#### **BECKER VALUE EQUITY FUND**

## Retail Class (BVEFX) Institutional Class (BVEIX)

A Series of Professionally Managed Portfolios

### STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### February 28, 2024

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus. It should be read in conjunction with the Becker Value Equity Fund's Prospectus dated February 28, 2024. The Becker Value Equity Fund (the "Fund"), advised by Becker Capital Management, Inc., is a series of Professionally Managed Portfolios (the "Trust").

The Fund's most recent <u>Annual Report to shareholders</u> is available, without charge, upon request by calling the number provided below. The financial statements, accompanying notes and report of independent registered public accounting firm appearing in the Annual Report are incorporated into this SAI by reference to the Fund's <u>Annual Report to Shareholders</u> for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). A free copy of the Prospectus or Annual Report can be obtained by writing the transfer agent at U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, P.O. Box 701, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-0701, or by calling Shareholder Services at 1-800-551-3998.

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#### DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST, THE PREDECESSOR FUND AND THE FUND

<u>The Trust</u>. The Trust is a Massachusetts business trust organized on February 24, 1987, and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as an open-end management investment company. Prior to May 1991, the Trust was known as the Avondale Investment Trust. The Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Declaration of Trust") permits the Trust's Board of Trustees (the "Board") to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest, without par value, which may be issued in any number of series. The Trust consists of various series that represent separate investment portfolios. The Board may, from time to time, issue other series, the assets and liabilities of which will be separate and distinct from any other series. This SAI relates only to the Fund.

The shareholders of a Massachusetts business trust could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable as partners for its obligations. However, the Declaration of Trust contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust.

The Declaration of Trust also provides for indemnification and reimbursement of expenses out of the Fund's assets for any shareholder held personally liable for obligations of the Fund or the Trust. The Declaration of Trust provides that the Trust shall, upon request, assume the defense of any claim made against any shareholder for any act or obligation of the Fund or the Trust and satisfy any judgment thereon. All such rights are limited to the assets of the Fund. The Declaration of Trust further provides that the Trust may maintain appropriate insurance (for example, fidelity bonding and errors and omissions insurance) for the protection of the Trust, its shareholders, trustees, officers, employees and agents to cover possible tort and other liabilities. However, the activities of the Trust as an investment company would not likely give rise to liabilities in excess of the Trust's total assets. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which both inadequate insurance exists and the Fund itself is unable to meet its obligations.

<u>The Predecessor Fund</u>. The Becker Value Equity Fund was organized as a diversified series of Unified Series Trust on June 9, 2003 and commenced operations on November 3, 2003 (the "Predecessor Fund"). The investment advisor to the Predecessor Fund and the Fund is Becker Capital Management, Inc. (the "Advisor"). Effective at the close of business on August 24, 2012, the Predecessor Fund was reorganized into a newly formed series of the Trust with the same name, the Becker Value Equity Fund (the "Fund").

<u>The Fund</u>. The Fund commenced operations as a series of the Trust on August 27, 2012. The Fund currently offers two classes of shares, Retail Class and Institutional Class. Each share of the Fund represents an equal proportionate interest in the assets and liabilities belonging to the Fund with each other share and is entitled to such dividends and distributions out of income belonging to the Fund as are declared by the Trustees. Expenses attributable to any class are borne by that class. On matters that affect the Fund as a whole, each class has the same voting and other rights and preferences as any other class. On matters that affect only one class, only shareholders of that class may vote. Each class votes separately on matters affecting only that class, or expressly required to be voted on separately by state or federal law. Shares of each class of a series have the same voting and other rights and preferences as the other classes and

series of the Trust for matters that affect the Trust as a whole. The Fund may offer additional classes of shares in the future.

The Fund does not issue share certificates. All shares are held in non-certificate form registered on the books of the Fund and the Fund's transfer agent, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (the "Transfer Agent") for the account of the shareholder. The shares do not have cumulative voting rights or any preemptive or conversion rights, and the Trustees have the authority from time to time to divide or combine the shares of any series into a greater or lesser number of shares of that series so long as the proportionate beneficial interest in the assets belonging to that series and the rights of shares of any other series are in no way affected. In case of any liquidation of a series, the holders of shares of the liabilities, belonging to that series. Expenses attributable to any series are borne by that series. Any general expenses of the Trust not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular series are allocated by or under the direction of the Trustees in such manner as the Trustees determine to be fair and equitable. No shareholder is liable to further calls or to assessment by the Trust without his or her express consent.

For information concerning the purchase and redemption of shares of the Fund, see "How to Buy Shares" and "How to Redeem Shares" in the Fund's Prospectus. For a description of the methods used to determine the share price and value of the Fund's assets, see "Determination of Net Asset Value" in the Fund's Prospectus and this SAI.

The Fund may authorize one or more brokers to receive on its behalf purchase and redemption orders. Such brokers would be authorized to designate other intermediaries to receive purchase and redemption orders on the Fund's behalf. The Fund will be deemed to have received a purchase or redemption order when an authorized broker or, if applicable, a broker's authorized designee, receives the order.

Customer orders will be priced at the net asset value of the applicable share class next computed after they are received by an authorized broker or the broker's authorized designee and accepted by the Fund. The performance of the Fund may be compared in publications to the performance of various indices and investments for which reliable performance data is available. The performance of the Fund may be compared in publications to averages, performance rankings, or other information prepared by recognized mutual fund statistical services. The Fund's annual report contains additional performance information and will be made available to investors upon request and without charge.

The Fund does not hold itself out as related to any other series within the Trust for purposes of investment and investor services, nor does it share the same investment advisor with any other series of the Trust. The Fund's Prospectus and this SAI are a part of the Trust's Registration Statement filed with the SEC. Copies of the Trust's complete Registration Statement may be obtained from the SEC upon payment of the prescribed fee or may be accessed free of charge at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND'S INVESTMENTS AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The Fund is diversified. This means that for 75% of its total assets, the Fund may not invest more than 5% of its total assets in securities of a single issuer or hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting shares of a single issuer. Under applicable federal securities laws, the diversification of a mutual fund's holdings is measured at the time a fund purchases a security. However, if a fund purchases a security and holds it for a period of time, the security may become a larger percentage of the fund's total assets due to movements in the financial markets. If the market affects several securities held by a fund, the fund may have a greater percentage of its assets invested in securities of fewer issuers. Accordingly, a fund would be subject to the risk that its performance may be hurt disproportionately by the poor performance of relatively few securities despite the fund qualifying as a diversified fund under applicable federal securities laws.

This section contains additional information regarding some of the investments the Fund may make and some of the techniques it may use.

Market and Regulatory Risk. Events in the financial markets and economy may cause volatility and uncertainty and affect performance. Such adverse effect on performance could include a decline in the value and liquidity of securities held by the Fund, unusually high and unanticipated levels of redemptions, an increase in portfolio turnover, a decrease in net asset value ("NAV"), and an increase in Fund expenses. It may also be unusually difficult to identify both investment risks and opportunities, in which case investment objectives may not be met. Market events may affect a single issuer, industry, sector, or the market as a whole. Traditionally liquid investments may experience periods of diminished liquidity. During a general downturn in the financial markets, multiple asset classes may decline in value and the Fund may lose value, regardless of the individual results of the securities and other instruments in which the Fund invests. It is impossible to predict whether or for how long such market events will continue, particularly if they are unprecedented, unforeseen or widespread events or conditions, pandemics, epidemics, and other similar circumstances in one or more countries or regions. Therefore, it is important to understand that the value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply and for extended periods, and you could lose money.

Governmental and regulatory actions, including tax law changes, may also impair portfolio management and have unexpected or adverse consequences on particular markets, strategies, or investments. Policy and legislative changes in the United States and in other countries are affecting many aspects of financial regulation, and may in some instances contribute to decreased liquidity and increased volatility in the financial markets. The impact of these changes on the markets, and the practical implications for market participants, may not be fully known for some time. In addition, economies and financial markets throughout the world are becoming increasingly interconnected. As a result, whether or not the Fund invests in securities of issuers located in or with significant exposure to countries experiencing economic and financial difficulties, the value and liquidity of the Fund's investments may be negatively affected.

Special Risks Related to Cyber Security. The Fund and its service providers are susceptible to cyber security risks that include, among other things, theft, unauthorized monitoring, release, misuse, loss, destruction or corruption of confidential and highly restricted data; denial of service attacks; unauthorized access to relevant systems, compromises to networks or devices that the Fund and its service providers use to service the Fund's operations; or operational disruption or failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support the Fund and its service providers. Cyber attacks against or security breakdowns of the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund and its shareholders, potentially resulting in, among other things, financial losses; the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions; inability to calculate the Fund's NAV; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs; and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund may incur additional costs for cyber security risk management and remediation purposes. In addition, cyber security risks may also impact issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which may cause the Fund's investment in such issuers to lose value. There can be no assurance that the Fund or its service providers will not suffer losses relating to cyber attacks or other information security breaches in the future.

<u>Common Stock and Common Stock Equivalents.</u> Equity securities in which the Fund will invest include common stock and common stock equivalents (such as rights and warrants, and convertible securities). Warrants are instruments that entitle the holder to buy underlying equity securities at a specific price for a specific period of time. A warrant tends to be more volatile than its underlying securities and ceases to have value if it is not exercised prior to its expiration date. In addition, changes in the value of a warrant do not necessarily correspond to changes in the value of its underlying securities. Rights are similar to warrants, but normally have shorter durations.

<u>Convertible Securities.</u> A convertible security is a bond, debenture, preferred stock or other security that may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of common stock. The Fund may invest in convertible securities rated B or higher by S&P Global Ratings ("S&P") or by Moody's Investors Services, Inc. ("Moody's"), or if unrated, determined by the Advisor to be of comparable quality. Generally, investments in securities in the lower rating categories provide higher yields but involve greater volatility of price and risk of loss of principal and interest than investments in securities with higher ratings. Securities rated lower than Baa by Moody's or BBB by S&P are considered speculative. In addition, lower ratings reflect a greater possibility of an adverse change in the financial conditions affecting the ability of the issuer to make payments of principal and interest. The market price of lower-rated securities generally responds to short-term corporate and market developments to a greater extent than higher-rated securities which react primarily to fluctuations in the general level of interest rates. Lower-rated securities will also be affected by the market's perception of their credit quality and the outlook for economic growth.

In the past, economic downturns or an increase in interest rates have under certain circumstances caused a higher incidence of default by the issuers of these securities and may do so in the future, especially in the case of highly leveraged issuers.

The prices for these securities may be affected by legislative and regulatory developments. For example, federal rules were adopted that required savings and loan associations gradually to reduce their holdings of high-yield securities. An effect of this legislation may be to significantly depress the prices of outstanding lower-rated-securities. The market for lower-rated securities may be less liquid than the market for higher-rated securities. Furthermore, the liquidity of lower-rated securities may be affected by the market's perception of their credit quality. Therefore, judgment may at times play a greater role in valuing these securities than in the case of higher-rated securities, and it also may be more difficult during certain adverse market conditions to sell lower-rated securities at their fair value to meet redemption requests or to respond to changes in the market.

If the rating of a security by S&P or Moody's drops below B the Advisor will dispose of the security as soon as practicable (depending on market conditions) unless the Advisor determines based on its own credit analysis that the security provides the opportunity of meeting the Fund's objective without presenting excessive risk. The Advisor will consider all factors which it deems appropriate, including ratings, in making investment decisions for the Fund and will attempt to minimize investment risk through conditions and trends. While the Advisor may refer to ratings, it does not rely exclusively on ratings, but makes its own independent and ongoing review of credit quality.

Other Investment Companies. The Fund may invest in the securities of other registered investment companies, including money market mutual funds, subject to the limitations set forth in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, (the "1940 Act"). Investments in the securities of other investment companies may involve duplication of advisory fees and certain other expenses. By investing in another investment company, the Fund becomes a shareholder of that investment company. As a result, Fund shareholders indirectly will bear the Fund's proportionate share of the fees and expenses paid by shareholders of the other investment company, in addition to the fees and expenses Fund shareholders directly bear in connection with the Fund's own operations.

The Fund currently intends to limit its investments in securities issued by other investment companies so that not more than 3% of the outstanding voting stock of any one investment company (other than money market fund) will be owned by the Fund, or it affiliated persons, as a whole. In addition to the advisory and operational fees the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operation, the Fund would also bear its pro rata portion of each other investment company's advisory and operational expenses.

Section 12(d)(1)(A) of the 1940 Act restricts investments by registered investment companies in securities of other registered investment companies. The acquisition of shares by the Fund in other registered investment companies is therefore subject to the restrictions of Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act, except as may be permitted by Rule and/or an exemptive order obtained by the other registered investment companies that permits the Fund to invest in the other registered investment companies beyond the limits of Section 12(d)(1), subject to certain terms and conditions, including that the Fund enter into an agreement with the other registered investment companies of the investment.

In accordance with Section 12(d)(1)(F) and Rule 12d1-3 of the 1940 Act, the provisions of Section 12(d)(1) shall not apply to securities purchased or otherwise acquired by the Fund if (i) immediately after such purchase or acquisition not more than 3% of the total outstanding stock of such registered investment company (other than money market funds) is owned by the Fund and all affiliated persons of the Fund; and (ii) the Fund is not proposing to offer or sell any security issued by it through a principal underwriter or otherwise at a public or offering price including a sales load or service fee that exceeds the limits set forth in Rule 2341 of the Conduct Rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") applicable to a fund of funds (e.g., 8.5%).

The SEC adopted revisions to the rules permitting funds to invest in other investment companies to streamline and enhance the regulatory framework applicable to fund of funds arrangements. While Rule 12d1-4 permits more types of fund of fund arrangements without an exemptive order, it imposes new conditions, including limits on control and voting of acquired funds' shares, evaluations and findings by investment advisers, fund investment agreements, and limits on most three-tier fund structures.

## Exchange Traded Funds

The Fund may also invest in exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). When the Fund invests in ETFs, it will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by the ETF. In connection with its investments in ETFs, the Fund will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the Fund may be affected by losses of an underlying ETF and the level of risk arising from such ETF's investment practices. The Fund has no control over the investments and related risks taken by the ETFs in which it invests. ETFs in particular are also subject to the following additional risks: (i) the ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) an active trading market for an ETF's shares may not develop or be maintained; (iii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iv) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. To the extent these ETFs invest in smaller capitalization companies, the Fund's investment is subject to the risks associated with smaller companies. The earnings and prospects of smaller companies are more volatile than larger companies. Smaller companies may experience higher failure rates than do larger companies. The trading volume of securities of smaller companies is normally less than that of larger companies and, therefore, may disproportionately affect their market price, tending to make them fall more in response to selling pressure than is the case with larger companies. Smaller companies may have limited markets, product lines or financial resources and may lack management experience. To the extent the Fund invests in a sector product, the Fund is subject to the risks associated with that sector. Additionally, the Fund may invest in new exchange-traded shares as they become available. For purposes of determining the amount of Fund assets invested in equity and/or fixed income securities, the Fund will consider ETFs that invest primarily in equity securities to be equity securities, and those that invest primarily in fixed income securities will be deemed fixed income securities.

**Foreign Securities.** The Fund may also invest in foreign securities, including through American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") and other dollar-denominated foreign securities.

ADRs are receipts, issued by domestic banks, for shares of a foreign-based company that entitle the holder to dividends and capital gains on the underlying security. In addition to ADRs, certain other foreign securities may be denominated in U.S. dollars and trade on domestic stock exchanges. Foreign investments can involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments. Securities of foreign companies may experience more rapid and extreme changes in value than securities of U.S. companies because a limited number of companies represent a small number of industries. Many foreign countries lack uniform accounting and disclosure standards comparable to those applicable to U.S. companies, and it may be more difficult to obtain reliable information regarding an issuer's financial condition and operations. When the Fund invests in ADRs or other dollar-denominated foreign securities, it generally will not be subject to currency risk.

Investing abroad also involves different political and economic risks. Foreign investments may be affected by actions of foreign governments adverse to the interests of U.S. investors, including the possibility of expropriation or nationalization of assets, confiscatory taxation, restrictions on U.S. investment or on the ability to repatriate assets or convert currency into U.S. dollars, or other government intervention. There may be a greater possibility of default by foreign governments or foreign government-sponsored enterprises. Investments in foreign countries also involve a risk of local political, economic or social instability, military action or unrest, or adverse diplomatic developments. There is no assurance that the Advisor will be able to anticipate or counter these potential events and their impacts on the Fund's share price.

While the Fund intends to invest primarily in foreign companies located in developed countries, it may also invest in developing or emerging market securities. The considerations noted above regarding the risk of investing in foreign securities are generally more significant for investments in emerging or developing countries, such as countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America, South America or Southeast Asia. These countries may have relatively unstable governments and securities markets in which only a small number of securities trade. Markets of developing or emerging countries may generally be more volatile than markets of developed countries. Investment in these markets may involve significantly greater risks, as well as the potential for greater gains.

**Brexit.** The United Kingdom formally left the European Union ("EU") on January 31, 2020 (a measure commonly referred to as "Brexit"). Following the withdrawal, in December 2020, the United Kingdom and the EU entered into a new trading relationship. The agreement allows for continued trading free of tariffs, but institutes other new requirements for trading between the United Kingdom and the EU. Even with a new trading relationship having been established, Brexit could continue to affect European or worldwide political, regulatory, economic, or market conditions. There is the possibility that there will continue to be considerable uncertainty about the potential impact of these developments on United Kingdom, European and global economies and markets. There is also the possibility of withdrawal movements within other EU countries and the possibility of additional political, economic and market uncertainty and instability. Brexit and any similar developments may have negative effects on economics and markets, such as increased volatility and illiquidity and potentially lower economic growth in the United Kingdom, EU and globally, which may adversely affect the value of a Fund's investments. Whether or not a Fund invests in securities of issuers located in Europe or with significant exposure to European issuers or countries, these events could result

in losses to the Fund, as there may be negative effects on the value and liquidity of the Fund's investments and/or the Fund's ability to enter into certain transactions.

**Preferred Stock.** Preferred stock has a preference in liquidation (and, generally dividends) over common stock but is subordinated in liquidation to debt. As a general rule the market value of preferred stocks with fixed dividend rates and no conversion rights varies inversely with interest rates and perceived credit risk, with the price determined by the dividend rate. Some preferred stocks are convertible into other securities, (for example, common stock) at a fixed price and ratio or upon the occurrence of certain events. The market price of convertible preferred stocks generally reflects an element of conversion value. Because many preferred stocks lack a fixed maturity date, these securities generally fluctuate substantially in value when interest rates change; such fluctuations often exceed those of long term bonds of the same issuer. Some preferred stocks pay an adjustable dividend that may be based on an index, formula, auction procedure or other dividend rate reset mechanism. In the absence of credit deterioration, adjustable rate preferred stocks tend to have more stable market values than fixed rate preferred stocks. All preferred stocks are also subject to the same types of credit risks of the issuer as corporate bonds. In addition, because preferred stock is junior to debt securities and other obligations of an issuer, deterioration in the credit rating of the issuer will cause greater changes in the value of a preferred stock than in a more senior debt security with similar yield characteristics. Preferred stocks may be rated by S&P and Moody's although there is no minimum rating which a preferred stock must have (and a preferred stock may not be rated) to be an eligible investment for the Fund. The Advisor expects, however, that generally the preferred stocks in which the Fund invests will be rated at least BBB by S&P or Baa by Moody's or, if unrated, of comparable quality in the opinion of the Advisor. Moody's rating with respect to preferred stocks does not purport to indicate the future status of payments of dividends.

**Repurchase Agreements.** A repurchase agreement is a short-term investment in which the purchaser (i.e., the Fund) acquires ownership of an obligation issued by the U.S. government or by an agency of the U.S. government ("U.S. Government Obligations") (which may be of any maturity) and the seller agrees to repurchase the obligation at a future time at a set price, thereby determining the yield during the purchaser's holding period (usually not more than seven days from the date of purchase). Any repurchase transaction in which the Fund engages will require full collateralization of the seller's obligation during the entire term of the repurchase agreement. In the event of a bankruptcy or other default of the seller, the Fund could experience both delays in liquidating the underlying security and losses in value. However, the Fund intends to enter into repurchase agreements only with its custodian, other banks with assets of \$1 billion or more and registered securities dealers determined by the Advisor to be creditworthy. The Advisor monitors the creditworthiness of the banks and securities dealers with which the Fund engages in repurchase transactions.

**Borrowing.** Currently, the 1940 Act permits the Fund to borrow money from banks in amounts of up to one-third of the Fund's total assets (including the amount borrowed). To the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, or the rules and regulations thereunder, the Fund may also borrow an additional 5% of its total assets without regard to the foregoing limitation for temporary purposes, such as the clearance of portfolio transactions. To limit the risks attendant to borrowing, the 1940 Act requires the Fund to maintain at all times an "asset coverage" of at least 300% of the amount of its borrowings. Asset coverage means the ratio that the value of the

Fund's total assets, minus liabilities other than borrowings, bears to the aggregate amount of all borrowings. Borrowing money to increase the Fund's investment portfolio is known as "leveraging." Borrowing, especially when used for leverage, may cause the value of the Fund's shares to be more volatile than if the Fund did not borrow. This is because borrowing tends to magnify the effect of any increase or decrease in the value of the Fund's portfolio holdings. Borrowed money thus creates an opportunity for greater gains, but also greater losses. To repay borrowings, the Fund may have to sell securities at a time and at a price that is unfavorable to the Fund. There also are costs associated with borrowing money, and these costs would offset and could eliminate the Fund's net investment income in any given period.

The use of borrowing by the Fund involves special risk considerations that may not be associated with other funds having similar objectives and policies. Since substantially all of the Fund's assets fluctuate in value, while the interest obligation resulting from a borrowing will be fixed by the terms of the Fund's agreement with its lender, the net asset value per share of the Fund will tend to increase more when its portfolio securities increase in value and to decrease more when its portfolio assets decrease in value than would otherwise be the case if the Fund did not borrow funds. In addition, interest costs on borrowings may fluctuate with changing market rates of interest and may partially offset or exceed the return earned on borrowed funds. Under adverse market conditions, the Fund might have to sell portfolio securities to meet interest or principal payments at a time when fundamental investment considerations would not favor such sales. The Fund will reduce its borrowing amount within three days, if t Fund's asset coverage falls below the amount required by the 1940 Act.

**Securities Lending.** The Fund reserves the right, pending receipt of Board approval, to lend securities from its portfolio to brokers, dealers and financial institutions (but not individuals) in order to increase the return on its portfolio, subject to a maximum of 33% of the Fund's net assets. The SEC currently requires that the following conditions must be met whenever a Fund's portfolio securities are loaned: (1) the Fund must receive at least 100% cash collateral from the borrower; (2) the borrower must increase such collateral whenever the market value of the securities rises above the level of such collateral; (3) the Fund must be able to terminate the loan at any time; (4) the Fund must receive reasonable interest on the loan, as well as any dividends, interest or other distributions on the loaned securities, and any increase in market value; (5) the Fund may pay only reasonable custodian fees approved by the Board in connection with the loan; (6) while voting rights on the loaned securities may pass to the borrower, the Board must terminate the loan and regain the right to vote the securities if a material event adversely affecting the investment occurs, and (7) the Fund may not loan its portfolio securities so that the value of the loaned securities is more than one-third of its total asset value, including collateral received from such loans. These conditions may be subject to future modification. Such loans will be terminable at any time upon specified notice. The Fund might experience the risk of loss if the institution with which it has engaged in a portfolio loan transaction breaches its agreement with the Fund. In addition, the Fund will not enter into any portfolio security lending arrangement having a duration of longer than one year. The principal risk of portfolio lending is potential default or insolvency of the borrower. In either of these cases, the Fund could experience delays in recovering securities or collateral or could lose all or part of the value of the loaned securities. As part of participating in a lending program, the Fund may be required to invest in collateralized debt or other securities that bear the risk of loss of principal. In addition, all investments made with the collateral received are subject to the risks

associated with such investments. If such investments lose value, the Fund will have to cover the loss when repaying the collateral.

Any loans of portfolio securities are fully collateralized based on values that are markedto-market daily. Any securities that the Fund may receive as collateral will not become part of the Fund's investment portfolio at the time of the loan and, in the event of a default by the borrower, the Fund will, if permitted by law, dispose of such collateral except for such part thereof that is a security in which the Fund is permitted to invest. During the time securities are on loan, the borrower will pay the Fund any accrued income on those securities, and the Fund may invest the cash collateral and earn income or receive an agreed-upon fee from a borrower that has delivered cash-equivalent collateral.

<u>Use of Derivatives, Hedging and Income Transactions.</u> The Fund is prohibited from investing in derivatives, excluding certain currency and interest rate hedging transactions. This restriction is not fundamental and may be changed by the Fund without a shareholder vote. If the Fund does determine to invest in derivatives in the future, it will comply with Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act.

**Illiquid Investments and Restricted Securities.** Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act, the Fund may not acquire any "illiquid investment" if, immediately after the acquisition, the Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments that are assets. An "illiquid investment" is any investment that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. The Fund has implemented a liquidity risk management program and related procedures to identify illiquid investments pursuant to Rule 22e-4. The 15% limits are applied as of the date the Fund purchases an illiquid investment. It is possible that the Fund's holding of illiquid investment could exceed the 15% limit, for example as a result of market developments or redemptions.

The Fund may purchase certain restricted securities that can be resold to institutional investors and which may be determined not to be illiquid investments pursuant to the Fund's liquidity risk management program. In many cases, those securities are traded in the institutional market under Rule 144A under the 1933 Act and are called Rule 144A securities.

Investments in illiquid investments involve more risks than investments in similar securities that are readily marketable. 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 has net redemptions, and could result in the Fund borrowing to meet short-term cash requirements or incurring losses on the sale of illiquid investments.

Illiquid investments are often restricted securities 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, the privately placed securities may not be freely transferable under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction or due to contractual restrictions on resale. To the extent privately placed securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices realized from the sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund or less than the fair value of the securities. 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. Private placement investments may involve investments in smaller, less seasoned issuers, which may involve greater risks than investments in more established companies. 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 private placement securities, the Fund may obtain access to material non-public information, which may restrict the Fund's ability to conduct transactions in those securities.

**Real Estate Investment Trusts.** The Fund may invest in real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). A REIT is a corporation or business trust that invests substantially all of its assets in interests in real estate. Equity REITs are those which purchase or lease land and buildings and generate income primarily from rental income. Equity REITs may also realize capital gains (or losses) when selling property that has appreciated (or depreciated) in value. Mortgage REITs are those which invest in real estate mortgages and generate income primarily from interest payments on mortgage loans. Hybrid REITs generally invest in both real property and mortgages. Equity REITs will be treated as equity securities for purposes of calculating the percentage of the Fund's assets invested in equity securities. Mortgage REITs and hybrid REITs (which invest in mortgages and real property) will be treated as fixed income securities for purposes of calculating the percentage of the Fund's assets invested of the Fund's assets invested in fixed income securities.

REITs are generally subject to risks associated with direct ownership of real estate, such as decreases in real estate values or fluctuations in rental income caused by a variety of factors, including increases in interest rates, increases in property taxes and other operating costs, casualty or condemnation losses, possible environmental liabilities and changes in supply and demand for properties. Risks associated with REIT investments include the fact that equity and mortgage REITs are dependent upon specialized management skills and are not fully diversified. These characteristics subject REITs to the risks associated with financing a limited number of projects. They are also subject to heavy cash flow dependency, defaults by borrowers and selfliquidation. Additionally, equity REITs may be affected by any changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the trusts, and mortgage REITs may be affected by the quality of any credit extended.

Short-Term Investments. The Fund may invest in any of the following securities and instruments:

#### **Debt Securities**

The Fund may invest in corporate and U.S. Government debt securities. Corporate debt securities include, but are not limited to, debt obligations offered by public or private corporations either registered or unregistered. The market value of such securities may fluctuate in response to interest rates and the creditworthiness of the issuer. The Fund may invest in debt securities that are non-investment grade or are in default.

U.S. Government debt securities include direct obligations of the U.S. Government and obligations issued by U.S. Government agencies and instrumentalities. Although certain securities issued by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, others are supported only by the credit of that agency or instrumentality. There is no guarantee that the U.S. Government will provide support to such agencies or instrumentalities and such securities may involve risk of loss of principal and interest. In addition, a security backed by the U.S. Treasury or the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government is guaranteed only as to the timely payment of interest and principal when held to maturity. The current market prices for such securities are not guaranteed and will fluctuate. Certain U.S. Government agency securities or securities of U.S. Government-sponsored entities are backed by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury, or are supported only by the credit of the issuer or instrumentality. While the U.S. Government provides financial support to those U.S. Government-sponsored agencies or instrumentalities, no assurance can be given that it will always do so and those securities are neither guaranteed nor issued by the U.S. Government. In the case of securities backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, shareholders are primarily exposed to interest rate risk. The ratings for debt securities are described in Appendix A.

## Municipal Securities

The Fund may invest in municipal securities. Municipal securities are issued by the states, territories and possessions of the United States, their political subdivisions (such as cities, counties and towns) and various authorities (such as public housing or redevelopment authorities), instrumentalities, public corporations and special districts (such as water, sewer or sanitary districts) of the states, territories, and possessions of the United States or their political subdivisions. In addition, municipal securities include securities issued by or on behalf of public authorities to finance various privately operated facilities, such as industrial development bonds, that are backed only by the assets and revenues of the non-governmental user (such as hospitals and airports).

Municipal securities are issued to obtain funds for a variety of public purposes, including general financing for state and local governments, or financing for specific projects or public facilities. Municipal securities are classified as general obligation or revenue bonds or notes. General obligation securities are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue securities are payable from revenue derived from a particular facility, class of facilities, or the proceeds of a special excise tax or other specific revenue source, but not from the issuer's general taxing power. The Fund will not invest more than 25% of its total assets in a single type of revenue bond. Private activity bonds and industrial revenue bonds do not carry the pledge of the credit of the issuing municipality, but generally are guaranteed by the corporate entity on whose behalf they are issued.

Municipal leases are entered into by state and local governments and authorities to acquire equipment and facilities such as fire and sanitation vehicles, telecommunications equipment, and other assets. Municipal leases (which normally provide for title to the leased assets to pass eventually to the government issuer) have evolved as a means for governmental issuers to acquire property and equipment without meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements for the issuance of debt. The debt-issuance limitations of many state constitutions and statutes are deemed to be inapplicable because of the inclusion in many leases or contracts of "non-appropriation" clauses that provide that the governmental issuer has no obligation to make future payments under the lease or contract unless money is appropriated for such purpose by the appropriate legislative body on a yearly or other periodic basis.

## Certificates of Deposit, Bankers' Acceptances and Time Deposits

The Fund may hold certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and time deposits. Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates issued against funds deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers' acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are "accepted" by a bank, meaning in effect that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity. Certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances acquired by the Fund will be dollar-denominated obligations of domestic banks, savings and loan associations or financial institutions which, at the time of purchase, have capital, surplus and undivided profits in excess of \$100 million (including assets of both domestic and foreign branches), based on latest published reports, or less than \$100 million if the principal amount of such bank obligations are fully insured by the U.S. government.

In addition to buying certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances, the Fund also may make interest-bearing time or other interest-bearing deposits in commercial or savings banks. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained at a banking institution for a specified period of time at a specified interest rate.

## Commercial Paper and Short-Term Notes

The Fund may invest a portion of its assets in commercial paper and short-term notes. Commercial paper consists of unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations. Commercial paper and short-term notes will normally have maturities of less than nine months and fixed rates of return, although such instruments may have maturities of up to one year.

Commercial paper and short-term notes will consist of issues rated at the time of purchase A- or higher by  $S\&P^{\mathbb{R}}$ , "Prime-1" or "Prime-2" by Moody's, or similarly rated by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization or, if unrated, will be determined by the Advisor to be of comparable quality. These rating symbols are described in the Appendix.

## **INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS**

**Fundamental.** The investment limitations described below have been adopted by the Trust with respect to the Fund and are fundamental ("Fundamental"), *i.e.*, they may not be changed without the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund. As used in the Prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information, the term "majority of the outstanding shares" of the Fund means the lesser of (1) 67% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present or represented at such meeting; or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

1. **Borrowing Money.** The Fund will not borrow money, except (a) from a bank, provided that immediately after such borrowing there is an asset coverage of 300% for all

borrowings of the Fund; or (b) from a bank or other persons for temporary purposes only, provided that such temporary borrowings are in an amount not exceeding 5% of the Fund's total assets at the time when the borrowing is made. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from entering into reverse repurchase transactions, provided that the Fund has an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings and repurchase commitments of the Fund pursuant to reverse repurchase transactions.

- 2. Senior Securities. The Fund will not issue senior securities. This limitation is not applicable to activities that may be deemed to involve the issuance or sale of a senior security by the Fund, provided that the Fund's engagement in such activities is consistent with or permitted by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or interpretations of the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff.
- 3. **Underwriting.** The Fund will not act as underwriter of securities issued by other persons. This limitation is not applicable to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities (including restricted securities), the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under certain federal securities laws.
- 4. **Real Estate.** The Fund will not purchase or sell real estate. This limitation is not applicable to investments in marketable securities which are secured by or represent interests in real estate. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from investing in mortgage-related securities or investing in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including real estate investment trusts).
- 5. **Commodities.** The Fund will not purchase or sell commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other investments. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from purchasing or selling options or futures contracts, from investing in securities or other instruments backed by commodities or from investing in companies which are engaged in a commodities business or have a significant portion of their assets in commodities.
- 6. Loans. The Fund will not make loans to other persons, except (a) by loaning portfolio securities, (b) by engaging in repurchase agreements, or (c) by purchasing nonpublicly offered debt securities. For purposes of this limitation, the term "loans" shall not include the purchase of a portion of an issue of publicly distributed bonds, debentures or other securities.
- 7. **Concentration.** The Fund will not invest 25% or more of its total assets in a particular industry or group of industries. This limitation is not applicable to investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities or repurchase agreements with respect thereto.
- 8. **Diversification.** With respect to 75% of its total assets, the Fund will not purchase securities issued by any one issuer (other than cash, cash items, or securities issued or guaranteed by the government of the United States or its agencies or instrumentalities) if,

as a result at the time of such purchase, more than 5% of the value of its total assets would be invested in the securities of that issuer, or if it would own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of that issuer.

With respect to the percentages adopted by the Trust as maximum limitations on the Fund's investment policies and limitations, an excess above the fixed percentage will not be a violation of the policy or limitation unless the excess results immediately and directly from the acquisition of any security or the action taken. This paragraph does not apply to the borrowing policy set forth in paragraph 1 above.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing limitations, any investment company, whether organized as a trust, association or corporation, or a personal holding company, may be merged or consolidated with or acquired by the Trust, provided that if such merger, consolidation or acquisition results in an investment in the securities of any issuer prohibited by said paragraphs, the Trust shall, within ninety days after the consummation of such merger, consolidation or acquisition, dispose of all of the securities of such issuer so acquired or such portion thereof as shall bring the total investment therein within the limitations imposed by said paragraphs above as of the date of consummation.

## **INVESTMENT ADVISOR**

The Advisor is Becker Capital Management, Inc., 1211 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 2185, Portland, Oregon 97204. The Advisor is 100% employee-owned.

The Advisory Agreement will continue in effect from year to year only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities and by a majority of the Independent Trustees, who are not parties to the Advisory Agreement or interested persons of any such party, in each case cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Advisory Agreement. The Advisory Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on behalf of the Fund on not more than 60 days', nor less than 30 days', written notice to the Advisor when authorized either by a majority vote of the Fund's shareholders or by a vote of a majority of the Trustees, or by the Advisor on not more than 60 days', nor less than 30 days', written notice to the Trust, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment" (as defined in the 1940 Act). The Advisory Agreement provides that the Advisor shall not be liable under such agreement for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss arising out of any investment or for any act or omission in the execution of portfolio transactions for the Fund, except for willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of its duties, or by reason of reckless disregard of its obligations and duties thereunder.

In consideration of the services provided by the Advisor pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Advisor is entitled to receive from the Fund an investment advisory fee computed daily and paid monthly, based on a rate equal to 0.55% of the Fund's average daily net assets as specified in the Fund's Prospectus. The Advisor may voluntarily agree to reduce a portion of the fees payable to it on a month-to-month basis.

Fiscal Year Ended	Advisory Fees Accrued	Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement	Net Advisory Fees Paid
October 31, 2021	\$763,058	\$(143,772)	\$619,286
October 31, 2022	\$692,010	\$(175,841)	\$516,169
October 31, 2023	\$508,517	\$(201,273)	\$307,244

The following table describes the advisory fees paid to the Advisor by the Fund during the periods indicated.

The Fund is responsible for its own operating expenses. The Advisor has contractually agreed to reduce fees and/or pay Fund expenses (excluding Acquired Fund Fees and Expense, interest expense in connection with investment activities, tax, extraordinary expenses, Rule 12b-1 fees, shareholder servicing fees and any other class-specific expenses) in order to the limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement for shares of the Fund to 0.68% of the Fund's average net assets (the "Expense Cap"). The Expense Cap is indefinite, but will remain in effect at least until February 28, 2025, as shown in the Example contained in the Prospectus and may continue thereafter for an indefinite period, as determined by the Board. The Advisor is permitted to be reimbursed for fee reductions and/or expenses were paid. Any such reimbursement is subject to the Board's review and approval. This reimbursement may be requested by the Advisor if the aggregate amount actually paid by the Fund toward operating expenses for such period (taking into account the reimbursement) does not exceed the lesser of the Expense Cap in place at the time of waiver or at the time of reimbursement.

## About the Portfolio Managers

The Fund is managed by a portfolio management team including Patrick Becker, Jr., Blake Howells, Steve Laveson, Thomas (T.J.) McConville, Andy Murray and Sid Parakh (collectively referred to as the "Portfolio Managers"). As of October 31, 2023, the Portfolio Managers were responsible for the management of the following types of accounts in addition to the Fund:

Portfolio Manager	Total Accounts By Type	Total Assets By Account Type		Total Assets By Account Type Subject to a Performance Fee
Patrick Becker, Jr.	Investment Companies: 1	Investment Companies: \$92 million	Investment Companies: 0	Investment Companies: 0
	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0 Other Accounts: 747	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0 Other Accounts:	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0 Other Accounts: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0 Other Accounts: 0
		\$1,331 million	other recounts. 0	other recounts. 0

Portfolio Manager	Total Accounts By Type	Total Assets By Account Type	Number of Accounts by Type Subject to a Performance Fee	Total Assets By Account Type Subject to a Performance Fee
Blake Howells	Investment Companies: 1	Investment Companies: \$92 million	Investment Companies: 0	Investment Companies: 0
	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0
	Other Accounts: 244	Other Accounts: \$746 million	Other Accounts: 0	Other Accounts: 0
Steve Laveson	Investment Companies: 1	Investment Companies: \$92 million	Investment Companies: 0	Investment Companies: 0
	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0
	Other Accounts: 5	Other Accounts: \$72 million	Other Accounts: 0	Other Accounts: 0
Thomas (T.J.) McConville	Investment Companies: 1	Investment Companies: \$92 million	Investment Companies: 0	Investment Companies: 0
	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0
	Other Accounts: 33	Other Accounts: \$244 million	Other Accounts: 0	Other Accounts: 0
Andy Murray	Investment Companies: 1	Investment Companies: \$92 million	Investment Companies: 0	Investment Companies: 0
	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0
	Other Accounts: 75	Other Accounts: \$683 million	Other Accounts: 0	Other Accounts: 0
Sid Parakh	Investment Companies: 1	Investment Companies: \$92 million	Investment Companies: 0	Investment Companies: 0
	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0	Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0
	Other Accounts: 26	Other Accounts: \$48 million	Other Accounts: 0	Other Accounts: 0

Each Portfolio Manager is compensated for his or her services by the Advisor. The Portfolio Managers' compensation consists of a fixed salary and a discretionary bonus based on the following: (1) the Portfolio Manager's overall contribution to client portfolios and the firm's success, and (2) the annual pre-tax performance of the aggregate accounts managed by such Portfolio Manager (including the Fund) as compared to the performance of an appropriate benchmark. For example, the pre-tax annual performance of the Advisor's Large Cap Value portfolios are compared to that of the Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> Value Index, and the bonuses of the

Portfolio Managers are determined accordingly. Like all employees of the Advisor, Portfolio Managers participate in the Advisor's profit sharing and pension plans.

It is generally the Advisor's policy that investment decisions for all accounts managed by a Portfolio Manager be made based on a consideration of each account's respective investment objectives and policies, and other needs and requirements affecting the account. Each Portfolio Manager typically manages accounts with similar investment strategies and, therefore, the Advisor does not anticipate conflicts of interests as a result of differing investment strategies.

Conflicts may arise as a result of a Portfolio Manager's dual role in managing the Fund and other client accounts with respect to his or her allocation of time among such clients. However, because of the similarities in the investment strategies of the various accounts, many of the Portfolio Managers' duties overlap. As a result of combining responsibilities such as research and stock selection, each Portfolio Manager has the ability to provide both the Fund and other clients with more thorough research and stock selection.

To the extent that the Fund and another of the Advisor's clients seek to acquire the same security at about the same time, the Fund may not be able to acquire as large a position in such security as it desires or it may have to pay a higher price for the security. Similarly, the Fund may not be able to obtain as large an execution of an order to sell or as high a price for any particular portfolio security if the other client desires to sell the same portfolio security at the same time. On the other hand, if the same securities are bought or sold at the same time by more than one client, the resulting participation in volume transactions could produce better executions for the Fund. In addition, the Advisor has adopted policies and procedures that are designed to address potential conflicts of interest relating to the allocation of investment opportunities by its managers. In the event that more than one client wants to purchase or sell the same security on a given date, the purchases and sales will normally be made on a pro rata average price per share basis.

Portfolio Manager	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund
Patrick Becker, Jr.	Over \$1,000,000
Blake Howells	Over \$1,000,000
Steve Laveson	\$100,001 - \$500,000
T.J. McConville	\$100,001 - \$500,000
Andy Murray	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
Sid Parakh	\$100,001 - \$500,000

The following table shows the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the Portfolio Managers in the Fund as of October 31, 2023.

## TRUSTEES AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Board is responsible for the overall management of the Trust, including general supervision and review of the investment activities of the Fund. The Board, in turn, elects the officers of the Trust, who are responsible for administering the day-to-day operations of the Trust and its separate series. The current trustees and officers of the Trust, their year of birth, positions

with the Trust, terms of office with the Trust and length of time served, their principal occupations for the past five years and other directorships are set forth in the table below.

Name, Address And Age	Position with the Trust <sup>(1)</sup>	Term of Office <sup>(2)</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex <sup>(3)</sup> Overseen by Trustees	Other Directorships Held During the Past 5 Years
		Independe	nt Trustees of the Trust		
Kathleen T. Barr (born 1955) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee Chairperson	Indefinite Term; Since November 2018. Indefinite Term; Since February 2023.	Retired; Former Chair of the Governing Council, Independent Directors Council (since 2020); formerly, President, owner of a registered investment adviser, Productive Capital Management, Inc. (2010 to 2013); formerly, Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Vice President and Senior Managing Director of Allegiant Asset Management Company (merged with PNC Capital Advisors, LLC in 2009); formerly, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Senior Vice President of PNC Funds and PNC Advantage Funds (f/k/a Allegiant Funds) (registered investment	1	Independent Director, Muzinich Direct Lending Income Fund, Inc. (2023 to present); Independent Director, Muzinich BDC, Inc. (2019 to present); Independent Trustee for the William Blair Funds (2013 to present) (18 series).
Eric W. Falkeis (born 1973) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since September 2011.	companies). Chief Growth Officer, Tidal Financial Group (2022 to present); Chief Executive Officer, Tidal ETF Services LLC (2018 to present); formerly, Chief Operating Officer, Direxion Funds (2013 to 2018); formerly, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (and other positions), U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (1997 to 2013).	1	Independent Director, Muzinich Direct Lending Income Fund, Inc. (2023 to present); Interested Trustee, Tidal Trust II (2022 to present) (41 series); Independent Director, Muzinich BDC, Inc. (2019 to present); Interested Trustee, Tidal ETF Trust I (2018 to Present) (40 series); Former Interested Trustee, Direxion Funds (36 series), Direxion Shares ETF Trust (112 series) and Direxion Insurance Trust (2013 to 2018).

Name, Address And Age	Position with the Trust <sup>(1)</sup>	Term of Office <sup>(2)</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex <sup>(3)</sup> Overseen by Trustees	Other Directorships Held During the Past 5 Years
Steven J. Paggioli (born 1950) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since May 1991.	Consultant; formerly, Executive Vice President, Investment Company Administration, LLC (mutual fund administrator).	1	Independent Director, Muzinich Direct Lending Income Fund, Inc. (2023 to present); Independent Director, Muzinich BDC, Inc. (2019 to present); Independent Trustee, AMG Funds (1993 to present) (42 series).
Ashi S. Parikh (born 1966) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since June 2020.	Investment professional; formerly, Chief Executive and Chief Investment Officer and various other positions, RidgeWorth Investments, LLC (global investment management firm) (2006 to 2017); formerly, Chief Investment Officer Institutional Growth Equities, Eagle Asset Management (investment management firm); formerly Sr. Managing Director, Growth Equities, Banc One Investment Advisors (investment management firm).	1	Board of Directors Member, Investment Working Group, The Ohio State University Endowments and Foundation (2016 to present); Board of Directors, World Methodist Council, Investment Committee (2018 to present); Independent Trustee, PNC Funds (2018 to 2019) (32 series); Interested Trustee, RidgeWorth Funds (2014 to 2017) (35 series).
Cynthia M. Fornelli (born 1960) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Since January 2022.	Independent Director of TriplePoint Venture Growth BDC Corp. (2019 to present); Retired; formerly, Executive Director of the Center for Audit Quality (2007-2019); formerly, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Conflicts Management at Bank of America (2005-2007); formerly, Deputy Director, Division of Investment Management with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (1998-2005). cers of the Trust	1	Independent Director, TriplePoint Private Venture Credit, Inc. (2020 to present).

Name, Address And Age	Position with the Trust <sup>(1)</sup>	Term of Office <sup>(2)</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex <sup>(3)</sup> Overseen by Trustees	Other Directorships Held During the Past 5 Years
Jason F. Hadler (born 1975) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	President & Principal Executive Officer	Indefinite Term; Since September 2021.	Senior Vice President and Head of Client Experience, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services, since March 2022; Senior Vice President and Head of Fund Services Fund Administration Department, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (December 2003-March 2022).	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Carl G. Gee, Esq. (born 1990) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Secretary & Vice President	Indefinite Term; Since February 2021.	Assistant Secretary of the Trust (2020-2021); Assistant Vice President and Counsel, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since August 2016; Summer Associate, Husch Blackwell LLP (2015); Law Clerk, Brady Corporation (global printing systems, labels and safety products company) (2014-2015).	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Craig Benton (born 1985) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Treasurer & Vice President	Indefinite Term; Since December 2021.	Assistant Treasurer of the Trust (2016-2021); Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since November 2007.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Kyle J. Buscemi (born 1996) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Since June 2022.	Mutual Funds Administrator, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since June 2018; Business Administration Student, 2014-2018.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Kathryn E. LaPlante Johnson (born 1998) c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services 615 East Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Since November 2023.	Mutual Funds Administrator, U.S. Bank Global Fund Services since June 2020; Business Administration Student, 2017-2021.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.

Name, Address And Age	Position with the Trust <sup>(1)</sup>	Term of Office <sup>(2)</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex <sup>(3)</sup> Overseen by Trustees	Other Directorships Held During the Past 5 Years
Gazala Khan (born 1969)	Chief Compliance	Indefinite Term; Since November	Vice President and Compliance Officer, U.S.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
c/o U.S. Bank Global		2022.	Bank Global Fund		
Fund Services 615 East Michigan	Anti-Money		Services since July 2022; Chief Compliance Officer		
Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	Laundering Officer		Matthews Asia Fund (May 2019-July 15,		
w1 33202	Unicer		(May 2019-July 15, 2022); Chief Compliance		
			Officer GS Trust/VIT		
			(June 2009-May 2019); Vice President GSAM		
			(May 2005-June 2009); Staff Accountant, SEC		
			Office of Compliance		
			Inspection and Examination		
			(1999-2005).		

<sup>(1)</sup> All Trustees of the Trust who are not "interested persons" of the Trust as defined under the 1940 Act ("Independent Trustees").

- <sup>(2)</sup> Under the terms of the Board's retirement policy, a Trustee shall retire at the end of the calendar year in which he or she reaches the age of 78.
- (3) The Trust is comprised of numerous series managed by unaffiliated investment advisers. The term "Fund Complex" applies only to the Fund. The Fund does not hold itself out as related to any other series within the Trust for purposes of investment and investor services, nor does it share the same investment adviser with any other series.

#### Additional Information Concerning the Board of Trustees

#### The Role of the Board

The Board oversees the management and operations of the Trust. Like all mutual funds, the day-to-day management and operation of the Trust is the responsibility of the various service providers to the Trust, such as the Advisor, the Distributor, the Administrator, the Custodian, and the Transfer Agent, each of whom is discussed in greater detail in this Statement of Additional Information. The Board has appointed various senior employees of the Administrator as officers of the Trust, with responsibility to monitor and report to the Board on the Trust's operations. In conducting this oversight, the Board receives regular reports from these officers and the service providers. For example, the Treasurer reports as to financial reporting matters and the President reports as to matters relating to the Trust's operations. In addition, the Advisor provides regular reports on the investment strategy and performance of the Fund. The Board has appointed a Chief Compliance Officer who administers the Trust's compliance program and regularly reports to the Board as to compliance matters. These reports are provided as part of formal "Board Meetings" which are typically held quarterly, in person, and involve the Board's review of recent operations. In addition, various members of the Board also meet with management in less formal settings, between formal "Board Meetings," to discuss various topics. In all cases, however, the role of the Board and of any individual Trustee is one of oversight and not of management of the day-to-day affairs of the Trust and its oversight role does not make the Board a guarantor of the Trust's investments, operations or activities.

#### Board Structure, Leadership

The Board has structured itself in a manner that it believes allows it to perform its oversight function effectively. It has established three standing committees, a Nominating and Governance Committee, an Audit Committee, and a Qualified Legal Compliance Committee, which are discussed in greater detail below under "Trust Committees." The Board is entirely comprised of Trustees who are Independent Trustees, which are Trustees that are not affiliated with the Advisor, the principal underwriter, or their affiliates. The Independent Trustees have engaged their own independent counsel to advise them on matters relating to their responsibilities in connection with the Trust. The Nominating and Governance Committee, Audit Committee and Qualified Legal Compliance Committee are comprised of all of the Independent Trustees. The Chairperson of the Board is an Independent Trustee. The Trust has appointed Kathleen Barr, an Independent Trustee, as Chairperson of the Board, and she acts as a liaison with the Trust's service providers, officers, legal counsel, and other Trustees between meetings, helps to set Board meeting agendas, and serves as Chairperson during executive sessions of the Independent Trustees. The Board has determined not to combine the Chairperson position and the principal executive officer position and has appointed a Vice President of the Administrator as the President of the Trust, who routinely interacts with the unaffiliated investment advisers of the Trust's series and comprehensively manages the operational aspects of the series of the Trust. The Board reviews its structure and the structure of its committees annually. The Board has determined that the structure of the Independent Chairperson, the composition of the Board, and the function and composition of its various committees are appropriate means to address any potential conflicts of interest that may arise.

### Board Oversight of Risk Management

As part of its oversight function, the Board receives and reviews various risk management reports and discusses these matters with appropriate management and other personnel. Because risk management is a broad concept comprised of many elements (e.g., investment risk, issuer and counterparty risk, compliance risk, operational risks, business continuity risks, etc.), the oversight of different types of risks is handled in different ways. For example, the Audit Committee meets with the Treasurer and the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm to discuss, among other things, the internal control structure of the Trust's financial reporting function. The Board meets regularly with the Chief Compliance Officer to discuss compliance and operational risks and how they are managed. The Board also receives reports from the Advisor as to investment risks of the Fund. In addition to these reports, from time to time the Board receives reports from the Advisor as to enterprise risk management.

#### Information about Each Trustee's Qualification, Experience, Attributes or Skills

The Board believes that each of the Trustees has the qualifications, experience, attributes and skills ("Trustee Attributes") appropriate to their continued service as Trustees of the Trust in light of the Trust's business and structure. In addition to a demonstrated record of business and/ or professional accomplishment, each of the Trustees has served on the Board for a number of years. They have substantial board experience and, in their service to the Trust, have gained substantial insight as to the operation of the Trust. They have demonstrated a commitment to discharging their oversight duties as trustees in the interests of shareholders. The Board annually conducts a "self-assessment" wherein the effectiveness of the Board and individual Trustees is reviewed.

In addition to the information provided in the chart above, below is certain additional information concerning each particular Trustee and his/her Trustee Attributes. The information is not all-inclusive. Many Trustee Attributes involve intangible elements, such as intelligence, integrity, work ethic, the ability to work together, the ability to communicate effectively, the ability to exercise judgment, to ask incisive questions, and commitment to shareholder interests.

Ms. Barr's Trustee Attributes include her substantial mutual fund experience, including her role as Chair of the Governing Council for the Independent Directors Council and member of the ICI Board of Governors. She has executive experience as the former owner of a registered investment adviser (Productive Capital Management, Inc.), as the Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Vice President and Senior Managing Director of Allegiant Asset Management Company (merged with PNC Capital Advisors LLC in 2009), and as the Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Senior Vice President of PNC Funds and PNC Advantage Funds (f/k/a Allegiant Funds). Ms. Barr also currently serves on the board of several registered investment companies. Ms. Barr has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Ms. Barr's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees led to the conclusion that she possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Mr. Falkeis' Trustee Attributes include his substantial mutual fund experience and his experience with financial, accounting, investment and regulatory matters through his former position as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (and other positions) of U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, a full-service provider to ETFs, mutual funds and alternative investment products. Mr. Falkeis currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Tidal ETF Services LLC (2018 to present), and he has experience consulting with investment advisers regarding the legal structure of investment companies, distribution channel analysis, marketing and actual distribution of those funds. Mr. Falkeis also has substantial managerial, operational and risk oversight experience through his former positions as Chief Operating Officer and Trustee of the Direxion Funds and the Direxion Exchange Traded Funds. Mr. Falkeis has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Mr. Falkeis' experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees led to the conclusion that he possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Mr. Paggioli's Trustee Attributes include his substantial mutual fund and investment advisory experience. Mr. Paggioli is an independent consultant on investment company and investment advisory matters. He has held a number of senior positions with mutual fund and investment advisory organizations and related businesses, including Executive Vice President, Director and Principal of the Wadsworth Group (fund administration, distribution transfer agency and accounting services). He serves on the boards of several investment management companies and advisory firms. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Investment Company Institute and of the Governing Council of the Independent Directors Council. He has served on various industry association and self-regulatory committees and formerly worked on the staff of the SEC. Mr. Paggioli has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Mr. Paggioli's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees led to the conclusion that he possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Mr. Parikh's Trustee Attributes include his substantial investment and executive experience in the asset management industry, including his position as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of RidgeWorth Investments (global investment management firm with over \$41 billion in assets). He has also served as a Trustee of several investment trusts (including private investment trusts). Mr. Parikh has ongoing responsibility as a member of the Investment Working Group as part of the Board of Directors for the Ohio State University Endowments & Foundation, as well as an ongoing position as a member of the Investment Committee for the World Methodist Council Endowment Fund (a charitable religious foundation). Mr. Parikh has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Mr. Parikh possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Ms. Fornelli's Trustee Attributes include her substantial governance, legal, regulatory and business experience, including her role as an Independent Director of TriplePoint Venture Growth BDC Corp and TriplePoint Private Venture Credit, Inc. She has broad leadership experience in strategy formulation, corporate governance and risk management. She has executive experience as the Executive Director of Center for Audit Quality (2007-2019), Senior Vice President of Regulatory and Conflicts Management at Bank of America (2005-2007) and Deputy Director, Division of Investment Management with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (1998-2005). Ms. Fornelli has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee financial expert for the Trust. The Board believes Ms. Fornelli's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees led to the conclusion that she possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

## **Trust Committees**

The Trust has three standing committees: the Nominating and Governance Committee, and the Audit Committee, which also serves as the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee ("QLCC").

The Nominating and Governance Committee, comprised of all of the Independent Trustees, is responsible for seeking and reviewing candidates for consideration as nominees for Trustees and meets only as necessary. The Nominating and Governance Committee is also responsible for, among other things, assisting the Board in its oversight of the Trust's compliance program under Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act, reviewing and making recommendations regarding Independent Trustee compensation and the Trustees' annual "self-assessment." The Nominating and Governance Committee has appointed Independent Trustee Eric Falkeis as the Chairperson of the Committee. The Nominating and Governance Committee will consider nominees nominated by shareholders. Recommendations for consideration by shareholders by the Nominating Committee should be sent to the President of the Trust in writing together with the appropriate biographical information concerning each such proposed Nominee, and such recommendation must comply with the notice provisions set forth in the Trust By-Laws. In general, to comply with such procedures, such nominations, together with all required biographical information, must be delivered to and received by the President of the Trust at the principal executive offices of the Trust not later than 120 days and no more than 150 days prior to the shareholder meeting at which any such nominee would be voted on. The Nominating and Governance Committee met one time during the Fund's last fiscal year with respect to the Fund.

The Audit Committee is comprised of all of the Independent Trustees. The Audit Committee has appointed Independent Trustee Cynthia Fornelli as the Chairperson of the Committee. The Audit Committee generally meets on a quarterly basis with respect to the various series of the Trust, and may meet more frequently. The function of the Audit Committee, with respect to each series of the Trust, is to review the scope and results of the audit of such series' financial statements and any matters bearing on the audit or the financial statements, and to ensure the integrity of the series' pricing and financial reporting. The Audit Committee met one time with respect to the Fund during the Fund's last fiscal year.

The function of the QLCC is to receive reports from an attorney retained by the Trust of evidence of a material violation by the Trust or by any officer, director, employee or agent of the Trust. The QLCC did not meet during the Fund's last fiscal year with respect to the Fund.

Name	Dollar Range of Fund Shares	Aggregate Dollar Range of Fund Shares in the Trust
<b>Independent Trustees</b>	5	
Kathleen T. Barr	None	\$10,001-\$50,000
Eric W. Falkeis	None	\$50,001-\$100,000
Steven J. Paggioli	None	Over \$100,000
Ashi S. Parikh	None	Over \$100,000
Cynthia M. Fornelli	None	None

## **Trustee Ownership of Fund Shares and Other Interests**

The following table shows the amount of shares in the Fund and the amount of shares in other portfolios of the Trust owned by the Trustees as of the calendar year ended December 31, 2023.

As of December 31, 2023, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate family, own securities beneficially or of record in the Advisor, the Fund's principal underwriter, or any of their affiliates. Accordingly, during the two most recently completed calendar years, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate family, have had a direct or indirect interest, the value of which exceeds \$120,000, in the Advisor, the Fund's principal underwriter or any of its affiliates.

### **Compensation**

Effective January 1, 2024, the Independent Trustees were due to receive an annual retainer of \$145,000 allocated among each of the various portfolios comprising the Trust, an additional \$8,000 per regularly scheduled Board meeting, and an additional \$3,500 per special meeting, paid by the Trust or applicable advisors/portfolios, as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with attendance at Board meetings. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee receives additional compensation of \$20,000 annually, the Chairperson of the Nominating and Governance Committee receives additional compensation of \$8,000 annually and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees receives additional compensation of \$30,000 annually, and such compensation is also allocated among each of the various portfolios Independent Trustees receive additional fees from the applicable comprising the Trust. portfolios for any special meetings at rates assessed by the Trustees depending on the length of the meeting and whether in-person attendance is required. All Trustees will be reimbursed for expenses in connection with each Board meeting attended, which reimbursement is allocated among applicable portfolios of the Trust. The Trust has no pension or retirement plan. No other entity affiliated with the Trust pays any compensation to the Trustees. Set forth below is the rate of compensation received by the following Independent Trustees for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023:

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 Fund and Fund Complex <sup>(1)</sup> Paid to Trustees
Kathleen T. Barr, Independent Trustee	\$3,990	None	None	\$177,465
Eric W. Falkeis, Independent Trustee	\$3,915	None	None	\$177,846
Steve J. Paggioli, Independent Trustee	\$3,541	None	None	\$165,365
Ashi S. Parikh, Independent Trustee	\$3,541	None	None	\$165,365
Cynthia Fornelli, Independent Trustee	\$3,857	None	None	\$180,498

<sup>(1)</sup> There are currently numerous portfolios comprising the Trust. The term "Fund Complex" applies only to the Fund. For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, Trustees' fees and expenses in the amount of \$841,701 were incurred by the Trust.

### **CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES**

A principal shareholder is any person who owns (either of record or beneficially) 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund. A control person is one who owns, either directly or indirectly, more than 25% of the voting securities of the Fund or acknowledges the existence of such control. As a controlling shareholder, each of these persons could control the outcome of any proposal submitted to the shareholders for approval, including changes to the Fund's fundamental policies or the terms of the management agreement with the Advisor. As of January 31, 2024, the following shareholders were considered to be either a control person or principal shareholder of the Fund:

## Principal Shareholders of the Becker Value Equity Fund Retail Class:

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody Account FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	33.98%	Record
National Financial Services LLC For the Exclusive Benefit of our Customers Attn: Mutual Funds Dept., 4th Floor 499 Washington Blvd. Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995	32.75%	Record
Vantagepoint IRAs c/o Missionsquare Retirement 777 North Capitol Street NE Washington, D.C. 20002-4239	8.43%	Record

## Principal Shareholders of the Becker Value Equity Fund Institutional Class:

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody Account FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1901	33.26%	Record
Becker Capital Management Inc. FBO Customers 1211 SW 5TH Ave Ste 2185 Portland, OR 97204-3740	19.47%	Record
LDC Trust Wilsonville, OR 97070-9315	8.49%	Beneficial

## Principal Control Persons of the Becker Equity Value Fund

Name and Address	% Ownership	Type of Ownership
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody Account FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main Street	33.98%	Record
San Francisco, CA 94105-1901		

As of January 31, 2024, the officers and trustees of the Trust as a group did not own any shares of the Fund.

## **PORTFOLIO TURNOVER**

Although the Fund generally will not invest for short-term trading purposes, portfolio securities may be sold without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Advisor, investment considerations warrant such action. The Fund's portfolio turnover rate is a measure of the Fund's portfolio activity, and is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of securities by the average value of the portfolio securities held during the

period. A high rate of portfolio turnover (100% or more) generally leads to higher transaction costs and may result in a greater number of taxable transactions.

The Fund had the following portfolio turnover rates for the last two fiscal years ended October 31:

2023	2022
31%	28%

#### PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE

Subject to policies established by the Board of Trustees of the Trust, the Advisor is responsible for the Fund's portfolio decisions and the placing of the Fund's portfolio transactions. In placing portfolio transactions, the Advisor seeks the best qualitative execution for the Fund, taking into account such factors as price (including the applicable brokerage commission or dealer spread), the execution capability, financial responsibility and responsiveness of the broker or dealer and the brokerage and research services provided by the broker or dealer. The Advisor generally seeks favorable prices and commission rates that are reasonable in relation to the benefits received.

The Advisor is specifically authorized to select brokers or dealers who also provide brokerage and research services to the Fund and/or the other accounts over which the Advisor exercises investment discretion and to pay such brokers or dealers a commission in excess of the commission another broker or dealer would charge if the Advisor determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided. The determination may be viewed in terms of a particular transaction or the Advisor's overall responsibilities with respect to the Trust and to other accounts over which it exercises investment discretion. For example, the Advisor has oral and written soft dollar agreements with broker-dealers to provide research services such as Bloomberg, a software program that is used by the Advisor's trading department to research and determine which broker-dealers have been active in a particular issue or have posted indication of interest in purchasing or selling a security. The Advisor also receives numerous research reports and news services, including Baseline Financial Services' research software and Bloomberg trading and research terminals, which are news, research and trading software products that allow the Advisor's portfolio managers, analysts and traders to screen, search and research both current and future holdings, monitor news, research trading activity and volume and monitor clients' portfolio holdings. Research services include supplemental research, securities and economic analyses, statistical services and information with respect to the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities and analyses of reports concerning performance of accounts. All such research is of the type described in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

The research services and other information furnished by brokers through whom the Fund effects securities transactions may also be used by the Advisor in servicing all of its accounts. Similarly, research and information provided by brokers or dealers serving other clients may be useful to the Advisor in connection with its services to the Fund. Although research services and other information are useful to the Fund and the Advisor, it is not possible to place a dollar value

on the research and other information received. It is the opinion of the Board of Trustees and the Advisor that the review and study of the research and other information will not reduce the overall cost to the Advisor of performing its duties to the Fund under the Agreement.

The following table describes the brokerage transactions directed to brokers during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, due to research services provided to the Advisor.

Amount of Transactions	<b>Brokerage Commissions</b>
\$22,681,585	\$5,208

Over-the-counter transactions may be placed with broker-dealers if the Advisor is able to obtain best execution (including commissions and price). Over-the-counter transactions may also be placed directly with principal market makers. Fixed income securities are normally purchased directly from the issuer, an underwriter or a market maker. Purchases include a concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter and the purchase price paid to a market maker may include the spread between the bid and asked prices.

The following table describes the brokerage commissions paid by the Fund for the fiscal years indicated.

October 31, 2021	October 31, 2022	October 31, 2023
\$54,441	\$59,723	\$34,932

As of the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, the Fund owned \$2,122,751 of JP Morgan Chase & Co. shares, a regular broker/dealer of the Fund.

## **CODES OF ETHICS**

The Trust and the Advisor have each adopted separate Codes of Ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act. These Codes permit, subject to certain conditions, access persons of the Advisor to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. The Distributor, as defined below, relies on the principal underwriter's exception in Rule 17j-1(c)(3) under the 1940 Act, specifically where the Distributor is not affiliated with the Trust or the Advisor, and no officer, director or general partner of the Distributor serves as an officer, director or general partner of the Advisor.

### **DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

The Trust, on behalf of the Fund, has adopted a portfolio holdings disclosure policy that governs the timing and circumstances of disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Fund. The Advisor has also adopted a policy with respect to disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Fund (the "Advisor's Policy"). Information about the Fund's portfolio holdings will not be distributed to any third party except in accordance with the portfolio holdings policies and the Advisor's Policy (the "Disclosure Policies"). The Advisor and the Board considered the circumstances under which the Fund's portfolio holdings may be disclosed under the Disclosure Policies and the actual and potential material conflicts that could arise in such circumstances between the interests of the Fund's shareholders and the interests of the Advisor, distributor or any other affiliated person of the Fund, its Advisor or its distributor. After due consideration, the Advisor and the Board determined that the Fund has a legitimate business purpose for disclosing portfolio holdings to persons described in the Disclosure Policies, including mutual fund rating or statistical agencies, or persons performing similar functions, and internal parties involved in the investment process, administration or custody of the Fund. Pursuant to the Disclosure Policies, the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"), President and Treasurer are each authorized to consider and authorize dissemination of portfolio holdings information to additional third parties, after considering the best interests of the Fund shareholders and potential conflicts of interest in making such disclosures.

The Board exercises continuing oversight of the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio holdings by (1) overseeing the implementation and enforcement of the Disclosure Policies, Codes of Ethics and other relevant policies of the Fund and its service providers by the Trust's CCO, (2) by considering reports and recommendations by the Trust's CCO concerning any material compliance matters (as defined in Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act), and (3) by considering to approve any amendment to the Disclosure Policies. The Board reserves the right to amend the Disclosure Policies at any time without prior notice to shareholders in its sole discretion.

Disclosure of the Fund's complete holdings is required to be made quarterly within 60 days of the end of each period covered by the annual report and semi-annual report to Fund shareholders. Monthly portfolio disclosures are filed quarterly with the SEC on Form N-PORT, with quarter-end disclosures being made public 60 days after the end of each fiscal quarter. These reports are available, free of charge, on the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. The Fund discloses its quarterly portfolio holdings on its website at www.beckercap.com/mutalfund within 15 business days after the quarter-end. The quarter-end portfolio holdings are posted. Portfolio holdings information posted on the Fund's website may be separately provided to any person, commencing on the day after it is first published on the Fund's website. In addition, the Fund may provide its complete portfolio holdings at the same time that it is filed with the SEC.

In the event of a conflict between the interests of the Fund and the interests of Advisor or an affiliated person of the Advisor, the CCO of the Advisor, in consultation with the Trust's CCO, shall make a determination in the best interests of the Fund, and shall report such determination to the Board at the end of the quarter in which such determination was made. Any employee of the Advisor who suspects a breach of this obligation must report the matter immediately to the Advisor's CCO or to his or her supervisor.

In addition, material non-public holdings information may be provided without lag as part of the normal investment activities of the Fund to each of the following entities, which, by explicit agreement or by virtue of their respective duties to the Fund, are required to maintain the confidentiality of the information disclosed, including a duty not to trade on non-public information: the fund administrator, fund accountant, custodian, transfer agent, auditors, counsel to the Fund or the Board, broker-dealers (in connection with the purchase or sale of securities or requests for price quotations or bids on one or more securities) and regulatory authorities. Portfolio holdings information not publicly available with the SEC or through the Fund's website may only be provided to additional third parties, including mutual fund ratings or statistical agencies, in accordance with the Disclosure Policies, when the Fund has a legitimate business purpose and the third party recipient is subject to a confidentiality agreement that includes a duty not to trade on non-public information.

In no event shall the Advisor, its affiliates or employees, the Fund, or any other party receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio holdings.

There can be no assurance that the Disclosure Policies will protect the Fund from potential misuse of portfolio holdings information by individuals or entities to which it is disclosed.

From time to time, the Advisor may make additional disclosure of the Fund's portfolio holdings on the Fund's website. Shareholders can access the Fund's website at www.beckercap.com/mutual-fund for additional information about the Fund, including, without limitation, the periodic disclosure of its portfolio holdings.

## **PROXY VOTING POLICY**

The Board has adopted Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures ("Proxy Policies") on behalf of the Trust which delegate the responsibility for voting proxies to the Advisor, subject to the Board's continuing oversight. The Proxy Policies require that the Advisor vote proxies received in a manner consistent with the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. The Proxy Policies also require the Advisor to present to the Board, at least annually, the Advisor's Proxy Policies and a record of each proxy voted by the Advisor on behalf of the Fund, including a report on the resolution of all proxies identified by the Advisor as involving a conflict of interest.

The Advisor has adopted the Glass Lewis Proxy Voting Guidelines Summary. The Glass Lewis guidelines provide that certain proxy issues should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, including, but not limited to, director elections, corporate governance, executive and director compensation, shareholder rights and social and environmental issues, and outline the factors that the Advisor should consider in determining whether a proposal deserves support. For example, the Glass Lewis guidelines provide that the Advisor should vote against management proposals that seek to limit shareholder rights or insulate management and directors from liability for violating their duty of care to shareholders. In uncontested director elections, the Glass Lewis guidelines direct the Advisor to consider factors, among others, such as the company's long-term performance compared to an index, and whether a majority of the directors would be independent from management. Under the Advisor's proxy voting policy, the Advisor's Investment Committee may vote proxies in a manner that does not conform to the Glass Lewis guidelines, provided that the vote is reviewed and approved by the Advisor's Chief Executive Officer.

The Trust's policy provides that, if a conflict of interest between the Advisor or its affiliates and the Fund arises with respect to any proxy, the Advisor must fully disclose the conflict to the Board of Trustees and vote the proxy in accordance with the Board's instructions.

You may obtain a copy of the Trust's and the Advisor's proxy voting policy by calling Shareholder Services at 1-800-551-3998 to request a copy from the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer, or by writing to U.S Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, the Fund's transfer agent, at: U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC P.O. Box 701, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-0701. A copy of the policies will be mailed to you within three days of your request. You also may obtain a copy of the policies from Fund documents filed with the SEC, which are available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. The actual voting records relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 are filed by the Fund with the SEC on Form N-PX. The Fund's proxy voting record is also available to shareholders free of charge upon request by calling or writing the Fund as described above or from the SEC's website.

## **DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The net asset value of each class of shares of the Fund is determined at the close of trading (normally, 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) on each day the Trust is open for business and on any other day on which there is sufficient trading in the Fund's securities to materially affect the net asset value. The Trust is open for business on every day on which the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading. The NYSE is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For a description of the methods used to determine the net asset value (share price) see "Determination of Net Asset Value" in the Prospectus.

Equity securities generally are valued by using market quotations furnished by a pricing service when the Advisor believes such prices accurately reflect the fair market value of such securities. Securities that are traded on any stock exchange are generally valued by the pricing service at the last quoted sale price. Lacking a last sale price, an exchange traded security is generally valued by the pricing service at its last bid price. Securities primarily traded on U.S. national securities exchanges for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued at either the last reported sale price on the day of valuation, or the exchange's official closing price, if applicable. If there has been no sale on such day, then the mean between the bid and asked prices will be used. Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available (including restricted securities which are subject to limitations as to their sale) are valued at fair value as determined in good faith pursuant to procedures approved by the Advisor.

Fixed income securities are valued by a pricing service when the Advisor believes such prices are accurate and reflect the fair market value of such securities. If the Advisor decides that a price provided by the pricing service does not accurately reflect the fair market value of the securities, when prices are not readily available from a pricing service, or when restricted or illiquid securities are being valued, securities are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Advisor. Short-term debt obligations, including short-term debt obligations having a maturity of less than 60 days, are valued at the mean evaluated price supplied by a pricing service. The Fund's net asset value per share is computed by dividing the value of the securities held by the Fund plus any cash or other assets (including interest and dividends accrued but not yet received) minus all liabilities (including accrued expenses) by the total number of shares in the Fund outstanding at such time.

### **REDEMPTION IN-KIND**

The Trust has elected to be governed by Rule 18f-1 under the 1940 Act so that the Fund is obligated to redeem its shares solely in cash up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of its net asset value during any 90-day period for any shareholder of the Fund. The Fund has reserved the right to pay the redemption price of its shares in excess of \$250,000 or 1% of the Fund's net asset value, either totally or partially, by a distribution in-kind of portfolio securities (instead of cash). The securities so distributed would be valued at the same amount as that assigned to them in calculating the NAV for the shares being sold. If a shareholder receives a distribution in kind, the shareholder could incur brokerage or other charges in converting the securities to cash and would bear any market risks associated with such securities until they are converted into cash. A redemption in-kind is treated as a taxable transaction and a sale of the redeemed shares, generally resulting in capital gain or loss to you, subject to certain loss limitation rules.

The Fund does not intend to hold any significant percentage of its portfolio in illiquid securities, although the Fund, like most mutual funds, may from time to time hold a small percentage of securities that are illiquid. In the unlikely event the Fund were to elect to make an in-kind redemption, the Fund expects that it would follow the Trust protocol of making such distribution by way of a pro rata distribution of securities that are traded on a public securities market or are otherwise considered liquid pursuant to the Fund's liquidity policies and procedures. Except as otherwise may be approved by the Trustees, the securities that would not be included in an in-kind distribution include (1) unregistered securities which, if distributed, would be required to be registered under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "1933 Act"), as amended; (2) securities issued by entities in countries which (a) restrict or prohibit the holding of securities by non-nationals other than through qualified investment vehicles, such as a fund, or (b) permit transfers of ownership of securities to be effected only by transactions conducted on a local stock exchange; and (3) certain Fund assets that, although they may be liquid and marketable, must be traded through the marketplace or with the counterparty to the transaction in order to effect a change in beneficial ownership.

## **CUSTODIAN**

U.S. Bank N.A. is the Custodian for the Fund and safeguards and controls the Fund's cash and securities, determines income and collects interest on Fund investments. The Custodian's address is 1555 North RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212. The Custodian does not participate in decisions relating to the purchase and sale of securities by the Fund. Fund Services and U.S. Bank N.A. are affiliated entities under the common control of U.S. Bancorp. The Custodian and its affiliates may participate in revenue sharing arrangements with the service providers of mutual funds in which the Fund may invest.

#### **FUND SERVICES**

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services ("Fund Services"), 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, acts as transfer agent, fund accountant and administrator to the Fund pursuant to an administration agreement (the "Administration Agreement"). Fund Services provides certain administrative services to the Fund, including, among other responsibilities, coordinating the negotiation of contracts and fees with, and the monitoring of performance and billing of, the Fund's independent contractors and agents; preparation for signature by an officer of the Trust of all documents required to be filed for compliance by the Trust and the Fund's with applicable laws and regulations excluding those of the securities laws of various states; arranging for the computation of performance data, including NAV and yield; responding to shareholder inquiries; and arranging for the maintenance of books and records of the Fund's, and providing, at its own expense, office facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to carry out its duties. In this capacity, Fund Services does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Fund's, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of Fund shares.

The Fund paid the following amount to Fund Services pursuant to its Administration Agreement for the fiscal years ended October 31:

	2021	2022	2023
Administrative Fees	\$77,251	\$83,718	\$68,960

Pursuant to the Administration Agreement, Fund Services will receive a portion of fees from the Fund as part of a bundled-fees agreement for services performed as Administrator and Fund Accountant. Additionally, Fund Services provides Chief Compliance Officer services to the Trust under a separate agreement. The cost for the Chief Compliance Officer's services is charged to the Fund and approved by the Board annually.

# INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM AND LEGAL COUNSEL

Tait, Weller & Baker LLP, Two Liberty Place, 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2900, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 is the independent registered public accounting firm, providing audit services, tax services and assistance with respect to the preparation of filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for the Fund. Prior to August 24, 2012, the Predecessor Fund was audited by another independent registered public accounting firm.

Sullivan & Worcester LLP, 1633 Broadway, 32nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, serves as legal counsel to the Trust. Sullivan & Worcester also serves as independent legal counsel to the Board of Trustees.

#### DISTRIBUTOR

Quasar Distributors, LLC, Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine, 04101 ("Quasar"), serves as the Fund's principal underwriter in a continuous public offering of the Fund's shares. Pursuant to a distribution agreement between the Fund and Quasar (the "Distribution Agreement"), Quasar acts as the Fund's principal underwriter and distributor and provides certain administration services and promotes and arranges for the sale of the Fund's shares. Quasar is a registered broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA").

The Distribution Agreement between the Fund and Quasar will continue in effect only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities and, in either case, by a majority of the Independent Trustees. The Distribution Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on behalf of the Fund on 60 days' written notice when authorized either by a majority vote of the Fund's shareholders or by vote of a majority of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, or by Quasar on 60 days' written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment" (as defined in the 1940 Act).

#### SHAREHOLDER SERVICES PLAN

The Fund has adopted a Shareholder Services Plan with respect to Retail Class shares, pursuant to which the Fund pays an annual fee of 0.10% of the average daily net assets of the Fund's Retail Class shares to the Advisor to compensate financial intermediaries who provide administrative services to the Retail Class shareholders. Financial intermediaries eligible to receive payments under the Shareholder Services Plan include mutual fund supermarkets or other platforms offered by broker-dealers, 401(k) plans and/or trust companies that provide administrative and shareholder account services to Retail Class shareholders. The Plan requires that the Fund, its distributor and/or the Advisor enter into a written agreement with a financial intermediary describing the administrative services to be provided to the Fund's Retail Class shareholders before the Advisor can compensate the financial intermediary pursuant to the Shareholder Services Plan.

For purposes of the Shareholder Services Plan, administrative services include, but are not limited to (a) processing and issuing confirmations concerning orders to purchase, redeem and exchange Retail Class shares; (b) receiving and transmitting funds representing the purchase price or redemption proceeds of Retail Class shares; (c) forwarding shareholder communications such as prospectus updates, proxies and shareholder reports; (d) acting, or arranging for another party to act, as recordholder and nominee of all Retail Class shares beneficially owned by the intermediary's customers; (e) providing sub-accounting with respect to Retail Class shares of the Fund beneficially owned by the intermediary's customers or the information necessary for subaccounting, including establishing and maintaining individual accounts and records with respect to Retail Class shares owned by each customer; (f) providing periodic statements to each customer showing account balances and transactions during the relevant period; (g) processing dividend payments; (h) receiving, tabulating and transmitting proxies; (i) providing the necessary computer hardware and software which links the intermediary's systems to the Fund's account management system; (k) providing software that aggregates the customer's orders and establishes an order to purchase or redeem shares of the Fund based on established target levels for the customer's demand deposit accounts; (l) providing periodic statements showing a customer's account balances and, to the extent practicable, integrating such information with other customer transactions otherwise effected through or with the financial intermediary; and/or (m) furnishing (either separately or on an integrated basis with other reports sent to a customer by the intermediary) monthly and year-end statements and confirmations of purchases, and redemptions.

The Fund paid the following amounts in Shareholder Services Plan fees for the period ended October 31 shown below:

Shareholder Servicing Plan Fees Paid	2023	2022	2021
Becker Value Equity Fund	\$28,060	\$30,681	\$31,595

## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAX INFORMATION

#### **Distributions.**

Dividends of net investment income and distributions of net capital gains from the sale of securities generally are made annually, as described in the Prospectus. Also, the Fund typically distributes any undistributed net investment income on or about December 31 of each year. Any net capital gains realized through the period ended October 31 of each year will also typically be distributed by December 31 of each year.

Each distribution by the Fund is accompanied by a brief explanation of the form and character of the distribution. In January of each year, the Fund will issue to each shareholder a statement of the federal income tax status of all distributions that relate to the previous year.

A dividend or distribution paid shortly after a purchase of shares by a shareholder would represent, in substance, a partial return of capital (to the extent it is paid on the shares so purchased), even though it would be subject to income taxes.

#### **Tax Information.**

Each series of the Trust is treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. The Fund has elected to be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and to comply with all applicable requirements regarding the source of its income, the diversification of its assets, and the timing and amount of its distributions. If the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code, it will be taxed as a regular corporation. The Fund's policy is to distribute to its shareholders all of its investment company taxable income before the income distribution deduction and any net realized capital gains for each fiscal year in a manner that complies with the distribution requirements applicable to regulated investment companies under the Code, so that the Fund will not be subject to any federal income or excise taxes. However, the Fund can give no assurances that its distributions will be sufficient to eliminate all taxes in every year. In order to avoid a nondeductible 4% excise tax, the Fund must distribute (or be deemed to have distributed) by December 31 of each calendar year (1) at least 98% of its

ordinary income for such year, (2) at least 98.2% of the excess of its realized capital gains over its realized capital losses for the 12-month period ending on October 31 during such year and (3) any amounts from the prior calendar year that were not distributed and on which the Fund paid no federal income tax.

In order to qualify as a regulated investment company, the Fund must, among other things, derive at least 90% of its gross income each year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to loans of stock and securities, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currency gains related to investments in stock or securities, or other income (generally including gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to the business of investing in stock, securities or currency, and net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership. The Fund must also satisfy the following two asset diversification tests. At the end of each quarter of each taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets must be represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. Government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities, with such other securities being limited in respect of any one issuer to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. Government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies), the securities of any two or more issuers (other than the securities of other regulated investment companies) that the Fund controls (by owning 20% or more of their outstanding voting stock) and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships. The Fund also must distribute each taxable year sufficient dividends to its shareholders to claim a dividends-paid deduction equal to at least the sum of 90% of the Fund's investment company taxable income (which generally includes dividends, interest, and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) calculated before the dividends paid deduction, and 90% of the Fund's net tax-exempt interest, if any.

The Fund's ordinary income generally consists of interest and dividend income, less expenses. Net realized capital gains for a fiscal period are computed by taking into account any capital loss carryforward of the Fund. At October 31, 2023, the Fund had no late year losses or capital loss carry-forwards.

Distributions of net investment income and net short-term capital gains are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. The Fund may make taxable distributions to shareholders even during periods in which the share price has declined. For individual shareholders, a portion of the distributions paid by the Fund may be qualified dividends currently eligible for taxation at long-term capital gain rates to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend and certain holding period requirements are met. In the case of corporate shareholders, a portion of the distributions may qualify for the inter-corporate dividends-received deduction to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend and certain holding period requirements are met. The aggregate amount so reported to either individual or corporate shareholders cannot, however, exceed the aggregate amount of qualifying dividends received by the Fund for its taxable year. In view of the Fund's investment policy, it is expected that dividends from domestic corporations will be part of the Fund's gross income and that,

accordingly, part of the distributions by the Fund may be eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income by individual shareholders (taxable for federal purposes at long-term capital gains rates) or for the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders. However, the portion of the Fund's gross income attributable to qualifying dividends is largely dependent on the Fund's investment activities for a particular year and therefore cannot be predicted with any certainty. The deduction may be reduced or eliminated if the Fund shares held by an individual investor are held for less than 61 days, or if the Fund shares held by a corporate investor are treated as debt-financed or are held for less than 46 days.

Upcoming distributions generally increase the NAV of the Fund. If you buy shares shortly before a distribution, the price you pay will reflect the value of the upcoming distribution, which will nonetheless be taxable to you. Although distributions generally are taxable when received, certain distributions declared in October, November or December and paid in the following January are taxed as if received in the prior December.

For taxable years beginning after 2017 and before 2025, non-corporate taxpayers generally may deduct 20% of "qualified business income" derived either directly or through partnerships or S corporations. For this purpose, "qualified business income" generally includes ordinary real estate investment trust ("REIT") dividends and income derived from master limited partnership ("MLP") investments. Non-corporate shareholders can claim the qualified business income deduction with respect to REIT dividends received by the Fund if the Fund meets certain holding period and reporting requirements. There is currently no mechanism for a Fund, to the extent that the Fund invests in MLPs, to pass through to non-corporate shareholders to claim this deduction. It is uncertain whether future legislation or other guidance will enable a Fund to pass through to non-corporate shareholders the ability to claim this deduction.

The Fund may be subject to foreign taxes and withholding on dividends and interest earned with respect to securities of foreign corporations. Based on the principal investment strategies of the Fund, it is not expected that the Fund will be eligible to pass through to shareholders any credits or deductions with respect to such foreign taxes. The Fund may also be subject to foreign income taxes on gains recognized on the disposition of foreign securities.

Redemption of Fund shares may result in recognition of a taxable gain or loss. Any loss realized upon redemption of shares within six months from the date of their purchase will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions of long-term capital gains during such six-month period. Any loss realized upon a redemption may be disallowed under certain wash sale rules to the extent shares of a Fund are purchased (through reinvestment of distributions or otherwise) within 30 days before or after the redemption.

Under the Code, the Fund will be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") all distributions of ordinary income and capital gains as well as gross proceeds from the redemption or exchange of Fund shares, except in the case of exempt shareholders, which includes most corporations. Pursuant to the backup withholding provisions of the Code, distributions of any taxable income and capital gains and proceeds from the redemption of Fund shares may be subject to withholding of federal income tax (currently at a rate of 24%) in the case of non-exempt shareholders who fail to furnish the Fund with their taxpayer identification

numbers and with required certifications regarding their status under the federal income tax law. If the withholding provisions are applicable, any such distributions and proceeds, whether taken in cash or reinvested in additional shares, will be reduced by the amounts required to be withheld. Corporate and other exempt shareholders should provide the Fund with their taxpayer identification numbers or certify their exempt status in order to avoid possible erroneous application of backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax and any amount withheld may be credited against a shareholder's ultimate federal income tax liability if proper documentation is provided. The Fund reserves the right to refuse to open an account for any person failing to provide a certified taxpayer identification number.

In addition to the federal income tax, certain individuals, trusts and estates may be subject to a Medicare tax of 3.8%. The Medicare tax is imposed on the lesser of: (i) the taxpayer's investment income, net of deductions properly allocable to such income, or (ii) the amount by which the taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income exceeds certain thresholds (\$250,000 for married individuals filing jointly, \$200,000 for unmarried individuals and \$125,000 for married individuals filing separately). The Fund's distributions are includable in a shareholder's investment income for purposes of this Medicare tax. In addition, any capital gain realized by a shareholder upon a sale or redemption of Fund shares is includable in such shareholder's investment income for purposes of this Medicare tax.

Distributions and the transactions referred to in the preceding paragraphs may be subject to state and local income taxes, and the tax treatment thereof may differ from the federal income tax treatment.

The foregoing discussion of U.S. federal income tax law relates solely to the application of that law to U.S. citizens or residents and U.S. domestic corporations, estates the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source and trusts that (1) are subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more United States persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) have a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person. Each shareholder who is not a U.S. person should consider the U.S. and foreign tax consequences of ownership of shares of the Fund, including the possibility that such a shareholder may be subject to a U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30% (or at a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty) on Fund distributions.

**The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA").** A 30% withholding tax on the Fund's income distributions generally applies if paid to a foreign entity unless: (i) if the foreign entity is a "foreign financial institution," it undertakes certain due diligence, reporting, withholding and certification obligations, (ii) if the foreign entity is not a "foreign financial institution," it identifies certain of its U.S. investors or (iii) the foreign entity is otherwise excepted under FATCA. If applicable, withholding under FATCA is required generally with respect to income distributions from the Fund. If withholding is required under FATCA on a payment related to your shares, investors that otherwise would not be subject to withholding (or that otherwise would be entitled to a reduced rate of withholding) on such payment generally will be required to seek a refund or credit from the IRS to obtain the benefits of such exemption or reduction. The Fund will not pay any additional amounts in respect to amounts withheld under FATCA. You should consult your tax advisor regarding the effect of FATCA based on your individual circumstances.

The foregoing discussion of tax law is based on existing provisions of the Code, existing and proposed regulations thereunder, and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all of which are subject to change. Any such changes could affect the validity of this discussion. The discussion also represents only a general summary of tax law and practice currently applicable to the Fund and certain shareholders therein, and, as such, is subject to change. In particular, the consequences of an investment in shares of the Fund under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdictions are not discussed herein. The Fund does not plan to seek a ruling from the IRS or an opinion of counsel with respect to any tax matters. Each prospective investor should consult his or her own tax advisor to determine the application of the tax law and practice in his or her own particular circumstances.

The advice herein was prepared for the Fund. Any person reviewing this discussion should seek advice based on such person's particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

## MARKETING AND SUPPORT PAYMENTS

The Advisor, out of its own resources and without additional cost to the Fund or its shareholders, may provide additional cash payments or other compensation to certain Financial Intermediaries who sell shares of the Fund. The Advisor does not currently intend to make such payments, but reserves the right to initiate payments in the future without notice to shareholders. These payments may be divided into categories as follows:

#### **Support Payments.**

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

## **Entertainment, Conferences and Events.**

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

During the Fund's fiscal year, the following financial intermediaries were paid out of the Advisor's revenues:

Firm
Charles Schwab
Fidelity Investments
Mid Atlantic
National Financial Services (Fidelity Brokerage)
Pershing
Principal Financial Group
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.
TD Ameritrade Clearing
TIAA-CREF
Matrix Trust Company
Vanguard Marketing Corporation
Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC

The prospect of receiving, or the receipt of additional payments or other compensation as described above by financial intermediaries may provide such intermediaries and/or their salespersons with an incentive to favor sales of shares of the Fund, and other mutual funds whose affiliates make similar compensation available, over sale of shares of mutual funds (or non-mutual fund investments) not making such payments. You may wish to take such payment arrangements into account when considering and evaluating any recommendations relating to the Fund shares.

As of the date of this SAI, the Advisor does not have agreements with any firms to pay such Support Payments. Future Support Payments may be structured in three ways: (1) as a percentage of net sales; (2) as a percentage of net assets; and/or (3) a flat fee.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The <u>Annual Report to shareholders</u> for the Fund for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, is available, without charge, upon request by calling 1-800-551-3998, and the financial statements, accompanying notes, and report of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm appearing therein are incorporated by reference into this SAI.