipment to meet any proposed pollution restrictions. Non-U.S. regulatory systems vary from country to country and may evolve in ways different from regulation in the United States.

The Fund's investment policies are designed to enable it to capitalize on evolving investment opportunities throughout the world. For example, the rapid growth of certain non-U.S. economies will necessitate expansion of capacity in the utility industries in those countries. Although many non-U.S. utility companies currently are government-owned, thereby limiting current investment opportunities for the Fund, the Sub-Adviser believes that, in order to attract significant capital for growth, foreign governments are likely to seek global investors through the privatization of their utility industries. Privatization, which refers to the trend toward investor ownership of assets rather than government ownership, is expected to occur in newer, faster-growing economies and in mature economies. Of course, there is no assurance that such favorable developments will occur or that investment opportunities in non-U.S. markets will increase.

The revenues of domestic and foreign utility companies generally reflect the economic growth and development in the geographic areas in which they do business. The Sub-Adviser will consider anticipated economic growth rates and other economic developments when selecting securities of utility companies.

*Electric.* The electric utility industry consists of companies that are engaged principally in the generation, transmission and sale of electric energy, although many also provide other energy-related services. In the past, electric utility companies, in general, have been favorably affected by lower fuel and financing costs and the full or near completion of major construction programs. In addition, many of these companies have generated cash flows in excess of current operating expenses and construction expenditures, permitting some degree of diversification into unregulated businesses. Some electric utilities have also taken advantage of the right to sell power outside of their traditional geographic areas. Electric utility companies have historically been subject to the risks associated with increases in fuel and other operating costs, high interest costs on borrowings needed for capital construction programs, costs associated with compliance with environmental and safety regulations and changes in the regulatory climate. As interest rates declined, many utilities refinanced high-cost debt and in doing so improved their fixed charges coverage. Regulators, however, lowered allowed rates of return as interest rates declined and thereby caused the benefits of the rate declines to be shared wholly or in part with customers. In a period of rising interest rates, the allowed rates of return may not keep pace with the utilities' increased costs. The construction and operation of nuclear power facilities are subject to strict scrutiny by, and evolving regulations of, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state agencies which have comparable jurisdiction. Strict scrutiny might result in higher operating costs and higher capital expenditures, with the risk that the regulators may disallow inclusion of these costs in rate authorizations or the risk that a company may not be permitted to operate or complete construction of a facility. In addition, operators of nuclear power plants may be subject to significant costs for disposal of nuclear fuel and for decommissioning such plants.

The rating agencies look closely at the business profile of utilities. Ratings for companies are expected to be impacted to a greater extent in the future by the division of their asset base. Electric utility companies that focus more on the generation of electricity may be assigned less favorable ratings as this business is expected to be competitive and the least regulated. On the other hand, companies that focus on transmission and distribution, which is expected to be the least competitive and the more regulated part of the business, may see higher ratings given the greater predictability of cash flow.

A number of states are considering or have enacted deregulation proposals. The introduction of competition into the industry as a result of such deregulation has at times resulted in lower revenue, lower credit ratings, increased default risk, and lower electric utility security prices. Such increased competition may also cause long-term contracts, which electric utilities previously entered into to buy power, to become "stranded assets" which have no economic value. Any loss associated with such contracts must be absorbed by ratepayers and investors. In addition, some electric utilities have acquired electric utilities overseas to diversify, enhance earnings and gain experience in operating in a deregulated environment. In some instances, such acquisitions have involved significant borrowings, which have burdened the acquirer's balance sheet. There is no assurance that current deregulation proposals will be adopted. However, deregulation in any form could significantly impact the electric utilities industry.

*Telecommunications.* The telecommunications industry today includes both traditional telephone companies, with a history of broad market coverage and highly regulated businesses, and cable companies, which began as small, lightly regulated businesses focused on limited markets. Today these two historically different businesses are converging in an industry that is trending toward larger, competitive national and international markets with an emphasis on deregulation. Companies that distribute telephone services and provide access to the telephone networks still comprise the greatest portion of this segment, but non-regulated activities such as wireless telephone services, paging, data transmission and processing, equipment retailing, computer software and hardware and internet services are becoming increasingly significant components as well. In particular, wireless and internet telephone services continue to gain market share at the expense of traditional telephone companies. The presence of unregulated companies in this industry and the entry of traditional telephone companies into unregulated or less regulated businesses provide significant investment opportunities with companies that may increase their earnings at faster rates than had been allowed in traditional regulated businesses. Still, increasing competition, technological innovations and other structural changes could adversely affect the profitability of such utilities and the growth rate of their dividends. Given mergers and proposed legislation and enforcement changes, it is likely that both traditional telephone companies and cable companies will continue to provide an expanding range of utility services to both residential, corporate and governmental customers.

*Gas.* Gas transmission companies and gas distribution companies are undergoing significant changes. In the United States, interstate transmission companies are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is reducing its regulation of the industry. Many companies have diversified into oil and gas exploration and development, making returns more sensitive to energy prices. In the recent decade, gas utility companies have been adversely affected by disruptions in the oil industry and have also been affected by increased concentration and competition. In the opinion of the Sub-Adviser, however, environmental considerations could improve the gas industry outlook in the future. For example, natural gas is the cleanest of the hydrocarbon fuels, and this may result in incremental shifts in fuel consumption toward natural gas and away from oil and coal, even for electricity generation. However, technological or regulatory changes within the industry may delay or prevent this result.

*Water.* Water supply utilities are companies that collect, purify, distribute and sell water. In the United States and around the world the industry is highly fragmented because most of the supplies are owned by local authorities. Companies in this industry are generally mature and are experiencing little or no per capita volume growth. In the opinion of the Sub-Adviser, there may be opportunities for certain companies to acquire other water utility companies and for foreign acquisition of domestic companies. The Sub-Adviser believes that favorable investment opportunities may result from consolidation of this segment. As with other utilities, however, increased regulation, increased costs and potential disruptions in supply may adversely affect investments in water supply utilities.

*Utility Industries Generally.* There can be no assurance that the positive developments noted above, including those relating to privatization and changing regulation, will occur or that risk factors other than those noted above will not develop in the future.

#### **When Issued Securities, Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments**

The Fund may purchase or sell securities that it is entitled to receive on a when issued basis. The Fund may also purchase or sell securities on a delayed delivery basis or through a forward commitment (including on a “TBA” (to be announced) basis). The Fund enters into these transactions to obtain what is considered an advantageous price to the Fund at the time of entering into the transaction. When the Fund purchases securities in these transactions, the Fund segregates liquid securities in an amount equal to the amount of its purchase commitments. In addition, recently finalized rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”) include mandatory margin requirements that require the Fund to post collateral in connection with its TBA transactions. There is no similar requirement applicable to the Fund’s TBA counterparties. The required collateralization of TBA trades could increase the cost of TBA transactions to the Fund and impose added operational complexity.

The purchase or sale of when-issued securities enables an investor to hedge against anticipated changes in interest rates and prices by locking in an attractive price or yield. The price of when-issued securities is fixed at the time the commitment to purchase or sell is made, but delivery and payment for the when-issued securities takes place at a later date, normally one to two months after the date of purchase. During the period between purchase and settlement, no payment is made by the purchaser to the issuer and no interest accrues to the purchaser. Such transactions therefore involve a risk of loss if the value of the security to be purchased declines prior to the settlement date or if the value of the security to be sold increases prior to the settlement date. A sale of a when-issued security also involves the risk that the other party will be unable to settle the transaction.

Purchases and sales of securities on a forward commitment basis involve a commitment to purchase or sell securities with payment and delivery to take place at some future date, normally one to two months after the date of the transaction. As with when-issued securities, these transactions involve certain risks, but they also enable an investor to hedge against anticipated changes in interest rates and prices. Forward commitment transactions are executed for existing obligations, whereas in a when-issued transaction, the obligations have not yet been issued.

There can be no assurance that a security purchased on a when issued basis will be issued or that a security purchased or sold on a delayed delivery basis or through a forward commitment will be delivered. Also, the value of securities in these transactions on the delivery date may be more or less than the price paid by the Fund to purchase the securities. The Fund will lose money if the value of the security in such a transaction declines below the purchase price and will not benefit if the value of the security appreciates above the sale price during the commitment period.

If deemed advisable as a matter of investment strategy, the Fund may dispose of or renegotiate a commitment after it has been entered into and may sell securities it has committed to purchase before those securities are delivered to the Fund on the settlement date. In these cases, the Fund may realize a taxable capital gain or loss.

When the Fund engages in when-issued, TBA or forward commitment transactions, it relies on the other party to consummate the trade. Failure of such party to do so may result in the Fund's incurring a loss or missing an opportunity to obtain a price considered to be advantageous.

The market value of the securities underlying a commitment to purchase securities, and any subsequent fluctuations in their market value, is considered when determining the market value of the Fund starting on the day the Fund agrees to purchase the securities.

## **Management**

The management of the Trust, including general supervision of the duties performed for the Fund under the Investment Management Agreement, is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The Trust has four trustees all of whom are not "interested persons" as defined in Section 2(a)(19) under the 1940 Act (referred to herein as "*Independent Trustees*"). The names, business addresses and year of birth of the trustees and executive officers of the Fund, their principal occupations and other affiliations during the past five years, the number of portfolios each oversees and other directorships they hold are set forth below. The trustees of the Trust are trustees of two Destra-sponsored open-end funds (the Fund and the Destra Granahan Small Cap Advantage Fund, each a series of the Trust), two Destra-sponsored closed-end funds (the BlueBay Destra International Event-Driven Credit Fund and the Destra Multi-Alternative Fund) and the Destra Exchange-Traded Fund Trust, of which there is currently no active series (collectively, the "*Destra Funds*" or the "*Fund Complex*"). The address for each trustee is c/o Destra Investment Trust, 443 N. Willson Ave., Bozeman, MT, 59715.

<b>Name and Birth Year</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with Fund</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served with Trust</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee</b>
<i>Independent Trustees:</i>					
John S. Emrich, CFA Birth year: 1967	Trustee	Term - Indefinite Length of Service - Since 2014	Financial Advisor, self-employed, Red Earth Finance LLC (January 2018 to present), Mortgage Banker, The Mortgage Company (2018 to 2021).	4	Meridian Fund, Inc. (registered investment company) (4 portfolios); ArrowMark Financial Corp. (closed-end management investment company)
Michael S. Erickson Birth year: 1952	Trustee	Term - Indefinite Length of Service - Since 2014	Private Investor, (August 2007 to present); Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Erickson Holding Corp. (a passive real estate holding company) (2003 to present); Chief Operating Office and Chief Financial Officer, McGee Island LLC (a real estate management company) (2015 to present).	4	Meridian Fund, Inc. (registered investment company) (4 portfolios)
Jeffrey S. Murphy Birth year: 1966	Trustee	Term - Indefinite Length of Service - Since 2017	Retired (2014-present).	4	None
Nicholas Dalmaso <sup>(2)</sup> Birth year: 1965	Trustee, Chairman of the Board	Term - Indefinite Length of Service - Since 2010	General Counsel of EquityBee, Inc. (2022 to present); Chair and CEO of Sound Capital Holdings LLC, Sound Capital Distributors LLC (a registered broker/dealer) and Sound Capital Solutions LLC (an investment advisor) (2020 to present); General Counsel (2014 to present) and Chief Compliance Officer (2014 - 2019) of M1 Holdings Inc.; General Counsel (2014 to present) and Chief Compliance Officer (2014 - 2019) of M1 Finance LLC (a registered broker/dealer); General Counsel (2014 to present) and Chief Compliance Officer (2014 - 2019) of M1 Advisory Services LLC (an investment adviser); Independent Director of Keno Kozie Associates (IT Consulting) (2016 to 2018).	4	Milliman Variable Insurance Trust (2 portfolios); Flaherty and Crumrine Investment Company Boards (5 listed closed-end funds)

- (1) The “Fund Complex” consists of the BlueBay Destra International Event-Driven Credit Fund, the Destra Multi-Alternative Fund, the Fund, and the Destra Granahan Small Cap Advantage Fund, each of the latter two being a series of the Destra Investment Trust, and the Destra Exchange-Traded Fund Trust, of which there is currently no active series.
- (2) Prior to February 8, 2021, Mr. Dalmaso was considered an “interested person” of the Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act) because of his former position with the Fund’s previous investment adviser. As of February 8, 2021, Mr. Dalmaso is no longer an “interested person.”

Each trustee serves for the lifetime of the Trust until removal, resignation or retirement and his or her successor is elected.

The following persons serve as the Fund’s executive officers in the following capacities:

*Officers of the Trust*

<b>Name and Birth Year</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Fund</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years</b>
Robert Watson Birth year: 1965	President since 2016	Partner & Head of Investments (2021 to present); Senior Managing Director and Investment Product Strategist, Destra Capital Investments LLC (2011 to 2020).
Derek Mullins Birth year: 1973	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer since 2018	Managing Partner and Co-Founder, PINE Advisor Solutions (2018 to present).
Jake Schultz Birth year: 1996	Secretary since 2021	Partner, Director, Portfolio Oversight & Analytics (2021 to present); Director, Product Management (2020 to 2021); Product Analyst (2018 to 2020), Destra Capital Management LLC, Destra Capital Investments LLC and Destra Capital Advisors LLC.
Marcie McVeigh Birth year: 1979	Assistant Treasurer since 2020	Director, Head of PFO Services, PINE Advisor Solutions (2020 to present); Assistant Vice President and Performance Measurement Manager, Brown Brothers Harriman (2019 to 2020); Senior Financial Reporting Specialist, American Century Investments (2011 to 2018).
Ken Merritt Birth year: 1961	Assistant Secretary since 2021	Partner & Director, Product Management & Development (2021 to present); Senior Managing Director, Product Management & Development (2019 to 2021), Destra Capital Management LLC, Destra Capital Advisors LLC and Destra Capital Investments LLC; Senior Managing Director, Fund Operations, Priority Income Fund (2018 to 2019), Destra Capital Management LLC; Managing Director, External Wholesaler (2012 to 2018), Destra Capital Management LLC.
Randi Roessler Birth year: 1981	Chief Compliance Officer since 2023	Director, PINE Advisor Solutions (March 2023-present); Chief Compliance Officer, Davis Selected Advisers, L.P., Davis Funds, Selected Funds, the Clipper Fund Trust, the Davis Fundamental ETF Trust, and Davis Distributors, LLC (2018-2023).

The address for each executive officer is 443 N. Willson Ave., Bozeman, MT, 59715.

## **Board Leadership Structure and Risk Oversight**

The Board of Trustees oversees the operations and management of the Destra Funds, including the duties performed for the Fund by DFC, the investment adviser. The officers of the Trust hold the same positions with the other Destra Funds as they hold with the Trust.

The management of the Fund, including general supervision of the duties performed for the Fund under the Investment Management Agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, and the Adviser, is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees sets broad policies for the Fund, chooses the Trust's officers and hires the Fund's investment adviser, sub-adviser and other service providers. The officers of the Trust manage the day-to-day operations and are responsible to the Board, which is composed of four Independent Trustees. Nicholas Dalmaso serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Destra Funds. Robert Watson serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Destra Funds. The Board does not currently have a lead independent trustee, and each Independent Trustee plays an active role on the Board.

Annually, the Board reviews its governance and committee structures, their performance and functions and review any processes that would enhance Board governance over the Fund's business. The Board has determined that its leadership structure is appropriate based on the characteristics of the Destra Funds as a whole.

The Board has established two standing committees (as described below) and has delegated certain of its responsibilities to those committees. The Board and its committees meet frequently throughout the year to oversee the Fund's activities, review contractual arrangements with and performance of service providers, oversee compliance with regulatory requirements and review Fund performance. The Independent Trustees are represented by independent legal counsel at all Board and committee meetings. Generally, the Board acts by majority vote of all the trustees, including a majority vote of the Independent Trustees if required by applicable law.

The two standing committees of the Destra Funds are the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Audit Committee. The Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for appointing and nominating non-interested persons to the Board of Trustees. Messrs. Emrich, Erickson, Dalmaso and Murphy are members of the Nominating and Governance Committee. If there is no vacancy on the Board of Trustees, the Board will not actively seek recommendations from other parties, including shareholders. When a vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Destra Funds occurs and nominations are sought to fill such vacancy, the Nominating and Governance Committee may seek nominations from those sources it deems appropriate in its discretion, including shareholders of the Fund. To submit a recommendation for nomination as a candidate for a position on the Board of Trustees, shareholders of the Fund shall mail such recommendation to Jake Schultz, Secretary, at the Fund's address, 443 N. Willson Ave., Bozeman, MT, 59715. Such recommendation shall include the following information: (i) evidence of Fund ownership of the person or entity recommending the candidate (if a Fund shareholder); (ii) a full description of the proposed candidate's background, including education, experience, current employment and date of birth; (iii) names and addresses of at least three professional references for the candidate; (iv) information as to whether the candidate is an "interested person" in relation to the Fund, as such term is defined in the 1940 Act, and such other information that may be considered to impair the candidate's independence; and (v) any other information that may be helpful to the Nominating and Governance Committee in evaluating the candidate. If a recommendation is received with satisfactorily completed information regarding a candidate during a time when a vacancy exists on the Board or during such other time as the Nominating and Governance Committee is accepting recommendations, the recommendation will be forwarded to the Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee and to counsel to the Independent Trustees. Recommendations received at any other time will be kept on file until such time as the Nominating and Governance Committee is accepting recommendations, at which point they may be considered for nomination. During the last fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the Nominating and Governance Committee met once.

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the Fund's accounting and financial reporting process, the system of internal controls, audit process and evaluating and appointing independent auditors (subject also to Board approval). Messrs. Emrich, Erickson and Murphy serve on the Audit Committee. During the last fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the Audit Committee met three times.



As part of the general oversight of the Fund, the Board is involved in the risk oversight of the Fund. The Board has adopted and periodically reviews policies and procedures designed to address the Fund's risks. Oversight of investment and compliance risk, including oversight of any sub-adviser, is performed primarily at the Board level in conjunction with the Adviser's Investment Committee and the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"). The Adviser's Investment Committee reports to the Board at quarterly meetings regarding, among other things, Fund performance and the various drivers of such performance, as well as information related to sub-advisers and their operations and processes. The Board reviews reports on the Fund's and the service providers' compliance policies and procedures at each quarterly Board meeting and receives an annual report from the CCO regarding the operations of the Fund's and the service providers' compliance programs. The Audit Committee reviews with DFC the Fund's major financial risk exposures and the steps DFC has taken to monitor and control these exposures, including the Fund's risk assessment and risk management policies and guidelines. The Audit Committee also, as appropriate, reviews in a general manner the processes other Board committees have in place with respect to risk assessment and risk management. The Nominating and Governance Committee monitors all matters related to the corporate governance of the Fund. The Board is responsible for all pricing and valuation matters and delegates the day-to-day pricing and valuation obligations to the Adviser's Investment Committee. The Board oversees the pricing agents and actions by the Adviser's Investment Committee with respect to the valuation of portfolio securities.

Not all risks that may affect the Fund can be identified nor can controls be developed to eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects. It may not be practical or cost effective to eliminate or mitigate certain risks, the processes and controls employed to address certain risks may be limited in their effectiveness and some risks are simply beyond the reasonable control of the Fund or DFC or other service providers. Moreover, it is necessary to bear certain risks (such as investment-related risks) to achieve the Fund's goals. As a result of the foregoing and other factors, the Fund's ability to manage risk is subject to substantial limitations.

#### **Board Diversification and Trustee Qualifications**

As described above, the Nominating and Governance Committee of the Board oversees matters related to the nomination of trustees. The Nominating and Governance Committee seeks to establish an effective Board with an appropriate range of skills and diversity, including, as appropriate, differences in background, professional experience, education, vocations and other individual characteristics and traits in the aggregate. Each trustee must meet certain basic requirements, including relevant skills and experience, time availability and, if qualifying as an Independent Trustee, independence from DFC and any sub-adviser, underwriter or other service provider, including any affiliates of these entities.

For each current trustee, each of the qualifications and attributes described in this section entitled "Management" above and in the paragraphs below have led to the Board's conclusion that, as of the date of this SAI, each trustee qualified to serve as a trustee of the Trust. References to the experiences, qualifications, attributes and skills of Board members are pursuant to requirements of the SEC, do not constitute holding out of the Board or any Board member as having any special expertise or experience and shall not impose any greater responsibility or liability on any such person or on the Board by reason thereof.

*John S. Emrich.* Mr. Emrich has significant experience in the investment management and financial services industry. Mr. Emrich served as a financial analyst or portfolio manager for over 14 years for various investment advisory firms and currently serves as a director of Meridian Fund, Inc. Prior to such positions he also performed business valuations and appraisal analyses at KPMG Peat Marwick, an accounting firm.

*Michael S. Erickson.* Mr. Erickson has significant leadership and financial management experience, previously serving as Chairman of the Board and Chief Financial Officer of AeroAstro for nearly ten years, and as a Director on the Board of Directors of Decimal, Inc., an online IRA administration company. Mr. Erickson also currently serves as a director of Meridian Fund, Inc., an open-end registered investment company. He has served as a certified public accountant for Coopers & Lybrand, an accounting firm, and has served as Chief Operating and Chief Financial Officer for several companies. Mr. Erickson holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Stanford Graduate School of Business.

*Jeffrey S. Murphy.* Mr. Murphy has significant experience in the investment management and financial services industry. Mr. Murphy held numerous positions during his 20-year tenure at Affiliated Managers Group, Inc., including in operations, finance and capital development areas. Mr. Murphy also held positions on the executive board and mutual fund board of trustees for several Affiliated Managers Group, Inc. affiliates.

*Nicholas Dalmaso.* Nicholas Dalmaso is an accomplished Senior Executive and Legal Professional with more than 25 years of success spanning financial services, investments, banking, and fin-tech. His broad areas of expertise include corporate governance, regulatory compliance, litigation, asset and investment management, business development, strategy, and securities law. Throughout his executive career, he has held leadership positions with M1 Holdings, Destra Capital Management, Claymore Group, Nuveen Investments, and Van Kampen Investments.

#### Compensation of Trustees

Trustees who do not also serve in an executive officer capacity for the Fund, DFC or Flaherty & Crumrine are entitled to receive from the Fund an annual cash retainer.

In consideration of the services rendered by the Independent Trustees, the Fund Complex pays each Independent Trustee a retainer of \$39,000 per year, and the Chairman of the Board a retainer of \$46,000 per year for his services in this capacity. Each fund in the Destra Fund Complex pays or paid a portion of the retainer received by each Trustee, which is allocated annually across the Destra Fund Complex based on each fund's respective net assets as of December 31 of the preceding year.

The Fund also reimburses each of the Trustees for all reasonable and authorized business expenses in accordance with the Fund's policies as in effect from time to time, including reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attending each in-person Board meeting and each committee meeting not held concurrently with a Board meeting.

The following table provides information (including reimbursement for travel and out-of-pocket expenses) for the past fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. The Trust does not have a bonus, profit sharing, pension or retirement plan.

Name of Person, Position	Aggregate Compensation From the Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued As Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation From Destra Fund Complex*
John S. Emrich, Trustee	\$22,020	None	None	\$39,000
Michael S. Erickson, Trustee	\$22,020	None	None	\$39,000
Jeffrey S. Murphy, Trustee	\$22,020	None	None	\$39,000
Nicholas Dalmaso, Trustee	\$25,972	None	None	\$46,000

\* The term "Fund Complex" as used here refers to the Fund and the Destra Granahan Small Cap Advantage Fund, a series of the Trust, the Destra Multi-Alternative Fund, the BlueBay Destra International Event-Driven Credit Fund, and the Destra Exchange-Traded Fund Trust, of which there is currently no active series.

Share Ownership

As of December 31, 2023, the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the trustees is provided in the following table:

Name of Trustee	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies
John S. Emrich	None	None
Michael S. Erickson	None	None
Jeffrey S. Murphy	None	None
Nicholas Dalmaso	None	None

As of December 31, 2023, none of the Independent Trustees or their immediate family members owned, beneficially, or of record, any securities in (i) an investment adviser or principal underwriter of the Fund or (ii) a person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with an investment adviser or principal underwriter of the Fund.

**Control Persons and Principal Shareholders**

A control person is a shareholder that (1) beneficially owns, directly or indirectly through controlled companies, more than 25% of the voting securities of a company, (2) acknowledges or asserts the existence of control, or (3) has a final adjudication under section 2(a)(9) of the 1940 Act that control exists. A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of any class of the Fund. Shareholders owning voting securities in excess of 25% may determine the outcome of any matter affecting and voted on by shareholders of the Fund. Any control person of a class, as noted below, may be able to significantly influence the outcome of any item presented to shareholders for approval.

As of January 2, 2024, the following persons or organizations held beneficially or of record 5% or more of the shares of the Fund.

Class	Name	Address	Percentage of Ownership
Class A	Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC	1 NY Plaza, New York, New York 10004	16%
Class A	LPL Financial	4707 Executive Drive, San Diego, California 92121	7%
Class A	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.	211 Main Street, San Francisco, California 94105	41%
Class C	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.	211 Main Street, San Francisco, California 94105	28%
Class C	Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC	1 NY Plaza, New York, New York 10004	13%
Class I	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.	211 Main Street, San Francisco, California 94105	15%
Class I	LPL Financial	4707 Executive Drive, San Diego, California 92121	16%
Class I	Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC	1 NY Plaza, New York, New York 10004	19%

As of January 2, 2024, the officers and trustees of the Fund, in the aggregate, owned less than 1% of the equity securities of the Fund.

## Investment Adviser and Sub-Adviser

The Fund has retained DFC Preferred Advisors LLC (“DFC” or “Adviser”) to serve as its investment adviser. DFC, located at 443 N. Willson Ave. Bozeman, MT, 59715, is an affiliate of Destra Capital Advisors LLC, the Fund’s previous investment adviser (“Destra”) but jointly-owned by Destra and Flaherty & Crumrine Incorporated (“Flaherty & Crumrine” or the “Sub-Adviser”). DFC, which was formed in 2020, is operated by Destra and has responsibility for the overall management of the Fund. It is also responsible for managing the Fund’s business affairs and providing day-to-day administrative services to the Fund.

For the management services provided by DFC, the Fund has agreed to pay a monthly fee in an annual amount equal to 0.75% of the Fund’s daily net assets. DFC has agreed to contractually waive its advisory fee and/or assume the other expenses in order to limit the total annual fund operating expenses of the Fund to certain limits until January 31, 2034, and will automatically continue in effect for successive twelve-month periods thereafter. Any waiver or reimbursement by the Adviser is subject to repayment by the Fund within three years from the date of the waiver, provided that the Fund is able to make the repayment without causing the Fund’s expense ratio (after recoupment) to exceed the lesser of (i) the expense limit in effect at the time of the waiver and (ii) the expense limit in effect at the time of the repayment, and the repayment is approved by the Board of Trustees.

The following table shows the advisory fees (net of fee waivers and expense reimbursements, where applicable) paid by the Fund to DFC and the fees waived by DFC for the specified periods.

	<b>Amount of Advisory Fees (Net of Fee Waivers and Expense Reimbursements</b>	<b>Amount of Fees Waived and Expenses Reimbursed</b>
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2021*	\$ 2,219,561	\$ 0
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2022	\$ 2,178,885	\$ 0
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2023	\$ 1,640,188	\$ 0

\* Prior to February 11, 2021, another investment adviser provided investment advisory services to the Fund.

The Fund, DFC and other related entities have adopted codes of ethics that significantly restrict Destra Fund personnel with access to non-public portfolio information from certain personal investment transactions. These codes of ethics contain policies restricting securities trading in personal accounts of the officers, trustees and others who normally come into possession of information on portfolio transactions. These codes of ethics are on public file with, and are available from, the SEC. Destra Capital Investments LLC, the principal underwriter and distributor of the Fund (the “Distributor”), has adopted a code of ethics that permits personnel to acquire shares of the Fund pursuant to Item 17(e) of Form N-1A.

## Sub-Adviser

DFC has selected Flaherty & Crumrine, 301 East Colorado Blvd., Suite 800, Pasadena, California 91101, as sub-adviser to manage the investment portfolio of the Fund. Pursuant to an investment Sub-Advisory Agreement, DFC has agreed to pay an annualized sub-advisory fee to Flaherty & Crumrine (the “Sub-Advisory Fee”) equal to 50% of the advisory fee paid to DFC for its services to the Fund (net of any waivers, reimbursement payments, supermarket fees and alliance fees waived, reimbursed or paid by the investment adviser in respect of the Fund).

The following table shows the fees paid by DFC to Flaherty & Crumrine for its services for the specified periods.

	<b>Amount Paid to Flaherty &amp; Crumrine</b>
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2021*	\$ 1,045,791
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2022	\$ 1,023,600.75
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2023	\$ 230,044.53

\* Prior to February 11, 2021, another investment adviser paid the Sub-Adviser for its services.

#### Portfolio Managers

The following paragraphs provide certain information with respect to the portfolio managers of the Fund and the material conflicts of interest that may arise in connection with their management of the investments of the Fund, on the one hand, and the investments of other client accounts for which they have responsibility, on the other hand.

R. Eric Chadwick and Bradford S. Stone jointly serve as the portfolio managers of the Fund.

*Other Accounts Managed.* The table below illustrates other accounts where each of the portfolio managers has significant day-to-day management responsibilities as of September 30, 2023. The portfolio managers do not receive performance-based fees with respect to any account that they manage.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Type of Account Managed</b>	<b>Number of Accounts</b>	<b>Assets (in millions)*</b>
R. Eric Chadwick	Registered Investment Companies	5	\$2,596
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	\$114
	Other Accounts	10	\$855
Bradford S. Stone	Registered Investment Companies	5	\$2,596
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	\$114
	Other Accounts	10	\$855

\* Total assets reflect accounts managed jointly as part of a team.

*Conflicts of Interest.* In addition to the Fund, the portfolio managers jointly manage accounts for five U.S. closed-end funds, one Canadian closed-end investment trust (the "Other Pooled Investment Vehicle" noted above) and other institutional clients.

As a result, potential conflicts of interest may arise as follows:

- *Allocation of Limited Time and Attention.* The portfolio managers may devote unequal time and attention to the management of all accounts. As a result, the portfolio managers may not be able to formulate as complete a strategy or identify equally attractive investment opportunities for each of those accounts as might be the case if they were to devote substantially more attention to the management of one account.
- *Allocation of Limited Investment Opportunities.* If the portfolio managers identify an investment opportunity that may be suitable for multiple accounts, the Fund may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity because the opportunity may need to be allocated among other accounts.

- *Pursuit of Differing Strategies.* At times, the portfolio managers may determine that an investment opportunity may be appropriate for only some accounts or may decide that certain of these accounts should take differing positions (*i.e.*, may buy or sell the particular security at different times or the same time or in differing amounts) with respect to a particular security. In these cases, the portfolio managers may place separate transactions for one or more accounts which may affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of one or more other accounts.
- *Variation in Compensation.* A conflict of interest may arise where the financial or other benefits available to the portfolio managers differ among accounts. While Flaherty & Crumrine only charges fees based on assets under management and does not receive a performance fee from any of its accounts, and while it strives to maintain uniform fee schedules, it does have different fee schedules based on the differing advisory services required by some accounts. Consequently, though the differences in such fee rates are slight, the portfolio managers may be motivated to favor certain accounts over others. In addition, the desire to maintain assets under management or to derive other rewards, financial or otherwise, could influence the portfolio managers in affording preferential treatment to those accounts that could most significantly benefit Flaherty & Crumrine.

Flaherty & Crumrine and the Fund have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are designed to address the various conflicts of interest that may arise for the Sub-Adviser and its staff members. However, there is no guarantee that such policies and procedures will be able to detect and prevent every situation in which an actual or potential conflict may arise.

*Compensation.* Compensation is paid solely by Flaherty & Crumrine. Each portfolio manager receives the same fixed salary. In addition, each portfolio manager receives a bonus based on peer reviews of his performance and the total net investment advisory fees received by Flaherty & Crumrine (which are in turn based on the value of its assets under management). The portfolio managers do not receive deferred compensation, but participate in a profit-sharing plan available to all employees of the Adviser; amounts are determined as a percentage of the employee's eligible compensation for a calendar year based on Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") limitations. Each portfolio manager is also a shareholder of Flaherty & Crumrine and receives quarterly dividends based on his equity interest in the company.

*Ownership of Securities.* As of September 30, 2023, the portfolio managers beneficially owned the following dollar range of equity securities in the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</b>
R. Eric Chadwick	\$100,001 - \$500,000
Bradford S. Stone	\$100,001 - \$500,000

#### **Proxy Voting Policies**

The Fund has adopted a proxy voting policy that seeks to ensure that proxies for securities held by the Fund are voted consistently and solely in the best economic interests of the Fund.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for oversight of the Fund's proxy voting process. The Board has delegated day-to-day proxy voting responsibility to Flaherty & Crumrine. Flaherty & Crumrine's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures are set forth in Appendix A.

Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies (if any) relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 will be available upon request and without charge on the Fund's website at [destracapital.com/strategies/literature](https://destracapital.com/strategies/literature), by calling 844-9DESTRA (933-7872) or by accessing the SEC's website at <https://www.sec.gov>.

## Administrator

UMB Fund Services, Inc. (“UMB”) serves as administrator pursuant to a Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement between the Trust and UMB dated September 24, 2018, as amended. UMB, located at 235 W. Galena Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212, provides administrative services and valuation and computation services. The following table sets forth total administrative fees paid by the Fund for the specified periods.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021	\$	227,758
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022	\$	239,103
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023	\$	201,484

## Portfolio Transactions

The Sub-Adviser is responsible for decisions to buy and sell securities for the Fund and for the placement of the Fund’s securities business, the negotiation of the commissions to be paid on brokered transactions, the prices for principal trades in securities and the allocation of portfolio brokerage and principal business. It is the policy of the Sub-Adviser to seek the best execution at the best security price available with respect to each transaction, and with respect to brokered transactions, in light of the overall quality of brokerage and research services provided to the adviser and its advisees. The best price to the Fund means the best net price without regard to the mix between purchase or sale price and commission, if any. Purchases may be made from underwriters, dealers, and, on occasion, the issuers. Commissions will be paid on the Fund’s futures and options transactions, if any. The purchase price of portfolio securities purchased from an underwriter or dealer may include underwriting commissions and dealer spreads. The Fund may pay markups on principal transactions. In selecting broker-dealers and in negotiating commissions, the portfolio manager considers, among other things, the firm’s reliability, the quality of its execution services on a continuing basis and its financial condition. Brokerage will not be allocated based on the sale of the Fund’s shares.

Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, permits an investment adviser, under certain circumstances, to cause an account to pay a broker or dealer who supplies brokerage and research services a commission for effecting the transaction in excess of the amount of commission another broker or dealer would have charged for effecting the transaction. Brokerage and research services include, but are not limited to, (a) furnishing advice as to the value of securities, the advisability of investing, purchasing or selling securities, and the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities; (b) furnishing analyses and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy, and the performance of accounts; and (c) effecting securities transactions and performing functions incidental thereto (such as clearance, settlement and custody).

In light of the above, in selecting brokers, the portfolio managers consider investment and market information and other research, such as economic, securities and performance measurement research, provided by such brokers, and the quality and reliability of brokerage services, including execution capability, performance and financial responsibility. Accordingly, the commissions charged by any such broker may be greater than the amount another firm might charge if the portfolio managers determine in good faith that the amount of such commissions is reasonable in relation to the value of the research information and brokerage services provided by such broker to the Sub-Adviser or the Fund. The Sub-Adviser believes that the research information received in this manner provides the Fund with benefits by supplementing the research otherwise available to the Fund. The Investment Management Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Agreement provide that such higher commissions will not be paid by the Fund unless the Sub-Adviser determines in good faith that the amount is reasonable in relation to the services provided. The investment advisory fees paid by the Fund to DFC under the Investment Management Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Fee paid by DFC to the Sub-Adviser under the Sub-Advisory Agreement are not reduced as a result of receipt by either DFC or the Sub-Adviser of research services.

The Sub-Adviser places portfolio transactions for other advisory accounts managed by it. Research services furnished by firms through which the Fund effects its securities transactions may be used by the Sub-Adviser in servicing all of its accounts; not all of such services may be used by the Sub-Adviser in connection with the Fund. The Sub-Adviser believes it is not possible to measure separately the benefits from research services to each of the accounts (including the Fund) managed by it. Because the volume and nature of the trading activities of the accounts are not uniform, the amount of commissions in excess of those charged by another broker paid by each account for brokerage and research services will vary. However, the Sub-Adviser believes such costs to the Fund will not be disproportionate to the benefits received by the Fund on a continuing basis. The Sub-Adviser seeks to allocate portfolio transactions equitably whenever concurrent decisions are made to purchase or sell securities by the Fund and another advisory account. In some cases, this procedure could have an adverse effect on the price or the amount of securities available to the Fund. In making such allocations between the Fund and other advisory accounts, the main factors considered by the Sub-Adviser are the respective investment objectives, the relative size of portfolio holdings of the same or comparable securities, the availability of cash for investment and the size of investment commitments generally held.

The following table sets forth the aggregate amount of brokerage commissions paid by the Fund for the specified periods.

	<b>Aggregate Amount of Brokerage Commissions</b>
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2021	\$ 0
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2022	\$ 0
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2023	\$ 0

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the Fund did not pay commissions to brokers in return for research services.

Payments to financial intermediaries based on transactional charges may include the payment or reimbursement of all or a portion of “networking fees.” Networking fees are fees charged to salespersons purchasing through a financial intermediary firm in connection with mutual fund purchases, redemptions, or exchanges. The payment or reimbursement of networking fees creates an incentive for salespersons of an intermediary to sell shares of Destra Funds over shares of funds for which there is lesser or no payment or reimbursement of any applicable ticket charge. DFC and its affiliates consider a number of factors in making payments to financial intermediaries, including the distribution capabilities of the intermediary, the overall quality of the relationship, expected gross and/or net sales generated by the relationship, redemption and retention rates of assets held through the intermediary, the willingness of the intermediary to cooperate with DFC’s marketing efforts, access to sales personnel and the anticipated profitability of sales through the institutional relationship. These factors may change from time to time.

The following table sets forth the aggregate amount of networking fees paid to broker-dealer firms with respect to the sale of Fund shares for the specified periods.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount of Compensation Paid</b>
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2023	Morgan Stanley	\$22,519
	LPL	\$31,300
	MSCS/SEI	\$5,167
	NFS	\$45,284
	Pershing	\$8,771
	Raymond James	\$21,044
	RBC Wealth Management	\$972
	Schwab	\$75,183
	UBS	\$6,951
	Vanguard	\$896
	Voya	\$242
	Wells Fargo	\$11,715
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$230,044</b>



During the last fiscal year, the Fund held securities of BNP Paribas, Citigroup, Inc., Goldman Sachs Group, Wells Fargo & Company, Morgan Stanley, Societe Generale, UBS AG, Barclays Bank PLC, Apollo Global Management, Bank of America Corporation, Macquarie Bank Limited, Apollo Global Management, JPMorgan Chase & Company, Deutsche Bank AG and CNO Financial Group, each a regular broker or dealer of the Fund as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act. As of September 30, 2023, the Fund's investment in each was 3.35%, 2.90%, 2.42%, 2.07%, 1.59%, 1.49%, 1.33%, 1.22%, 1.15%, 1.00%, 0.68%, 0.64%, 0.22%, 0.16%, 0.12% of the Fund's net assets, respectively.

Under the 1940 Act, the Fund may not purchase portfolio securities from any underwriting syndicate of which the Distributor is a member except under certain limited conditions set forth in Rule 10f-3. The Rule sets forth requirements relating to, among other things, the terms of a security purchased by the Fund, the amount of securities that may be purchased in any one issue and the assets of the Fund that may be invested in a particular issue. All such transactions are reported to and reviewed by the Board on a regular basis.

#### **Net Asset Value**

As stated in the Fund's Prospectus, the NAV of the shares of each class of the Fund is determined once each day the NYSE is open, as of the close of its regular trading session (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday). The per share NAV for each class of the Fund is computed by dividing the total value of securities and other assets allocated to the class, less liabilities allocated to that class, by the total number of outstanding shares for the class. In determining NAV, securities listed on an Exchange, the Nasdaq National Market, and non-U.S. markets are generally valued at the closing sale prices on such markets. If such price is lacking for the trading period immediately preceding the time of determination, such securities are valued at their current bid price. Municipal securities held by the Fund are traded primarily in the OTC markets. Valuations of such securities are furnished by one or more pricing services employed by the Fund and approved by the trustees and are based upon a computerized matrix system or appraisals obtained by a pricing service, in each case in reliance upon information concerning market transactions and quotations from recognized municipal securities dealers. Other securities that are traded on the OTC markets are generally valued at their closing bid prices. Non-U.S. securities and currencies are converted to U.S. dollars using the applicable exchange rate in effect at the close of the NYSE. The Fund will determine the market value of individual securities held by it by using prices provided by one or more professional pricing services which may provide market prices to other funds, or, as needed, by obtaining market quotations from independent broker-dealers. Short-term securities maturing within 60 days or less are valued on an amortized cost basis. Debt securities with a remaining maturity of greater than 60 days are valued in accordance with the evaluated bid price supplied by the pricing service. The evaluated bid price supplied by the pricing service is an evaluation that reflects such factors as security prices, yields, maturities, and ratings.

Securities for which market quotations are not readily available or are deemed unreliable are valued at fair value determined in good faith pursuant to procedures adopted by the Board (the "*Valuation Procedures*"). The Board has delegated to the Adviser, as the Fund's valuation designee (in this capacity, "Valuation Designee"), to perform the daily valuation of such investments, subject to oversight of the Board. Circumstances in which fair value pricing may be utilized include, but are not limited to: (i) a significant event that may affect the securities of a single issuer, such as a merger, bankruptcy, or significant issuer specific development; (ii) an event that may affect an entire market, such as a natural disaster or significant governmental action; (iii) a nonsignificant event such as a market closing early or not opening, or a security trading halt; and (iv) pricing of a non-valued security and a restricted or non-public security. The Fund may use a systematic fair valuation model provided by an independent third party to value international equity securities in order to adjust for stale pricing, which may occur between the close of certain non-U.S. exchanges and the NYSE, then that security may be valued in good faith under the Valuation Procedures.

Trading in securities on European and Far Eastern securities exchanges and OTC markets is normally completed well before the close of business on each business day in New York (*i.e.*, a day on which the NYSE is open). In addition, European or Far Eastern securities trading generally or in a particular country or countries may not take place on all business days in New York. Furthermore, trading takes place in Japanese markets on certain Saturdays and in various non-U.S. markets on days which are not business days in New York and on which the Fund's NAV is not calculated. The Fund calculates its NAV per share, and therefore effects sales, redemptions, and repurchases of its shares, as of the close of the NYSE once each day on which the NYSE is open. Such calculation may not take place contemporaneously with the determination of the prices of the non-U.S. portfolio securities used in such calculation. If an event that is expected to affect the value of a portfolio security occurs after the close of the principal exchange or market on which that security is traded, and before the close of the NYSE, then that security may be valued in good faith under the Valuation Procedures.

To the extent there are any errors in the Fund's NAV calculation, DFC may, at its discretion, reprocess individual shareholder transactions so that each shareholder's account reflects the accurate corrected NAV.

## Purchases

Shares of the Fund can generally be purchased only through institutional channels such as financial intermediaries and retirement platforms. Shares or classes of the Fund may be purchased without upfront sales charges by certain retirement plans and clients of investment advisers, but these clients will typically pay asset-based fees for their investment advisers' advice, which are on top of the Fund's expenses. Certain shares or classes of the Fund may also be purchased without upfront sales charges or transactional charges by persons who invest through mutual fund "supermarket" programs of certain financial intermediaries that typically do not provide investment recommendations or the assistance of an investment professional.

Certain designated organizations are authorized to receive purchase orders on the Fund's behalf and those organizations are authorized to designate their agents and affiliates as intermediaries to receive purchase orders. Purchase orders are deemed received by the Fund when authorized organizations or their agents or affiliates receive the orders provided that such designated organizations or their agents or affiliates transmit the orders to the Fund within contractually specified periods. The Fund is not responsible for the failure of any designated organization or its agents or affiliates to carry out its obligations to its customers. In order to receive a day's price, your order for any class of shares must be received in good order by the close of the regular trading session of the NYSE as described above in "Net Asset Value." Your financial intermediary may charge you a separate or additional fee for processing purchases of shares. Your financial intermediary, your plan documents or the Fund's Prospectus will provide you with detailed information about investing in the Fund.

The expenses to be borne by specific classes of shares may include (i) transfer agency fees attributable to a specific class of shares, (ii) printing and postage expenses related to preparing and distributing materials such as shareholder reports, prospectuses and proxy statements to current shareholders of a specific class of shares, (iii) SEC and state securities registration fees incurred by a specific class of shares, (iv) the expense of administrative personnel and services required to support the shareholders of a specific class of shares, (v) litigation or other legal expenses relating to a specific class of shares, (vi) directors' fees or expenses incurred as a result of issues relating to a specific class of shares, (vii) accounting expenses relating to a specific class of shares and (viii) any additional incremental expenses subsequently identified and determined to be properly allocated to one or more classes of shares.

The Trust has established an Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program (the "*Program*") as required by the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, as amended ("*USA PATRIOT Act*"). In order to ensure compliance with this law, the Trust's Program provides for the development of internal practices, procedures and controls, designation of anti-money laundering compliance officers, an ongoing training program, and an independent audit function to determine the effectiveness of the Program.

Procedures to implement the Program include, but are not limited to, determining that financial intermediaries have established proper anti-money laundering procedures, reporting suspicious and/or fraudulent activity, checking shareholder names against designated government lists, including the Office of Foreign Asset Control, and performing a review of all new account applications. The Trust does not intend to transact business with any person or entity whose identity cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

The Fund does not issue share certificates. Shares will be registered in the name of the investor or the investor's financial adviser. A change in registration or transfer of shares held in the name of a financial adviser may only be made by an order in good form from the financial adviser acting on the investor's behalf.

## Class A Shares

The price you pay for Class A shares is the public offering price, which is the NAV next determined after the Fund or its agent receives in good form your order plus an initial sales charge, if applicable, based on the amount invested as set forth in the table. The Fund receives the NAV. The sales charge is allocated between your financial intermediary and the Distributor, as shown in the table, except where the Distributor, in its discretion, allocates up to the entire amount to your financial intermediary. Sales charges, expressed as a percentage of offering price, your net investment and the sales charge reallocated to financial intermediaries, are shown in the table. The dollar amount of your initial sales charge is calculated as the difference between the public offering price and the NAV of those shares. Since the offering price is calculated to two decimal places using standard rounding criteria, the number of shares purchased and the dollar amount of your sales charge as a percentage of the offering price and of your net investment may be higher or lower than the amounts set forth in the table depending on whether there was a downward or upward rounding. Although you pay no initial sales charge on purchases of \$1,000,000 or more, the Distributor may pay, from its own resources, a commission to your financial intermediary on such investments.

Amount of Purchase at Offering Price	Class A Shares Sales Charge as a Percentage of:		
	Offering Price <sup>(1)</sup>	Net Amount Invested	Amount of Sales Charge Reallocated to Financial Intermediaries as a Percentage of Offering Price
Under \$100,000	4.50%	4.71%	4.00%
\$100,000 but under \$250,000	3.75%	3.90%	3.25%
\$250,000 but under \$500,000	2.75%	2.83%	2.25%
\$500,000 but under \$1,000,000	2.25%	2.30%	1.75%
\$1,000,000 and above	None	None	None

(1) Offering Price includes the initial sales charge.

Below is an example of the method of computing the offering price of Class A shares of the Fund. The example assumes a purchase on September 30, 2023 of Class A shares of the Fund subject to the schedule of sales charges set forth in the Prospectus at a price based upon the NAV of the Class A shares.

NAV per share	\$	15.06
Per share sales charge: 4.50% of public offering price (4.71% of NAV per share)	\$	0.71
Per share offering price to the public	\$	15.77

As described in the Prospectus, there are several ways you can combine multiple purchases of Class A shares of the Fund and other Destra Funds that are offered with a sales charge to take advantage of lower sales charges.

### **Qualifying for a Reduction or Waiver of Class A Shares Sales Charge**

You may be able to lower or eliminate your sales charge on Class A shares under certain circumstances. For example, when purchasing new Class A shares or Class C shares, you can combine Class A shares and Class C shares you already own (either in this Fund or certain other Destra Funds) with your current purchase to take advantage of the breakpoints in the sales charge schedule as set forth above. The circumstances under which you may combine such ownership of shares and purchases are described below. If you would like more information on aggregating shares to take advantage of the breakpoints, please contact your financial intermediary. In addition, additional sales charge reductions and waivers may be available. However, the availability of such waivers and reductions will depend on the policies of the financial intermediary through which you purchase your shares. Information on intermediaries' variations from the reductions and waivers discussed below are disclosed in the appendix to the Fund's Prospectus.

Class A shares of the Fund may be purchased without an initial sales charge by the following persons (and their spouses and children under 21 years of age): (i) registered representatives and other employees of intermediaries that have selling agreements with Destra Capital Investments to sell Class A shares; (ii) directors, officers and employees of Destra Capital Management LLC, and their immediate family members, and its affiliates; and (iii) Trustees and officers, and their immediate family members, of the Fund. Immediate family members are defined as spouses or domestic partners, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, parents-in-law, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, siblings, a sibling's spouse and a spouse's siblings. Additionally, certain financial intermediaries have entered into an agreement with Destra Capital Investments that allows the waiver of the initial sales charge on purchases of Class A shares. In order to obtain a sales charge discount, you should inform your financial intermediary of other accounts in which there are Fund holdings eligible to be aggregated to meet a sales charge breakpoint. These other accounts may include the accounts described under "Aggregating Accounts." It is possible that your financial intermediary will require documentation, such as an account statement, to prove that the accounts are eligible for aggregation. The Letter of Intent described below requires historical cost information in certain circumstances. You should retain records necessary to show the price you paid to purchase Fund shares, as the Fund, its agents, or your financial intermediary may not retain this information.

*Right of Accumulation.* You may purchase Class A shares of the Fund at a reduced sales charge determined by aggregating the dollar amount of the new purchase (measured by the offering price) and the total prior day's net asset value (net amount invested) of all eligible shares (as set forth herein) and applying the sales charge applicable to such aggregate amount. Shares eligible for aggregation include Class A shares of the Fund and of certain other classes (Class A shares and Class C shares) of Destra Funds then held by you, or held in accounts identified under "Aggregating Accounts." In order for your purchases and holdings to be aggregated for purposes of qualifying for such discount, they must have been made through one financial intermediary and you must provide sufficient information to your financial intermediary at the time of initial purchase of shares that qualify for the right of accumulation to permit verification that the purchase qualifies for the reduced sales charge. The right of accumulation is subject to modification or discontinuance at any time with respect to all shares purchased thereafter.

*Letter of Intent.* You can also reduce the sales charge on the purchase of Class A shares by signing a Letter of Intent indicating your intention to purchase \$100,000 or more of Class A shares (including Class A shares in other series of the Destra Funds) over a 13-month period. The term of the Letter of Intent will commence upon the date you sign the Letter. In order to apply purchases towards the intended amount, you must refer to such Letter when placing all orders.

When calculating the applicable sales charge to a purchase pursuant to a Letter of Intent, the amount of investment for purposes of applying the sales load schedule includes: (i) the historical cost (what you actually paid for the shares at the time of purchase, including any sales charges) of all Class A shares acquired during the term of the Letter of Intent; minus (ii) the value of any redemptions of Class A shares made during the term of the Letter of Intent. Each investment made during the period receives the reduced sales charge applicable to the total amount of the investment goal. A portion of shares purchased may be held in escrow to pay for any applicable sales charge. If the goal is not achieved within the period, you must pay the difference between the sales charges applicable to the purchases made and the charges previously paid, or an appropriate number of escrowed shares will be redeemed. Please contact your financial intermediary to obtain a Letter of Intent application.

*Aggregating Accounts.* In calculating the applicable breakpoint and sales charge on large purchases or those made through the exercise of a Letter of Intent or right of accumulation, investments made by you (and your spouse and children under age 21) on any given day may be aggregated if made for your own account(s) and/or certain other accounts such as: trust accounts established by the above individuals (or the accounts of the primary beneficiary of the trust if the person who established the trust is deceased); solely controlled business accounts; and single participant retirement plans. To receive a reduced sales charge under the right of accumulation or a Letter of Intent, you must notify your financial intermediary of any eligible accounts that you, your spouse and your children under age 21 have at the time of your purchase.

You may access information regarding sales loads, breakpoint discounts and purchases of the Fund's shares, free of charge, and in a clear and prominent format, on our website at [destracapital.com](http://destracapital.com), and by following the appropriate hyperlinks to the specific information.

#### **Class C Shares**

Class C shares of the Fund are purchased at the NAV per share as determined at the close of the regular trading session of the NYSE next occurring after a purchase order is received in good order by the Fund or its authorized agent.

The Distributor may compensate your financial intermediary at the time of sale at a commission rate of up to 1.00% of the NAV of the Class C shares purchased. Service providers to qualified plans will not receive this amount if they receive 12b-1 fees from the time of initial investment of qualified plan assets in Class C shares.

#### **Class I Shares**

Class I shares of the Fund are purchased at the NAV per share as determined at the close of the regular trading session of the NYSE next occurring after a purchase order is received in good order by the Fund or its authorized agent.

#### **Distribution and Shareholder Servicing Plans**

##### **Class A Shares**

As described in the Prospectus, Class A shares have adopted a distribution and shareholder servicing plan (the "*Class A Plan*") in accordance with Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. The Class A Plan is a compensation-type plan and permits the payment at an annual rate of up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets of Class A shares of the Fund for activities that are primarily intended to result in the sale and/or shareholder servicing of Class A shares of the Fund, including, but not limited to, printing and delivering prospectuses, statements of additional information, shareholder reports, proxy statements, and marketing materials related to Class A shares to prospective and existing investors; providing educational materials regarding Class A shares; providing facilities to answer questions from prospective and existing investors about the Fund; receiving and answering correspondence; complying with federal and state securities laws pertaining to the sale of Class A shares; assisting investors in completing application forms and selecting dividend and other account options; and any other activities for which "service fees" may be paid under Rule 2830 of the FINRA Conduct Rules. Payments under the Class A Plan are not tied exclusively to actual distribution and shareholder service expenses, and the payments may exceed distribution and shareholder service expenses actually incurred. The Distributor authorizes the payments to financial intermediaries based on the value of Fund shares held by such intermediaries' customers.

## Class C Shares

As described in the Prospectus, Class C shares have adopted a distribution and shareholder servicing plan (the “*Class C Plan*”) in accordance with Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. The Class C Plan is a compensation type plan and permits the payment at an annual rate of up to 0.75% of the average daily net assets of Class C shares of the Fund for activities which are primarily intended to result in the sale of Class C shares of the Fund. In addition, the Class C Plan permits the payment of up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets of Class C shares of the Fund for shareholder servicing activities including, but not limited to, providing facilities to answer questions from existing investors about the Fund; receiving and answering correspondence; assisting investors in changing dividend and other account options and any other activities for which “service fees” may be paid under Rule 2830 of the FINRA Conduct Rules. Payments under the Class C Plan are not tied exclusively to actual distribution and shareholder service expenses, and the payments may exceed distribution and shareholder service expenses actually incurred.

The Distributor is entitled to retain all fees paid under the Class C Plan for the first 12 months on any investment in Class C shares to recoup its expenses with respect to the payment of commissions on sales of Class C shares. Financial intermediaries will become eligible for compensation under the Class C Plan beginning in the 13th month following the purchase of Class C shares, although the Distributor may, pursuant to a written agreement between the Distributor and a particular financial intermediary, pay such financial intermediary 12b-1 fees prior to the 13th month following the purchase of Class C shares. However, certain financial intermediaries may elect to not receive the initial 1.00% commission, in which case, Destra Capital Investments authorizes the payment of the monthly 12b-1 fees to such financial intermediary beginning on the first month following the purchase of Class C shares as such fees accrue. The Class C shares for which a financial intermediary elects not to receive the initial 1.00% commission will not be subject to a contingent deferred sales charge (“*CDSC*”).

## 12b-1 Fees Incurred

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the Fund incurred 12b-1 fees pursuant to the Class A Plan and Class C Plan (individually, a “*Plan*” and, collectively, the “*Plans*”) in the amounts set forth in the table below.

	<b>12b-1 Fees Incurred by the Fund for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023</b>
Class A	\$ 62,881
Class C	\$ 233,574

## Renewal, Amendment and Termination

The Plans and any Rule 12b-1 related agreement that is entered into by the Fund in connection with the Plans will continue in effect for a period of more than one year only so long as continuance is specifically approved at least annually by a vote of a majority of the trustees, and of Independent Trustees, and who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plans or any related agreements (“*12b-1 Trustees*”). With the exception of the Distributor, and its affiliates, no “interested person” of the Fund, as that term is defined in the 1940 Act, and no Trustee of the Fund has a direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plans or any related agreement. All material amendments to any Plan must be approved by a majority vote of the trustees, including a majority of the 12b-1 Trustees, at a meeting called for that purpose. In addition, any Plan may be terminated as to the Fund at any time, without penalty, by vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of that class of that Fund or by vote of a majority of the Trustees.

## **Redemptions**

Redemptions, like purchases, may generally be effected only through institutional channels such as financial intermediaries and retirement platforms. In certain circumstances, Class I shares may be redeemed directly with the Fund. Certain designated organizations are authorized to receive redemption orders on the Fund's behalf and those organizations are authorized to designate their agents and affiliates as intermediaries to receive redemption orders. Redemption orders are deemed received by the Fund when authorized organizations, their agents, or affiliates receive the order. The Fund is not responsible for the failure of any designated organization or its agents or affiliates to carry out its obligations to its customers.

Shares normally will be redeemed for cash, although the Fund retains the right to redeem some or all of its shares in-kind under unusual circumstances, in order to protect the interests of remaining shareholders, to accommodate a request by a particular shareholder that does not adversely affect the interests of the remaining shareholders, or in connection with the liquidation of the Fund, by delivery of securities selected from its assets at its discretion. If shares are redeemed in-kind, the redeeming shareholder may incur brokerage costs in converting the assets to cash. The method of valuing securities used to make redemptions in-kind will be the same as the method of valuing portfolio securities described under "Net Asset Value" and such valuation will be made as of the same time the redemption price is determined.

The Fund reserves the right to postpone payment of redemption proceeds for up to seven calendar days. Additionally, the right to require the Fund to redeem its shares may be suspended, or the date of payment may be postponed beyond seven calendar days, whenever: (i) trading on the NYSE is restricted, as determined by the SEC, or the NYSE is closed (except for holidays and weekends); (ii) the SEC permits such suspension and so orders; or (iii) an emergency exists as determined by the SEC so that disposal of securities or determination of NAV is not reasonably practicable.

## **Class C Shares**

A CDSC of 1.00% will be deducted with respect to Class C shares redeemed within 12 months of purchase, unless waived, as discussed in the Prospectus. Any applicable CDSC will be 1.00% of the lesser of the original purchase price or the value of the redemption of the Class C shares redeemed.

## **Processing or Service Fees**

Broker-dealers may charge their customers a processing or service fee in connection with the purchase or redemption of Fund shares. Each individual dealer determines and should disclose to its customers the amount and applicability of such a fee. Processing or service fees typically are fixed, nominal dollar amounts and are in addition to the sales and other charges described in the Prospectus and this SAI. Consult your broker-dealer for specific information about any processing or service fees you may be charged.

## **Tax Matters**

### **Federal Income Tax Matters**

This section summarizes some of the main U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning shares of the Fund. This section is current as of the date of this SAI. Tax laws and interpretations change frequently, and these summaries do not describe all of the tax consequences to all taxpayers. For example, these summaries generally do not describe your situation if you are a corporation, a non-U.S. person, a broker-dealer, or other investor with special circumstances. In addition, this section does not describe your state, local or foreign tax consequences.

This federal income tax summary is based in part on the advice of counsel to the Fund. The IRS could disagree with any conclusions set forth in this section. In addition, Fund's counsel was not asked to review, and has not reached a conclusion with respect to the federal income tax treatment of the assets to be deposited in the Fund. Consequently, these summaries may not be sufficient for you to use for the purpose of avoiding penalties under federal tax law.

As with any investment, you should seek advice based on your individual circumstances from your own tax advisor.

## **Fund Status**

The Fund intends to qualify as a “regulated investment company” under the federal tax laws. If the Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company and distributes its income as required by the tax law, the Fund generally will not pay federal income taxes.

## **Qualification as a Regulated Investment Company**

As a regulated investment company, the Fund will not be subject to federal income tax on the portion of its investment company taxable income, as that term is defined in the Code, without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and net capital gain (*i.e.*, the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) that it distributes to shareholders, provided that it distributes at least 90% of its investment company taxable income and 90% of its net tax-exempt interest income for the year (the “*Distribution Requirement*”) and satisfies certain other requirements of the Code that are generally described below. The Fund also intends to make such distributions as are necessary to avoid the otherwise applicable 4% non-deductible excise tax on certain undistributed earnings.

In addition to satisfying the Distribution Requirement, the Fund must, among other things, derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from (1) dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to loans of stock and securities, gains from the sale or disposition of stock, securities or non-U.S. currencies and 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 (2) net income derived from an interest in “qualified publicly traded partnerships” (as such term is defined in the Code). The Fund must also satisfy an asset diversification test in order to qualify as a regulated investment company. Under this test, at the close of each quarter of the Fund’s taxable year, (1) 50% or more of the value of the Fund’s assets must be represented by cash, United States government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities, with such other securities limited, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund’s assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer and (2) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund’s assets may be invested in securities of (a) any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities or securities of other regulated investment companies), or of two or more issuers which the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses or (b) in the securities of one or more “qualified publicly traded partnerships” (as such term is defined in the Code). There are certain exceptions for failure to qualify if the failure is for reasonable cause or is *de minimis*, and certain corrective action is taken and certain tax payments are made by the Fund.

## **Distributions**

Fund distributions are generally taxable. After the end of each year, you will receive a tax statement that separates the Fund’s distributions into two categories, ordinary income distributions and capital gains dividends. Ordinary income distributions are generally taxed at your ordinary tax rate, however, as further discussed below, certain ordinary income distributions received from the Fund may be taxed at the capital gains tax rates. Generally, you will treat all capital gain dividends as long-term capital gains regardless of how long you have owned your shares. To determine your actual tax liability for your capital gains dividends, you must calculate your total net capital gain or loss for the tax year after considering all of your other taxable transactions, as described below. In addition, the Fund may make distributions that represent a return of capital for tax purposes and thus will generally not be immediately taxable to you. The tax status of your distributions from the Fund is not affected by whether you reinvest your distributions in additional shares or receive them in cash. The income from the Fund that you must take into account for federal income tax purposes is not reduced by amounts used to pay a deferred sales fee, if any. The tax laws may require you to treat distributions made to you in January as if you had received them on December 31 of the previous year. Income from the Fund may also be subject to a 3.8% “Medicare tax.” This tax generally applies to your net investment income if your adjusted gross income exceeds certain threshold amounts, which are \$250,000 in the case of married couples filing joint returns and \$200,000 in the case of single individuals.

## **Dividends Received Deduction**

A corporation that owns shares generally will not be entitled to the dividends received deduction with respect to many dividends received from the Fund because the dividends received deduction is generally only available for distributions from regulated investment companies that are attributable to qualifying dividends received by the Fund from certain corporations may be reported by the Fund as being eligible for the dividends received deduction. Other distributions made by the Fund are not treated as dividends eligible for the dividends received deduction.



### **Sale or Redemption of Shares**

If you sell or redeem your shares, you will generally recognize a taxable gain or loss. To determine the amount of this gain or loss, you must subtract your tax basis in your shares from the amount you receive in the transaction. Your tax basis in your shares is generally equal to the cost of your shares, generally including sales charges. In some cases, however, you may have to adjust your tax basis after you purchase your shares.

### **Capital Gains and Losses and Certain Ordinary Income Dividends**

If you are an individual, the maximum marginal stated federal tax rate for net capital gain is generally 20% for taxpayers in the highest tax bracket. Some capital gains dividends may be taxed at a higher rate. Capital gains may also be subject to the Medicare tax described above. Net capital gain equals net long-term capital gain minus net short-term capital loss for the taxable year. Capital gain or loss is long-term if the holding period for the asset is more than one year and is short-term if the holding period for the asset is one year or less. You must exclude the date you purchase your shares to determine your holding period. However, if you receive a capital gain dividend from the Fund and sell your share at a loss after holding it for six months or less, the loss will be recharacterized as long-term capital loss to the extent of the capital gain dividend received. The tax rates for capital gains realized from assets held for one year or less are generally the same as for ordinary income. The Code treats certain capital gains as ordinary income in special situations.

Distributions of certain dividend income received by an individual shareholder from a regulated investment company such as the Fund are generally taxed at the same rates that apply to net capital gain (as discussed above), provided certain holding period requirements are satisfied and provided the dividends are attributable to qualified dividends received by the Fund itself. The Fund will provide notice to its shareholders of the amount of any distribution which may be taken into account as a dividend which is eligible for the capital gains tax rates.

### **In-Kind Distributions**

Under certain circumstances, as described in the Prospectus, you may receive an in-kind distribution of Fund securities when you redeem shares or when the Fund terminates. This distribution will be treated as a sale for federal income tax purposes and you will generally recognize gain or loss, generally based on the value at that time of the securities and the amount of cash received. The IRS could however assert that a loss could not be currently deducted.

### **Exchanges**

If you exchange shares of the Fund for shares of another Destra Fund, the exchange would generally be considered a sale for federal income tax purposes. Under limited circumstances, exchanges between certain classes of shares of the same Fund may be permitted. Such exchanges may be subject to a CDSC, a redemption fee or other fees, at the discretion of the Fund. Any CDSC, redemption fee or other fees may be waived for certain intermediaries that have entered into an agreement with Destra Capital Investments.

### **Deductibility of Fund Expenses**

Expenses incurred and deducted by the Fund will generally not be treated as income taxable to you. In some cases, however, you may be required to treat your portion of these Fund expenses as income. In these cases, you may not be able to take a deduction for these expenses.

### **Foreign Tax Credit**

If the Fund invests in any foreign securities, the tax statement that you receive may include an item showing foreign taxes the Fund paid to other countries. In this case, dividends taxed to you will include your share of the taxes the Fund paid to other countries. You may be able to deduct or receive a tax credit for your share of these taxes.

## Investments in Certain Foreign Corporations

If the Fund holds an equity interest in any “passive foreign investment companies” (“PFICs”), which are generally certain foreign corporations that receive at least 75% of their annual gross income from passive sources (such as interest, dividends, certain rents and royalties or capital gains) or that hold at least 50% of their assets in investments producing such passive income, the Fund could be subject to U.S. federal income tax and additional interest charges on gains and certain distributions with respect to those equity interests, even if all the income or gain is timely distributed to its shareholders. The Fund will not be able to pass through to its shareholders any credit or deduction for such taxes. The Fund may be able to make an election that could ameliorate these adverse tax consequences. In this case, the Fund would recognize as ordinary income any increase in the value of such PFIC shares, and as ordinary loss any decrease in such value to the extent it did not exceed prior increases included in income. Under this election, the Fund might be required to recognize in a year income in excess of its distributions from PFICs and its proceeds from dispositions of PFIC stock during that year, and such income would nevertheless be subject to the distribution requirement and would be taken into account for purposes of the 4% excise tax. Dividends paid by PFICs are not treated as qualified dividend income.

## Non-U.S. Investors

If you are a foreign investor (*i.e.*, an investor other than a U.S. citizen or resident or a U.S. corporation, partnership, estate or trust), you should be aware that, generally, subject to applicable tax treaties, distributions from the Fund will be characterized as dividends for federal income tax purposes (other than dividends which the Fund properly reports as capital gain dividends) and will be subject to U.S. income taxes, including withholding taxes, subject to certain exceptions described below. However, distributions received by a foreign investor from the Fund that are properly reported by the Fund as capital gains dividends may not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes, provided that the Fund makes certain elections and certain other conditions are met. Distributions from the Fund that are properly reported by the Fund as an interest-related dividend attributable to certain interest income received by the Fund or as a short-term capital gain dividend attributable to certain net short-term capital gain income received by the Fund may not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes when received by certain foreign investors, provided that the Fund makes certain elections and certain other conditions are met. Certain distributions may be subject to a U.S. withholding tax of 30% in the case of distributions to (i) certain non-U.S. financial institutions that have not entered into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury to collect and disclose certain information and are not resident in a jurisdiction that has entered into such an agreement with the U.S. Treasury and (ii) certain other non-U.S. entities that do not provide certain certifications and information about the entity’s U.S. owners.

## Capital Loss Carryforward

Under the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010, net capital losses of the Fund may be carried forward indefinitely, and their character is retained as short-term and/or long-term losses. To the extent that these loss carryforwards are used to offset future capital gains, it is probable that the capital gains so offset will not be distributed to Fund shareholders. The Fund is subject to certain limitations, under U.S. tax rules, on the use of capital loss carryforwards and net unrealized built-in losses. These limitations apply when there has been a 50% or more change in ownership. As of September 30, 2023, the Fund had the following accumulated capital loss carry forwards for federal income tax purposes.

<b>Short-Term Capital Loss Carryforward</b>	<b>Long-Term Capital Loss Carryforward</b>
\$2,014,211	\$4,320,459

## Frequent Trading

The Fund's Frequent Trading Policy is as follows:

Frequent purchases and redemptions of Fund shares by Fund shareholders may present risks to other shareholders in the Fund. These risks may include disruption of portfolio investment strategies, with potential resulting harm to performance, and increased trading costs or Fund expenses. Therefore, the Board needs to assess whether it is in the best interests of the Fund, overall, to limit individual shareholders' rights to engage in frequent purchases and redemption of Fund shares.

The Fund is designed for long-term investors and is not designed for shareholders who engage in frequent purchases and redemption of Fund shares. These Frequent Trading Policies and Procedures endeavor to detect and deter frequent trading that may be harmful to shareholders, and that is pursued for the purpose of attempting to profit from anticipated short-term market moves up or down ("*market timing*").

(1) *General.* The Fund discourages and has established policies and procedures designed to detect and deter frequent trading by investors that is believed to be engaged in for the purpose of market timing.

Shares of the Fund may be held through accounts held in the name of a financial intermediary. These accounts may be comprised of multiple investors whose purchases and redemptions are aggregated and netted before being submitted to the Fund. The Fund may not have access to information regarding trading activity by individual investors in such accounts and therefore may be unable to monitor individual investors for violations of the Fund's policy. The Fund or its agents will seek to have financial intermediaries either provide the necessary individual investor information to the Fund or monitor the trading activity of the individual investors to detect and deter market timing.

(2) *Restrictions on Purchases and Redemptions.* The Fund reserves the right to reject or restrict any purchase order (including exchanges) from any investor for any reason including excessive, short-term or other abusive trading practices which may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm performance. The Fund may, at DFC's sole discretion, exercise these rights for any reason, including any trading believed to fall within the definition of market timing.

The Fund also reserves the right to delay delivery of redemption proceeds up to seven days or to honor certain redemptions with securities, rather than cash.

(3) *Agreements.* The Fund, DFC or the Distributor may not enter into any agreement, either explicit or implicit, with any Fund shareholder or other investor that would permit or facilitate market timing in the Fund.

The Fund directs DFC to establish specific procedures to detect and deter market timing in order to implement the foregoing policies. Under those procedures, DFC shall establish procedures for (i) identifying and reviewing potentially harmful trading activity in direct and omnibus accounts, (ii) identifying transactions subject to sales charges and exceptions to those policies, and (iii) reporting potential issues and exceptions to the Fund's CCO. If DFC determines that frequent trading in any account is due to market timing, DFC, on behalf of the Fund, may reject the purchase or impose restrictions on future purchases or exchanges from that investor until such investor no longer engages in market timing. DFC must document and maintain all records in connection with its procedures for six years. DFC will advise the Board of any material changes to its procedures and will periodically report its activities pursuant to these Frequent Trading Policies and Procedures to the Trust's CCO. The Trust's CCO will periodically report to the Board on the effectiveness of these Policies and Procedures.

## Underwriter

The Distributor, 443 N. Willson Ave., Bozeman, MT, 59715, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Destra Capital Management LLC, serves as the principal underwriter of the shares of the Fund pursuant to a “best efforts” arrangement as provided by a distribution agreement with the Trust (the “*Distribution Agreement*”). Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, the Trust appointed the Distributor to be its agent for the distribution of the Fund’s shares on a continuous offering basis.

The cash-compensation rate at which the Distributor’s registered representatives are paid for sales of institutional products may differ based on a type of fund or a specific trust. The receipt of (or prospect of receiving) compensation described above may provide an incentive for a registered representative to favor sales of funds, or certain share classes of the Fund, for which it receives a higher compensation rate. You should consider these arrangements when evaluating any recommendations of your registered representative.

The Distributor sells shares to or through brokers, dealers, banks or other qualified financial intermediaries (collectively referred to as “*Dealers*”), or others, in a manner consistent with the then effective registration statement of the Trust for the Fund. Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, the Distributor, at its own expense, finances certain activities incident to the sale and distribution of the Fund’s shares, including printing and distributing of prospectuses and statements of additional information to other than existing shareholders, the printing and distributing of sales literature, advertising and payment of compensation and giving of concessions to Dealers. The Distributor receives for its services the excess, if any, of the sales price of the Fund’s shares less the NAV of those shares, and remits a majority or all of such amounts to the Dealers who sold the shares; the Distributor may act as such a Dealer. The Distributor also receives compensation pursuant to a distribution plan adopted by the Trust pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act and described herein under “Distribution and Shareholder Servicing Plan.” The Distributor receives any CDSCs imposed on redemptions of shares, but any amounts as to which a reinstatement privilege is not exercised are set off against and reduce amounts otherwise payable to the Distributor pursuant to the distribution plan.

The following table sets forth the aggregate amounts of underwriting commissions with respect to the sale of Fund shares, the amount thereof retained by the Distributor and the compensation on redemptions and repurchases received by the Distributor for the Fund for the specified periods.

	<b>Amount of Underwriting Commissions</b>	<b>Amount Retained by the Distributor</b>	<b>Amount of Compensation on Redemptions and Repurchases</b>
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2021	\$ 128,535	\$ 11,884	\$ 1,493
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2022	\$ 145,184	\$ 15,444	\$ 2,775
For fiscal year ended September 30, 2023	\$ 36,836	\$ 5,357	\$ 1,168

DFC may, from time to time and from its own resources, pay, defray or absorb costs relating to distribution, including payments out of its own resources to the Distributor, or to otherwise promote the sale of shares. DFC’s available resources to make these payments include profits from advisory fees received from the Fund. The services DFC may pay for include, but are not limited to, advertising and attaining access to certain conferences and seminars, as well as being presented with the opportunity to address investors and industry professionals through speeches and written marketing materials.

## Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings

The Destra Funds have adopted a portfolio holdings disclosure policy which governs the dissemination of the Fund's portfolio holdings and to ensure that the disclosure of information is in the best interests of the Fund Shareholders. In accordance with this policy, the Fund may provide portfolio holdings information to third parties no earlier than the time a report is filed with the SEC that is required to contain such information or one day after the information is posted on the Fund's publicly accessible website, destracapital.com. The Fund's top 10 portfolio holdings or issuer information is available monthly with a minimum lag time of 10 calendar days. The Fund generally makes available complete portfolio holdings (or other disclosure of portfolio holdings as required by applicable legal or regulatory requirements) as of the end of each fiscal quarter disclosed with a minimum lag time of 30 calendar days. The Fund provides other portfolio information (including percentages and other portfolio data and portfolio statistics) monthly with a minimum lag time of 10 calendar days. Additionally, the Fund publishes on the website other portfolio characteristics monthly on a 15-day lag. This information will remain available on the website at least until the Fund files with the SEC its Forms N-CSR or N-PORT for the period that includes the date as of which the website information is current.

Additionally, the Fund may disclose portfolio holdings information that has not been included in a filing with the SEC or posted on the Fund's website (*i.e.*, non-public portfolio holdings information) only if there is a legitimate business purpose for doing so and if the recipient is required, either by explicit agreement or by virtue of the recipient's duties to the Fund as an agent or service provider, to maintain the confidentiality of the information and to not use the information in an improper manner (*e.g.*, personal trading). In this connection, the Fund may disclose on an ongoing, daily basis non-public portfolio holdings information in the normal course of its investment and administrative operations to various service providers, including its Adviser and Sub-Adviser, independent registered public accounting firm (Cohen & Company, Ltd.), custodian (UMB Bank National Association), financial printer (Empire Filings and Toppan Merrill), proxy voting service(s), legal counsel to the Fund (Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP) and legal counsel to the Independent Trustees (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP).

The Adviser and Sub-Adviser may also provide certain portfolio holdings information to broker-dealers from time to time in connection with the purchase or sale of securities or requests for price quotations or bids on one or more securities. In providing this information, reasonable precautions are taken in an effort to avoid potential misuse of the disclosed information, including limitations on the scope of the portfolio holdings information disclosed, when appropriate.

Non-public portfolio holdings information may be provided to other persons if approved by the Board upon a determination that there is a legitimate business purpose for doing so, the disclosure is consistent with the interests of the Fund, and the recipient is obligated to maintain the confidentiality of the information and not misuse it.

Compliance officers of the Fund and its Adviser and Sub-Adviser periodically monitor overall compliance with the policy to ascertain whether portfolio holdings information is disclosed in a manner that is consistent with the Fund's policy. Reports are made to the Board on an annual basis.

There is no assurance that the Fund's policies on portfolio holdings information will protect the Fund from the potential misuse of portfolio holdings information by individuals or firms in possession of such information.

## Other Service Providers

Cohen & Company Ltd., 1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 800, Cleveland, Ohio 44115, independent registered public accounting firm, has been selected as auditors for the Trust. In addition to audit services, Cohen & Company, Ltd. may provide assistance on other non-audit accounting, tax and related services for the Trust.

The custodian of the assets of the Fund is UMB Bank N.A., 1010 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. The custodian performs custodial, fund accounting and portfolio accounting services.

The Fund's administrator, fund accountant, transfer agent, shareholder services and dividend paying agent is UMB Fund Services, Inc., 235 W. Galena Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212.

## General Trust Information

The Fund is a series of the Trust. The Trust is an open-end management investment company under the 1940 Act. The Trust was organized as a Massachusetts business trust on May 25, 2010. The Board of Trustees of the Trust is authorized to issue an unlimited number of shares in one or more series, which may be divided into classes of shares. Currently, there are two series authorized and outstanding, each of which may be generally divided into different classes of shares designated as Class A shares, Class C shares and Class I shares. Each class of shares represents an interest in the same portfolio of investments of the Fund. Each class of shares has equal rights as to voting, redemption, dividends and liquidation, except that each bears different class expenses, including different distribution and service fees, and each has exclusive voting rights with respect to any distribution or service plan applicable to its shares. There are no conversion, preemptive or other subscription rights. The Board of Trustees of the Trust has the right to establish additional series and classes of shares in the future, to change those series or classes and to determine the preferences, voting powers, rights and privileges thereof.

The Trust is not required and does not intend to hold annual meetings of shareholders. Shareholders owning more than 10% of the outstanding shares of the Fund have the right to call a special meeting to remove trustees or for any other purpose.

Under Massachusetts law applicable to Massachusetts business trusts, shareholders of such a trust may, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable as partners for its obligations. However, the Declaration of Trust of the Trust contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust and requires that notice of this disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Trust or the trustees. The Trust's Declaration of Trust further provides for indemnification out of the assets and property of the Trust for all losses and expenses of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Trust. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which both inadequate insurance existed and the Trust or the Fund itself was unable to meet its obligations. The Trust believes the likelihood of the occurrence of these circumstances is remote.

## APPENDIX A

### Proxy Voting Procedure



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR VOTING PROXIES FOR CLIENTS

Flaherty & Crumrine Incorporated (“FCI”) acts as discretionary investment adviser for various clients, including the following pooled investment vehicles (the “Funds”):

As adviser to the “U.S. Funds”	Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred and Income Fund Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred and Income Opportunity Fund Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred and Income Securities Fund Flaherty & Crumrine Total Return Fund Flaherty & Crumrine Dynamic Preferred and Income Fund
As sub-adviser to the “Canadian Funds”	Flaherty & Crumrine Investment Grade Preferred Income Fund Brompton Flaherty & Crumrine Investment Grade Preferred ETF
As sub-adviser to the “Mutual Fund”	Destra Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred and Income Fund

FCI’s authority to vote proxies for its clients is established through the delegation of discretionary authority under its investment advisory contracts and the U.S. Funds have adopted these policies and procedures for themselves

### Purpose

These policies and procedures are designed to satisfy FCI’s duties of care and loyalty to its clients with respect to monitoring corporate events and exercising proxy authority in the best interests of such clients.

In connection with this objective, these policies and procedures are designed to deal with potential complexities which may arise in cases where FCI’s interests conflict or appear to conflict with the interests of its clients.

These policies and procedures are also designed to communicate with clients the methods and rationale whereby FCI exercises proxy voting authority.

This document is available to any client or Fund shareholder upon request and FCI will make available to such clients and Fund shareholders the record of FCI’s votes promptly upon request and to the extent required by Federal law and regulations.

### Fundamental Standard

FCI will be guided by the principle that, in those cases where it has proxy voting authority, it will vote proxies, and take such other corporate actions, consistent with the interest of its clients in a manner free of conflicts of interest.

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures



## General

These policies and procedures apply only where the client has granted discretionary authority with respect to proxy voting. Where FCI does not have authority, it will keep appropriate written records evidencing that such discretionary authority has not been granted.

FCI may choose not to keep written copies of proxy materials that are subject to SEC regulation and maintained in the SEC's EDGAR database. In other instances, FCI will keep appropriate written records in its files or in reasonably accessible storage.

Similarly, FCI will keep in its files, or reasonably accessible storage, work papers and other materials that were significant to FCI in making a decision how to vote.

For purposes of decision making, FCI will assume that each ballot for which it casts votes is the only security of an issuer held by the client. Thus, when casting votes where FCI may have discretionary authority with regard to several different securities of the same issuer, it may vote securities "in favor" for those securities or classes where FCI has determined the matter in question to be beneficial while, at the same time, voting "against" for those securities or classes where FCI has determined the matter to be adverse. Such cases occasionally arise, for example, in those instances where a vote is required by both common and preferred shareholders, voting as separate classes, for a change in the terms regarding preferred stock issuance.

FCI will reach its voting decisions independently, after appropriate investigation. It does not generally intend to delegate its decision making or to rely on the recommendations of any third party, although it may take such recommendations into consideration. FCI may consult with such other experts, such as CPA's, investment bankers, attorneys, etc., as it regards necessary to help it reach informed decisions.

FCI may determine not to vote a proxy for a debt or equity security: if (1) the effect on the applicable client's economic interests or the value of the portfolio holding is insignificant in relation to its portfolio; (2) the cost of voting the proxy outweighs the possible benefit to the applicable client, including without limitation situations where a jurisdiction imposes share blocking restrictions which may affect the ability to effect transactions in the related securities; or (3) FCI otherwise has determined that it is consistent with its fiduciary obligations not to vote the proxy.

Ultimately, all voting decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, taking relevant considerations into account.

## Voting of Common Stock Proxies

FCI categorizes matters as either routine or non-routine, which definition may or may not precisely conform to the definitions set forth by securities exchanges or other bodies categorizing such matters. Routine matters would include such things as the voting for directors and the ratification of auditors and most shareholder proposals regarding social, environmental, and corporate responsibility matters. FCI normally will vote in favor of management's recommendations on these routine matters.

Non-routine matters might include, without limitation, such things as (1) amendments to management incentive plans, (2) the authorization of additional common or preferred stock, (3) initiation or termination of barriers to takeover or acquisition, (4) mergers or acquisitions, (5) changes in the state of incorporation, (6) corporate reorganizations, and (7) "contested" director slates. Non-routine matters will be voted on a case-by-case basis.

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures





### **Voting of Preferred Stock Proxies and Exercising Consent Rights of Debt Securities**

Preferred securities generally have voting rights only in the event that the issuer has not made timely payments of income and principal to shareholders or in the event that a corporation desires to effectuate some change in its articles of incorporation which might modify the rights of preferred stockholders.

Similarly, debt securities typically do not have express voting rights; however, issuers may seek consents to amendments of covenants or rights of the debt holders.

In deciding upon non-routine matters, having to do with the modification of the rights or protections, FCI will attempt, wherever possible, to assess the costs and benefits of such modifications.

In the case of the election of directors when timely payments to preferred shareholders have not been made ("contingent voting"), FCI will cast its votes on a case-by-case basis after investigation of the qualifications and independence of the persons standing for election.

Routine matters regarding preferred stock are the exception, rather than the rule, and typically arise when the preferred and common shareholders vote together as a class on such matters as election of directors. FCI will vote on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the principles set forth elsewhere in this document. However, in those instances (1) where the common shares of an issuer are held by a parent company and (2) where, because of that, the election outcome is not in doubt, FCI does not intend to vote such proxies since the time and costs would outweigh the benefits.

### **Actual and Apparent Conflicts of Interest**

Potential conflicts of interest between FCI and FCI's clients may arise when FCI's relationships with an issuer or with a related third party conflict or appear to conflict with the best interests of FCI's clients.

FCI will indicate in its voting records available to clients whether or not a material conflict exists or appears to exist. In addition, FCI will communicate with the client (which means the independent Directors or Director(s) they may so designate in the case of the U.S. Funds and the investment adviser in the case of the Canadian Funds or the Mutual Fund) in instances when a material conflict of interest may be apparent. FCI must describe the conflict to the client and state FCI's voting recommendation and the basis therefor. If the client considers there to be a reasonable basis for the proposed vote notwithstanding the conflict or, in the case of the Funds, that the recommendation was not affected by the conflict (without considering the merits of the proposal), FCI will vote in accordance with the recommendation it had made to the client.

In all such instances, FCI will keep reasonable documentation supporting its voting decisions and/or recommendations to clients.

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures



#### **Amendment of the Policies and Procedures**

These policies and procedures may be modified at any time by action of the Board of Directors of FCI but will not become effective, in the case of the U.S. Funds, unless they are approved by majority vote of the non-interested directors of the U.S. Funds. Any such modifications will be sent to FCI's clients by mail and/or other electronic means in a timely manner. These policies and procedures, and any amendments hereto, will be posted on the U.S. Funds' websites and will be disclosed in reports to shareholders as required by law.

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

## APPENDIX B

### DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES RATINGS

#### Short-Term Credit Ratings

An *S&P Global Ratings* short-term issue credit rating is generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market. The following summarizes the rating categories used by S&P Global Ratings for short-term issues:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“NR” – This indicates that a rating has not been assigned or is no longer assigned.

*Moody’s Investors Service (“Moody’s”)* short-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default 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 reflect a superior ability to repay short-term obligations.

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

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

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

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated issuer, obligation and/or program.

**Fitch, Inc. / Fitch Ratings Ltd. (“Fitch”)** short-term issuer or obligation rating is based in all cases on the short-term vulnerability to default of the rated entity and relates to the capacity to meet financial obligations in accordance with the documentation governing the relevant obligation. Short-term deposit ratings may be adjusted for loss severity. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations whose initial maturity is viewed as “short-term” based on market convention.<sup>1</sup> Typically, this means up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign, and structured obligations and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets. The following summarizes the rating categories used by Fitch for short-term obligations:

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

“F2” – Securities possess good short-term credit quality. This designation indicates good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

“F3” – Securities possess fair short-term credit quality. This designation indicates that the intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.

“B” – Securities possess speculative short-term credit quality. This designation indicates minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

“C” – Securities possess high short-term default risk. Default is a real possibility.

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

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

“NR” – Is assigned to an issue of a rated issuer that are not and have not been rated.

The **DBRS Morningstar® Ratings Limited (“DBRS Morningstar”)** short-term obligation ratings provide DBRS Morningstar’s opinion on the risk that an issuer will not meet its short-term financial obligations in a timely manner. The obligations rated in this category typically have a term of shorter than one year. The R-1 and R-2 rating categories are further denoted by the subcategories “(high)”, “(middle)”, and “(low)”.

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<sup>1</sup> A long-term rating can also be used to rate an issue with short maturity.

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

“R-1 (high)” – Short-term debt rated “R-1 (high)” is 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.

“R-1 (middle)” – Short-term debt rated “R-1 (middle)” is 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.

“R-1 (low)” – Short-term debt rated “R-1 (low)” is 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.

“R-2 (high)” – 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.

“R-2 (middle)” – 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.

“R-2 (low)” – 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.

“R-3” – 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.

“R-4” – 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.

“R-5” – 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.

“D” – A downgrade to “D” 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. DBRS Morningstar may also use “SD” (Selective Default) in cases where only some securities are impacted, such as the case of a “distressed exchange”.

#### **Long-Term Issue Credit Ratings**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“NR” – This indicates that a rating has not been assigned, or is no longer assigned.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“NR” – Is assigned to unrated obligations, obligation and/or program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“B” – Securities considered to be highly speculative. “B” ratings indicate that material credit risk is present

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

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

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

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

Plus (+) or minus (-) 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 corporate finance obligation ratings in the categories below “CCC”.

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated issue of a rated issuer.

The **DBRS** Morningstar long-term obligation ratings provide DBRS Morningstar’s opinion on the risk that investors may not be repaid in accordance with the terms under which the long-term obligation was issued. The obligations rated in this category typically have a term of one year or longer. All rating categories from AA to CCC contain subcategories “(high)” and “(low)”. The absence of either a “(high)” or “(low)” designation indicates the rating is in the middle of the category. The following summarizes the ratings used by DBRS Morningstar for long-term debt:

“AAA” – Long-term debt rated “AAA” is 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.

“AA” – Long-term debt rated “AA” is 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.

“A” – Long-term debt rated “A” is 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.

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

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

“B” – Long-term debt rated “B” is of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet financial obligations.

“CCC”, “CC” and “C” – Long-term debt rated in any of these categories 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.

“D” – A downgrade to “D” 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. DBRS Morningstar may also use “SD” (Selective Default) in cases where only some securities are impacted, such as the case of a “distressed exchange”.



## **Municipal Note Ratings**

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

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

Municipal Short-Term Note rating symbols are as follows:

"SP-1" – A municipal note rated "SP-1" exhibits a 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" – A municipal note rated "SP-2" exhibits a satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

"SP-3" – A municipal note rated "SP-3" exhibits a speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

"D" – This rating is assigned upon failure to pay the note when due, completion of a distressed debt restructuring, or the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions.

**Moody's** uses the global short-term Prime rating scale (listed above under Short-Term Credit Ratings) for commercial paper issued by U.S. municipalities and nonprofits. These commercial paper programs may be backed by external letters of credit or liquidity facilities, or by an issuer's self-liquidity.

For other short-term municipal obligations, Moody's uses one of two other short-term rating scales, the Municipal Investment Grade ("MIG") and Variable Municipal Investment Grade ("VMIG") scales provided below.

Moody's uses the MIG scale for U.S. municipal cash flow notes, bond anticipation notes and certain other short-term obligations, which typically mature in three years or less.

### MIG Scale

"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.

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated obligation, obligation and/or program.

In the case of variable rate demand obligations (“VRDOs”), Moody’s assigns both a long-term rating and a short-term payment obligation rating. The long-term rating addresses the issuer’s ability to meet scheduled principal and interest payments. The short-term payment obligation rating addresses the ability of the issuer or the liquidity provider to meet any purchase price payment obligation resulting from optional tenders (“on demand”) and/or mandatory tenders of the VRDO. The short-term payment obligation rating uses the VMIG scale. Transitions of VMIG ratings with conditional liquidity support differ from transitions of Prime ratings reflecting the risk that external liquidity support will terminate if the issuer’s long-term rating drops below investment grade.

Moody’s typically assigns the VMIG rating if the frequency of the payment obligation is less than every three years. If the frequency of the payment obligation is less than three years but the obligation is payable only with remarketing proceeds, the VMIG short-term rating is not assigned and it is denoted as “NR”.

“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.

“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.

“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.

“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 a sufficiently strong short-term rating or may lack the structural and/or legal protections.

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated obligation, obligation and/or program.

## **About Credit Ratings**

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

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.

**Fitch's** credit ratings are forward-looking opinions on the relative ability of an entity or obligation to meet financial commitments. Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) are assigned to corporations, sovereign entities, financial institutions such as banks, leasing companies and insurers, and public finance entities (local and regional governments). Issue-level ratings are also assigned and often include an expectation of recovery, which may be notched above or below the issuer-level rating. Issue ratings are assigned to secured and unsecured debt securities, loans, preferred stock and other instruments. Credit ratings are indications of the likelihood of repayment in accordance with the terms of the issuance. In limited cases, Fitch may include additional considerations (i.e., rate to a higher or lower standard than that implied in the obligation's documentation).

**DBRS Morningstar** offers independent, transparent, and innovative credit analysis to the market. Credit ratings are forward-looking opinions about credit risk that reflect the creditworthiness of an issuer, rated entity, security and/or obligation based on DBRS Morningstar's quantitative and qualitative analysis in accordance with applicable methodologies and criteria. They are meant to provide opinions on relative measures of risk and are not based on expectations of, or meant to predict, any specific default probability. Credit ratings are not statements of fact. DBRS Morningstar issues credit ratings using one or more categories, such as public, private, provisional, final(ized), solicited, or unsolicited. From time to time, credit ratings may also be subject to trends, placed under review, or discontinued. DBRS Morningstar credit ratings are determined by credit rating committees.