

## **THE GABELLI UTILITIES FUND**

### **STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**April 28, 2017**

This Statement of Additional Information (the "SAI"), which is not a prospectus, describes The Gabelli Utilities Fund, a Delaware statutory trust (the "Fund"). This SAI should be read in conjunction with the Fund's prospectus for Class AAA, Class A, Class C, Class T, and Class I shares dated April 28, 2017. Class T shares are not currently offered for sale. This SAI is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the Fund's prospectus. Portions of the Fund's annual report to shareholders are incorporated by reference into this SAI. For a free copy of the Fund's prospectus or the Fund's annual report to shareholders, please contact the Fund at the address, telephone number, or Internet website printed below.

One Corporate Center  
Rye, New York 10580-1422  
Telephone: 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554)  
www.gabelli.com

<b><u>CLASS</u></b>	<b><u>TICKER SYMBOL</u></b>
AAA	GABUX
A	GAUAX
C	GAUCX
I	GAUIX

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Fund is a diversified, open-end management investment company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware on May 18, 1999. The Fund commenced investment operations on August 31, 1999. The Fund's principal office is located at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422. The Fund is advised by Gabelli Funds, LLC (the "Adviser").

## INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

The Fund's prospectus discusses the investment objectives of the Fund and the principal strategies to be employed to achieve these objectives. This SAI contains supplemental information concerning certain types of securities and other instruments in which the Fund may invest, additional strategies that the Fund may utilize in seeking to achieve its investment objectives, and certain risks associated with such investments and strategies. Subject to the investment policies and restrictions contained in the prospectus and this SAI, the Fund may invest in any of the securities described below.

### Equity Securities

Because the Fund may invest in the common stocks of both foreign and domestic issuers, an investment in the Fund should be made with an understanding of the risks inherent in any investment in common stocks, including the risk that the financial condition of the issuers of the Fund's portfolio securities may become impaired or that the general condition of the stock market may worsen (both of which may contribute directly to a decrease in the value of the securities and thus in the value of the Fund's shares). Additional risks include risks associated with the right to receive payments from the issuer which is generally inferior to the rights of creditors of, or holders of debt obligations or preferred stock issued by, the issuer. The Fund does not expect to invest in excess of 5% of its assets in securities of unseasoned issuers (companies that have operated less than three years), which, due to their short operating history, may have less information available and may not be as liquid as other securities.

Moreover, common stocks do not represent an obligation of the issuer and therefore do not offer any assurance of income or provide the degree of protection of debt securities. The issuance of debt securities or even preferred stock by an issuer will create prior claims for payment of principal, interest and dividends, which could adversely affect the ability and inclination of the issuer to declare or pay dividends on its common stock or the economic interest of holders of common stock with respect to assets of the issuer upon liquidation or bankruptcy. Further, unlike debt securities, which typically have a stated principal amount payable at maturity (which value will be subject to market fluctuations prior thereto), common stocks have neither a fixed principal amount nor a maturity and have values that are subject to market fluctuations for as long as the common stocks remain outstanding. Common stocks are especially susceptible to general stock market movements and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and perceptions of the issuers change. These perceptions are based on unpredictable factors, including expectations regarding government, economic, monetary and fiscal policies, inflation and interest rates, economic expansion or contraction, and global or regional political, economic or banking crises. The value of the common stocks in the Fund's portfolio thus may be expected to fluctuate. Preferred stocks are usually entitled to rights on liquidation, which are senior to those of common stocks. For these reasons, preferred stocks generally entail less risk than common stocks. Such securities may pay cumulative dividends. Because the dividend rate and liquidation or redemption value is usually pre-established, such securities tend to have less possibility of capital appreciation.

### Convertible Securities

The Fund may invest in convertible securities. In evaluating a convertible security, the Adviser places primary emphasis on the attractiveness of the underlying common stock and the potential for capital appreciation through conversion. The Fund may use convertible securities to have greater exposure to telecommunications companies that have superior growth characteristics compared with traditional public utility companies. The Fund will primarily purchase investment grade convertible debt securities having a rating of, or equivalent to, at least "BBB" (which securities may have speculative characteristics) by Standard & Poor's Ratings Service ("S&P") or Baa by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") or, if unrated, judged by the Adviser to be of comparable quality. However, the Fund may invest up to 25% of its assets in lower rated convertible debt securities.

Convertible securities may include corporate notes or preferred stock, but are primarily long term debt obligations of an issuer convertible at a stated exchange rate into common stock of the issuer. As with all debt securities, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, to increase as interest rates decline. Convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible securities of similar quality. However, when the market price of the common stock underlying a convertible security exceeds the conversion price, the price of the convertible security tends to reflect the value of the underlying common stock. As the market price of the underlying common stock declines, the convertible security tends to trade increasingly on a yield basis, and thus may not depreciate to the same extent as the underlying common stock. Convertible securities rank senior to common stock on an issuer's capital structure and are consequently of higher quality and entail less risk than

the issuer's common stock, although the extent to which such risk is reduced depends in large measure upon the degree to which the convertible security sells above its value as a fixed income security.

In selecting convertible securities for the Fund, the Adviser relies primarily on its own evaluation of the issuer and the potential for capital appreciation through conversion. It does not rely on the rating of the security, or sell the security because of a change in its rating absent a change in its own evaluation of the underlying common stock and the ability of the issuer to pay principal and interest or dividends when due without disrupting its business goals. The Adviser considers interest and dividend yield only to confirm that they are reasonably consistent with prevailing rates for securities of similar quality, which provides a support level for the market price of the security. The Fund will purchase the convertible securities of highly leveraged issuers only when, in the judgment of the portfolio manager, the risk of default is outweighed by the potential for capital appreciation.

The issuers of debt obligations having speculative characteristics may experience difficulty paying principal and interest when due in the event of a downturn in the economy or unanticipated corporate developments. The market prices of such securities may become increasingly volatile in periods of economic uncertainty. Moreover, adverse publicity or the perceptions of investors over which the Adviser has no control, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the market price and liquidity of such investments. Although the Adviser will attempt to avoid exposing the Fund to such risks, there is no assurance that it will be successful or that a liquid secondary market will continue to be available for the disposition of such securities.

### **Corporate Debt Securities**

The Fund may invest up to 25% of its assets in debt securities, including lower rated and unrated corporate debt securities (often referred to as “junk bonds”). Currently, the Fund does not expect to invest more than 10% of its assets in junk bonds. Corporate debt securities which are either unrated or have a rating below investment grade may present opportunities for significant long term capital appreciation if the ability of the issuer to repay principal and interest when due is underestimated by the market or the rating organizations. Because of its perceived credit weakness, the issuer is generally required to pay a higher interest rate and/or its debt securities may be selling at a significantly lower market price than the debt securities of issuers actually having similar strengths. When the inherent value of such securities is recognized, the market value of such securities may appreciate significantly. The Adviser believes that its research on the credit and balance sheet strength of certain issuers may enable it to select a limited number of corporate debt securities which, in certain markets, will better serve the objective of capital appreciation than alternative investments in common stocks. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Adviser will be successful. In its evaluation, the Adviser will not rely exclusively on ratings and the receipt of income is only an incidental consideration.

The ratings of Moody’s and S&P generally represent the opinions of those organizations as to the quality of the securities that they rate. Such ratings, however, are relative and subjective, are not absolute standards of quality and do not evaluate the market risk of the securities. Although the Adviser uses these ratings as a criterion for the selection of securities for the Fund, the Adviser also relies on its independent analysis to evaluate potential investments for the Fund. See Appendix A—“Description of Corporate Debt Ratings.”

As in the case of the convertible debt securities discussed above, lower rated and unrated corporate debt securities are generally considered to be more likely to default and are therefore significantly more speculative than those having an investment grade rating. They also are more subjective to market price volatility based on increased sensitivity to changes in interest rates and economic conditions or the liquidity of their secondary trading market.

### **Investments in Warrants and Rights**

The Fund may invest in warrants and rights (in addition to those acquired in units or attached to other securities) which entitle the holder to buy equity securities at a specific price for or at the end of a specific period of time. The Fund will do so only if the underlying equity securities are deemed appropriate by the Adviser for inclusion in the Fund’s portfolio.

Investing in rights and warrants can provide a greater potential for profit or loss than an equivalent investment in the underlying security, and thus can be a riskier investment. The value of a right or warrant may decline because of a decline in the value of the underlying security, the passage of time, changes in interest rates or in the dividend or other policies of the Fund whose equity underlies the warrant, a change in the perception as to the future price of the underlying security, or any combination thereof. Rights and warrants generally pay no dividends and confer no voting or other rights other than the right to purchase the underlying security.

### **Master Limited Partnerships (“MLPs”)**

The Fund may invest in MLPs, which are limited partnerships or limited liability companies usually taxable as partnerships. MLPs may derive income and gains from the exploration, development, mining or production, processing, refining, infrastructure related services transportation (including pipelines transporting gas, oil, or products thereof), storage, or the marketing of any mineral or natural resources. The value of an investment in an MLP may be directly affected by the prices of natural resources. The volatility and interrelationships of commodity prices can also indirectly affect certain MLPs due to the potential impact on the volume of

commodities transported, processed, stored or distributed. The Fund's investment in an MLP may be adversely affected by market perceptions that the performance and distributions or dividends of MLPs are directly tied to commodity prices.

Investments in MLPs subjects the Fund to risks associated with the specific industry or industries in which the MLPs invest, risks related to limited control and limited rights to vote on matters affecting the MLP, risks related to potential conflicts of interest between the MLP and the MLP's general partner, cash flow risks, dilution risks and risks related to the general partner's right to require unit-holders to sell their common units at an undesirable time or price. Certain MLP securities may trade in lower volumes due to their smaller capitalizations, and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements and lower market liquidity. MLPs are generally considered interest-rate sensitive investments. During periods of interest rate volatility, these investments may not provide attractive returns.

### **Investments in Foreign Securities**

The Fund may invest up to 40% of the value of its total assets in foreign securities or depositary receipts for foreign securities. Foreign securities investments may be affected by changes in currency rates or exchange control regulations, changes in governmental administration or economic or monetary policy (in the United States and abroad) or changed circumstances in dealings between nations. Dividends paid by foreign issuers may be subject to withholding and other foreign taxes that may decrease the net return on these investments as compared to dividends paid to the Fund by domestic corporations. In addition, there may be less publicly available information about foreign issuers than about domestic issuers, and some foreign issuers are not subject to uniform accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards and requirements comparable to those of domestic issuers. Securities of some foreign issuers are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable domestic issuers and foreign brokerage commissions may be fixed or higher than in the United States. Foreign securities markets may also be less liquid, more volatile, and less subject to government supervision than those in the United States. Investments in foreign countries could be affected by other factors not present in the United States, including expropriation, confiscatory taxation, and potential difficulties in enforcing contractual obligations. Securities purchased on foreign exchanges may be held in custody by a foreign branch of a domestic bank.

*Emerging Markets.* The risks discussed above are more pronounced in securities of companies located in emerging markets. The prices of investments in emerging markets can experience sudden and sharp price swings. In many developing markets, there is less government supervision and regulation of business and industry practices (including the potential lack of strict finance and accounting controls and standards), stock exchanges, brokers, and listed companies than in more developed markets, making these investments potentially more volatile in price and less liquid than investments in developed securities markets, resulting in greater risk to investors. There is a risk in developing countries that a future economic or political crisis could lead to price controls, forced mergers of companies, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, imposition or enforcement of foreign ownership limits, seizure, nationalization, sanctions or imposition of restrictions by various governmental entities on investment and trading, or creation of government monopolies, any of which may have a detrimental effect on the Fund's investments. Many emerging market countries have experienced substantial, and in some periods extremely high, rates of inflation or deflation for many years, and future inflation may adversely affect the economies and securities markets of such countries. In addition, the economies of developing countries tend to be heavily dependent upon international trade and, as such, have been, and may continue to be, adversely impacted by trade barriers, exchange controls, managed adjustments in relative currency values, and other protectionist measures. These economies also have been, and may continue to be, adversely affected by economic conditions in the countries with which they do business.

The securities markets of the countries in which the Fund may invest may also be smaller, less liquid, and subject to greater price volatility than those in the United States. In the event of a default on any investments in foreign debt obligations, it may be more difficult for the Fund to obtain or enforce a judgment against the issuers of such securities. In addition, there may be little financial or accounting information available with respect to issuers of emerging market securities, and it may difficult as a result to assess the value of an investment in such securities. Further, the Fund's ability to participate fully in the smaller, less liquid emerging markets may be limited by the policy restricting its investments in illiquid securities. The Fund may be subject to emerging markets risk to the extent that it invests in securities of issuers or companies which are not considered to be from emerging markets, but which have customers, products, or transaction associated with emerging markets.

*Investing in Europe.* A number of countries in the European Union ("EU") have experienced, and may continue to experience, severe economic and financial difficulties, increasing the risk of investing in securities in the European markets. In particular, many EU nations are susceptible to economic risks associated with high levels of debt, notably due to investments in sovereign debt of countries such as Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland. Many non-governmental issuers, and even certain governments, have defaulted on, or been forced to restructure, their debts. Many other issuers have faced difficulties obtaining credit or refinancing existing obligations. Financial institutions have in many cases required government or central bank support, have needed to raise capital, and/or have been impaired in their ability to extend credit. As a result, financial markets in the EU have experienced extreme volatility and declines in asset values and liquidity. Responses to these financial problems by European governments, central banks and others, including austerity measures and reforms, may not work, may result in social unrest, and may limit future growth and economic recovery or have other unintended consequences. Further defaults or restructurings by governments and others of their debt could have additional adverse effects on economies, financial markets, and asset valuations around the world.

The risk of investing in securities in the European markets may also be heightened due to the referendum in which the United Kingdom (the “UK”) voted to exit the EU (known as “Brexit”) on June 23, 2016, which led to significant market volatility around the world, as well as political, economic, and legal uncertainty. As a consequence of the UK’s vote to withdraw from the EU, on March 29, 2017 the government of the UK triggered Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, launching a two-year withdrawal process. There is still considerable uncertainty relating to the potential consequences and precise timeframe for the exit, how the negotiations for the terms of withdrawal and new trade agreements will be conducted, and whether the UK’s exit will increase the likelihood of other countries also departing the EU. During this period of uncertainty, the negative impact on not only the UK and European economies, but the broader global economy, could be significant, potentially resulting in increased volatility and illiquidity and lower economic growth for companies that rely significantly on Europe for their business activities and revenues. One or more other countries may abandon the euro and/or withdraw from the EU, placing its currency and banking system in jeopardy, and would likely cause additional market disruption globally and introduce new legal and regulatory uncertainties. The impact of these actions, especially if they occur in a disorderly fashion, is not clear but could be significant and far-reaching. To the extent that the Fund has exposure to European markets or to transactions tied to the value of the euro, these events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of the Fund’s investments.

In accordance with Article 50 the UK will cease to be a member of the EU from March 30, 2019, absent any agreement between the UK and the EU which results in a change to this date. This historic event is widely expected to have consequences that are both profound and uncertain for the economic and political future of the UK and the EU, and those consequences include significant legal and business uncertainties pertaining to an investment in the Fund. Due to the very recent occurrence of these events, the full scope and nature of the consequences are not at this time known and are unlikely to be known for a significant period of time. At the same time, it is reasonable to assume that the significant uncertainty in the business, legal and political environment engendered by these events has resulted in immediate and longer term risks that would not have been applicable had the UK not sought to withdraw from the EU (“Brexit Risks”).

Brexit Risks include short and long term market volatility and currency volatility, macroeconomic risk to the UK and European economies, impetus for further disintegration of the EU and related political stresses (including those related to sentiment against cross border capital movements and activities of investors like the Fund), prejudice to financial services businesses that are conducting business in the EU and which are based in the UK, disruption to regulatory regimes related to the operations of the Fund and the Advisor, legal uncertainty regarding achievement of compliance with applicable financial and commercial laws and regulations in view of the expected steps to be taken pursuant to or in contemplation of Article 50 and negotiations undertaken under Article 218 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, and the unavailability of timely information as to expected legal, tax and other regimes.

There can be no assurance that the Brexit Risks will not alter, and alter significantly, the attractiveness of an investment in the Fund by, among other things, giving risk to impediments to the intended implementation of the business strategy of the Fund that would have material effects on performance, including the potential for capital losses, delays, legal and regulatory risk and general uncertainty.

In addition, certain European countries have recently experienced negative interest rates on certain fixed-income instruments. A negative interest rate policy is an unconventional central bank monetary policy tool where nominal target interest rates are set with a negative value (i.e., below zero percent) intended to help create self-sustaining growth in the local economy. Negative interest rates may result in heightened market volatility and may detract from the Fund’s performance to the extent the Fund is exposed to such interest rates.

Among other things, these developments have adversely affected the value and exchange rate of the euro and pound sterling, and may continue to significantly affect the economies of all EU countries, which in turn may have a material adverse effect on the Fund’s investments in such countries, other countries that depend on EU countries for significant amounts of trade or investment, or issuers with exposure to debt issued by certain EU countries.

### **Investments in Illiquid Securities**

The Fund may invest, in the aggregate, up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities. These securities include securities which are restricted for public sale, securities for which market quotations are not readily available, and repurchase agreements maturing or terminable in more than seven days. Securities freely saleable among qualified institutional investors pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “1933 Act”), and as adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), may be treated as liquid if they satisfy liquidity standards established by the Board of Trustees (the “Board”). The continued liquidity of such securities is not as well assured as that of publicly traded securities, and accordingly, the Board will monitor their liquidity. The Board will review pertinent factors such as trading activities, reliability of price information, and trading patterns of comparable securities in determining whether to treat any such security as liquid for purposes of the foregoing 15% test. To the extent the Board treats such securities as liquid, temporary impairment to trading patterns of such securities may adversely affect a Fund’s liquidity.

## **Corporate Reorganizations**

In general, securities of companies that have announced reorganization transactions sell at a premium to their historic market price immediately prior to the announcement of the tender offer or reorganization proposal. However, the increased market price of such securities may reflect a discount to what the stated or appraised value of the security would be if the contemplated transaction is approved and consummated. Such investments may be particularly advantageous when the discount significantly overstates the risk of the contingencies involved; significantly undervalues the securities, assets, or cash to be received by shareholders of the prospective acquiring portfolio company as a result of the contemplated transaction; or fails adequately to recognize the possibility that the offer or proposal may be replaced or superseded by an offer or proposal of greater value. The evaluation of such contingencies requires unusually broad knowledge and experience on the part of the Adviser which must appraise not only the value of the issuer and its component businesses as well as the assets or securities to be received as a result of the contemplated transaction, but also the financial resources and business motivation of the offeror as well as the dynamics of the business climate when the offer or proposal is in progress.

The Fund's investments in a single corporate reorganization transaction may be limited by its fundamental policies regarding diversification among issuers and industry concentration (see "Investment Restrictions" below). Because such investments are ordinarily short term in nature, they may increase the Fund's portfolio turnover ratio, thereby increasing its brokerage and other transaction expenses. The Adviser intends to select investments of the type described which, in its view, have a reasonable prospect of significant capital appreciation in relation to both the risks involved and the potential of available alternate investments.

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

The Fund may enter into forward commitments for the purchase or sale of securities, including on a "when issued" or "delayed delivery" basis in excess of customary settlement periods for the type of securities involved. In some cases, a forward commitment may be conditioned upon the occurrence of a subsequent event, such as approval and consummation of a merger, corporate reorganization, or debt restructuring, *i.e.*, a when, as, and if issued security. When such transactions are negotiated, the price is fixed at the time of the commitment, with payment and delivery taking place in the future, generally a month or more after the date of the commitment. While the Fund will only enter into a forward commitment with the intention of actually acquiring the security, the Fund may sell the forward commitment before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable.

Securities purchased under a forward commitment are subject to market fluctuation, and no interest (or dividend) accrues to the Fund prior to the settlement date. The Fund will segregate with its custodian, through book-entry notations, cash or liquid securities in an aggregate amount at least equal to the amount of its outstanding forward commitments on a daily basis.

## **Repurchase Agreements**

The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with banks and non-bank dealers of U.S. government securities which are listed as reporting dealers of the Federal Reserve Bank and which furnish collateral at least equal in value or market price to the amount of their repurchase obligation. In a repurchase agreement, the Fund purchases a debt security from a seller which undertakes to repurchase the security at a specified resale price on an agreed future date. Custody of such security is maintained by the Fund's custodian. The resale price generally exceeds the purchase price by an amount which reflects an agreed-upon market interest rate for the term of the repurchase agreement.

The primary risk of entering into repurchase agreements is that if the seller defaults, the proceeds from the disposition of underlying securities and other collateral for the seller's obligation could be less than the repurchase price. If the seller becomes bankrupt, the Fund might be delayed in selling the collateral. Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), repurchase agreements are considered loans. Repurchase agreements are usually settled within a short period such as one week or less, but could be longer. Except for repurchase agreements settled within a period of a week or less in respect to obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies, or instrumentalities, the Fund's investments in repurchase agreements are subject to the limit of investing no more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities. Therefore, the Fund will not enter into repurchase agreements of a duration of more than seven days if, taken together with restricted securities and other securities for which there are no readily available quotations, more than 15% of its total assets would be so invested. These percentage limitations are fundamental and may not be changed without shareholder approval.



## **Borrowing**

The Fund may not borrow money except for (1) short term credits from banks as may be necessary for the clearance of portfolio transactions, and (2) borrowings from banks for temporary or emergency purposes, including the meeting of redemption requests that would otherwise require the untimely disposition of its portfolio securities. Borrowing may not, in the aggregate, exceed 15% of assets after giving effect to the borrowing, and borrowing for purposes other than meeting redemptions may not exceed 5% of the value of the Fund's assets after giving effect to the borrowing. The Fund will not make additional investments when borrowings exceed 5% of assets. The Fund may mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate up to 30% of its assets (not including the amounts borrowed) to secure such borrowings.

Borrowing may exaggerate the effect on net asset value per share ("NAV") of any increase or decrease in the market value of securities purchased with borrowed funds. Money borrowed will be subject to interest costs which may or may not be recovered by appreciation of securities purchased.

## **Short Sales**

The Fund may, from time to time, make short sales of securities it owns or has the right to acquire through conversion or exchange of other securities it owns (*i.e.*, short sales "against the box"). In a short sale, the Fund does not immediately deliver the security sold or receive the proceeds from the sale. The market value of the securities sold short of any one issuer will not exceed either 5% of the Fund's total assets or 5% of such issuer's voting securities. The Fund may not make short sales or maintain a short position if it would cause more than 25% of the Fund's total assets, taken at market value, to be held as collateral for the sales. However, short sales "against the box" are not subject to any limitation.

The Fund may make short sales both to obtain capital appreciation and to hedge against market risks when it believes that the price of a security may decline, causing a decline in the value of a security owned by the Fund or a security convertible into, or exchangeable for, the security.

The Fund's obligation to replace the borrowed security will be secured by collateral, usually cash, U.S. government securities or other liquid securities, deposited with the broker-dealer. The Fund will also be required to deposit similar collateral with its Custodian (as defined below) to the extent, if any, necessary so that the value of both collateral deposits in the aggregate is at all times equal to the greater of the price at which the security is sold short or 100% of the current market value of the security sold short.

## **Swaps**

The Fund may enter into total rate of return, credit default, or other types of swaps and related derivatives for various purposes, including to gain economic exposure to an asset or group of assets that may be difficult or impractical to acquire, or for hedging and risk management. These transactions generally provide for the transfer from one counterparty to another of certain risks inherent in the ownership of a financial asset such as a common stock or debt instrument. Such risks include, among other things, the risk of default and insolvency of the obligor of such asset, the risk that the credit of the obligor or the underlying collateral will decline, or the risk that the common stock of the underlying issuer will decline in value. The transfer of risk pursuant to a derivative of this type may be complete or partial, and may be for the life of the related asset or for a shorter period. These derivatives may be used as a risk management tool for a pool of financial assets, providing the Fund with the opportunity to gain or reduce exposure to one or more reference securities or other financial assets (each, a "Reference Asset") without actually owning or selling such assets in order, for example, to increase or reduce a concentration risk or to diversify a portfolio. Conversely, these derivatives may be used by the Fund to reduce exposure to an owned asset without selling it.

Because the Fund may not own a Reference Asset, the Fund may not have any voting rights with respect to such Reference Asset, and in such cases all decisions related to the obligors or issuers of such Reference Asset, including whether to exercise certain remedies, will be controlled by the swap counterparties.

Total rate of return swaps and similar derivatives are subject to many risks, including the possibility that the market will move in a manner or direction that would have resulted in a gain for the Fund had the swap or other derivative not been utilized (in which case it would have been better had the Fund not engaged in the transactions), nearly unlimited exposure to changes in the value of the Reference Asset, total loss to the Fund of the entire notional amount of the swap, the risk of imperfect correlation between the risk sought to be hedged and the derivative transactions utilized, the possible inability of the counterparty to fulfill its obligations under the swap, and potential illiquidity of the instrument utilized, which may make it difficult for the Fund to close out or unwind one or more transactions.

Total rate of return swaps and related derivatives are a relatively recent development in the financial markets. Consequently, there are certain legal, tax, and market uncertainties that present risks in entering into such arrangements. There is currently little or no case law



or litigation characterizing total rate of return swaps or related derivatives, interpreting their provisions, or characterizing their tax treatment. In addition, additional regulations and laws may apply to these types of derivatives that have not previously been applied. There can be no assurance that future decisions construing similar provisions to those in any swap agreement or other related documents or additional regulations and laws will not have an adverse effect on the Fund if it utilizes these instruments. The Fund will monitor these risks and seek to utilize these instruments in a manner that does not lead to undue risk regarding the tax or other structural elements of the Fund. The Fund will not invest in these types of instruments if the Reference Assets are commodities except for bona fide hedging or risk management purposes. The Fund only will enter into swaps that are regulated by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) if in doing so the Fund will continue to satisfy the restrictions imposed by the CFTC under Rule 4.5.

## **Options**

The Fund may purchase or sell listed call or put options on securities to obtain additional return or to hedge the value of the Fund’s portfolio. A call option is a contract that, in return for a premium, gives the holder of the option the right to buy from the writer of the call option the security underlying the option at a specified exercise price at any time during the term of the contract. The writer of the call option has the obligation, upon exercise of the option, to deliver the underlying security upon payment of the exercise price during the option period. A put option is a contract that gives the holder the right to sell the security to the writer and obligating the writer to purchase the underlying security from the holder.

A written call option is “covered” if the Fund owns the underlying security subject to the call or has an absolute and immediate right to acquire that security without additional cash consideration (or for additional cash consideration held in a segregated account by its custodian) upon conversion or exchange of other securities held in its portfolio. A call option is also covered if the Fund holds a call on the same security as the call written where the exercise price of the call held is (1) equal to or less than the exercise price of the call written, or (2) greater than the exercise price of the call written if the difference is maintained by the Fund in cash, U.S. government securities or other high grade short term obligations in a segregated account held, through book-entry notations, with its custodian. Whenever the Fund is required to establish a segregated account, notations on the books of the Fund’s custodian or fund accounting agent are sufficient to constitute a segregated account. A put option is “covered” if the Fund maintains cash or other liquid portfolio securities with a value equal to the exercise price in a segregated account held with its custodian, or else holds a put on the same security as the put written where the exercise price of the put held is equal to or greater than the exercise price of the put written.

If the Fund has written an option, it may terminate its obligation by purchasing an option of the same series as the option previously written. However, once the Fund has been assigned an exercise notice, the Fund will be unable to terminate its obligation. Similarly, if the Fund is the holder of an option it may liquidate its position by selling an option of the same series as the option previously purchased. There can be no assurance that either a closing purchase or sale transaction can be effected when the Fund desires.

The Fund will realize a profit from a closing transaction if the price of the transaction is less than the premium received from writing the option or is more than the premium paid to purchase the option; the Fund will realize a loss from a closing transaction if the price of the transaction is more than the premium received from writing the option or is less than the premium paid to purchase the option. Because call option prices generally reflect increases in the price of the underlying security, any loss resulting from the repurchase of a call option may also be wholly or partially offset by unrealized appreciation of the underlying security. Other principal factors affecting the market value of a put or a call option include supply and demand, interest rates, the current market price and price volatility of the underlying security, and the time remaining until the expiration date.

An option position may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for an option of the same series. Although the Fund will generally purchase or write only those options for which there appears to be an active secondary market, there is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an exchange will exist for any particular option. In such event it might not be possible to close particular options, and the Fund would have to exercise such options in order to realize any profit and would incur brokerage commissions upon the exercise of call options and upon the subsequent disposition of underlying securities for the exercise of put options. If the Fund, as a covered call option writer, is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise or otherwise covers the position.

### *Options on Securities Indices*

In addition to options on securities, the Fund may also purchase and sell call and put options on securities indices. A stock index reflects in a single number the market value of a basket of stocks. Relative values are assigned to the stocks included in an index and the value of the index fluctuates with changes in the market values of the basket of stocks. These options give the holder the right to receive a cash settlement during the term of the option based on the difference between the exercise price and the value of the index. When it writes a put or call option on a securities index, the Fund is obligated, in return for the premium received, to make delivery of this

amount. The Fund may offset its position in stock index options prior to expiration by entering into a closing transaction on an exchange or it may let the option expire unexercised.

The Fund may write put and call options on stock indices for the purposes of increasing its gross income and protecting its portfolio against declines in the value of the securities it owns or increases in the value of securities to be acquired. In addition, the Fund may purchase put and call options on stock indices in order to hedge its investments against a decline in value or to attempt to reduce the risk of missing a market or industry segment advance. Options on stock indices are similar to options on specific securities. However, because options on stock indices do not involve the delivery of an underlying security, the option represents the holder's right to obtain from the writer cash in an amount equal to a fixed multiple of the amount by which the exercise price exceeds (in the case of a put) or is less than (in the case of a call) the closing value of the underlying stock index on the exercise date. Therefore, while one purpose of writing such options is to generate additional income for the Fund, the Fund may be required to deliver an amount of cash in excess of the market value of a stock index at such time as an option written by the Fund is exercised by the holder. The writing and purchasing of options on stock indices is a highly specialized activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. The successful use of protective puts for hedging purposes depends in part on the Adviser's ability to predict future price fluctuations and the degree of correlation between the options and securities markets.

Use of options on securities indices entails the risk that trading in the options may be interrupted if trading in certain securities included in the index is interrupted. The Fund will not purchase these options unless the Adviser is satisfied with the development, depth and liquidity of the market and the Adviser believes the options can be closed out.

Price movements in the Fund's portfolio may not precisely correlate with movements in the level of an index and, therefore, the use of options on indices cannot serve as a complete hedge and will depend, in part, on the ability of the Adviser to correctly predict movements in the direction of the stock market generally or of an industry particularly. Because options on securities indices require settlement in cash, the Adviser may be forced to liquidate portfolio securities to meet settlement obligations.

#### *Options on Foreign Currency*

The Fund also may buy or sell put and call options on foreign currencies. A put option on a foreign currency gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell a foreign currency at the exercise price until the option expires. A call option on a foreign currency gives the purchaser of the option the right to purchase the currency at the exercise price until the option expires. Currency options traded on U.S. or foreign exchanges may be subject to position limits which could limit the ability of the Fund to reduce foreign currency risk using such options. Over-the-counter options differ from exchange-traded options in that they are two-party contracts with the price and other terms negotiated between the buyer and seller and they generally are not as liquid as exchange-traded options.

Certain types of over-the-counter options on foreign currency may now be regulated as swaps by the CFTC. The regulation of such options as swaps is a recent development and there can be no assurance that the regulation of these types of instruments as swaps will not have an adverse effect on the Fund. The Fund only will enter into options that are regulated by the CFTC if in doing so the Fund will continue to satisfy the restrictions imposed by the CFTC under Rule 4.5.

Although the Adviser will attempt to take appropriate measures to minimize the risks relating to the Fund's writing of put and call options, there can be no assurance that the Fund will succeed in any option-writing program it undertakes.

#### **Loans of Portfolio Securities**

The Fund may lend its portfolio securities to broker-dealers or financial institutions provided that the loans are callable at any time by the Fund. Loans of portfolio securities by the Fund, if and when made, (1) will be collateralized in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements, and (2) will be limited in aggregate to 33 1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets.

The Fund lends its portfolio securities in order to generate revenue to defray certain operating expenses. This allows the Fund to continue to receive income on the loaned securities while also earning interest on the cash amounts deposited as collateral, which are invested in short term obligations.

Generally a loan may be terminated by the borrower on one business days' notice, or by the Fund on five business days' notice. If the borrower fails to deliver the loaned securities within five days after receipt of notice, the Fund may use the collateral to replace the securities and may hold the borrower liable for any excess of replacement cost over the collateral amount. As with any extensions of credit, the Fund would be subject to the risk of delay in recovery, and in some cases even the risk of the loss of its rights to the collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially. However, loans of portfolio securities will only be made to firms deemed by the Adviser to be creditworthy and when the potential for income from the loans justifies the attendant risks. The Board will oversee the creditworthiness of the contracting parties on an ongoing basis. Upon termination of a loan, the borrower is required

to return the securities to the Fund. Any gain or loss in the market price during the loan period would inure to the Fund. The risks associated with loans of portfolio securities are substantially similar to those associated with repurchase agreements. Thus, if the borrower petitions for bankruptcy or becomes subject to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, the law regarding the rights of the Fund is unsettled. As a result, under extreme circumstances, there may be a restriction on the Fund's ability to sell the collateral and the Fund could suffer a loss.

When voting or consent rights that accompany loaned securities pass to the borrower, the Fund will follow the policy of calling the loaned securities, to be delivered within one day after notice, to permit the exercise of such rights if the matters involved would have a material effect on the Fund's investment in such loaned securities. The Fund will pay reasonable finder's, administrative, and custodial fees in connection with a loan of its securities.

### **Futures Contracts and Options on Futures**

The Fund may enter into futures contracts that are traded on a U.S. exchange or board of trade. Although the Fund has no current intention of using options on futures contracts, the Fund may do so at some future date, subject to the limitations stated in the preceding sentence. These investments will be made by the Fund solely for the purpose of hedging against changes in the value of its portfolio securities or securities it intends to purchase and reducing risks involved in the management of the Fund. In this regard, the Fund may enter into futures contracts or options on futures for the purchase or sale of securities indices or other financial instruments including but not limited to U.S. government securities. Futures exchanges and trading in the United States are regulated under the Commodity Exchange Act by the CFTC. The Fund only will enter into futures contracts or options on futures for the purchase or sale of securities indices or other financial instruments (including but not limited to U.S. government securities) if in doing so the Fund will continue to satisfy the restrictions imposed by the CFTC under Rule 4.5.

A "sale" of a futures contract (or a "short" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to deliver the reference assets underlying the contract at a specified price at a specified future time. A "purchase" of a futures contract (or a "long" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to acquire the reference assets underlying the contract at a specified price at a specified future time. Certain futures contracts, including stock and bond index futures, are settled on a net cash payment basis rather than by the sale and delivery of the reference assets underlying the futures contracts.

No consideration will be paid or received by the Fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Initially, the Fund will be required to deposit with the broker an amount of cash or cash equivalents equal to approximately 1% to 10% of the contract amount (this amount is subject to change by the exchange or board of trade on which the contract is traded and brokers or members of such board of trade may charge a higher amount). This amount is known as "initial margin" and is in the nature of a performance bond or good faith deposit on the contract. Subsequent payments, known as "variation margin", to and from the broker will be made daily as the price of the index or security underlying the futures contract fluctuates. At any time prior to the expiration of a futures contract, the portfolio may elect to close the position by taking an opposite position, which will operate to terminate the Fund's existing position in the contract.

An option on a futures contract gives the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time prior to the expiration of the option. Upon exercise of an option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer's futures margin account attributable to that contract, which represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract exceeds, in the case of a call, or is less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. The potential loss related to the purchase of an option on futures contracts is limited to the premium paid for the option (plus transaction costs). Because the value of the option purchased is fixed at the point of sale, there are no daily cash payments by the purchaser to reflect changes in the value of the underlying contract; however, the value of the option does change daily and that change would be reflected in the NAV of the portfolio.

In the event the Fund enters into a futures contract representing a net long or short position, the Fund will segregate cash or liquid securities equal to the Fund's potential obligations and its exposure to the value of the contract will be segregated, thereby insuring that the use of the contract is unleveraged. Whenever the Fund is required to establish a segregated account, notations on the books of the Fund's custodian or fund accounting agent are sufficient to constitute a segregated account.

The success of hedging depends on the Adviser's ability to predict movements in the prices of the hedged securities and market fluctuations. The Adviser may not be able to perfectly correlate changes in the market value of securities and the prices of the corresponding options or futures. The Adviser may have difficulty selling or buying futures contracts and options when it chooses and there may be certain restrictions on trading futures contracts and options. The Fund is not obligated to pursue any hedging strategy. While hedging can reduce or eliminate losses, it can also reduce or eliminate gains. In addition, particular hedging instruments may not be available, may be too costly to be used effectively, or may be unable to be used for other reasons.

## **Regulation of Derivative Transactions as Swaps or Security Based Swaps**

Title VII of the U.S. Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”), enacted in July 2010 (the “Derivatives Title”), includes provisions that comprehensively regulate the over-the-counter, *i.e.*, not exchange-traded, derivatives markets for the first time. This regulation requires that certain of the options, currency transactions and other derivative transactions entered into by the Fund are regulated as swaps by the CFTC or regulated as security-based swaps by the SEC (collectively, “swaps”).

The SEC, other U.S. regulators, and to a lesser extent the CFTC (the “Regulators”) still are in the process of adopting regulations to implement the Derivatives Title, though certain aspects of the new regulatory structure are substantially complete. Until the Regulators complete their rulemaking efforts, the full extent to which the Derivatives Title and the rules adopted thereunder will impact the Fund is unclear. It is possible that the continued development of this new regulatory structure for swaps may jeopardize certain trades and/or trading strategies that may be employed by the Adviser, or at least make them more costly.

Recently, new regulations have required the mandatory central clearing and mandatory exchange trading of particular types of interest rate swaps and index credit default swaps (together, “Covered Swaps”). Together, these new regulatory requirements change the Fund’s trading of Covered Swaps. With respect to mandatory central clearing, the Fund is now required to clear its Covered Swaps through a clearing broker, which requires, among other things, posting initial margin and variation margin to the Fund’s clearing broker in order to enter into and maintain positions in Covered Swaps. With respect to mandatory exchange trading, the Adviser may be required to become a participant of a new type of execution platform called a swap execution facility (“SEF”) or may be required to access the SEF through an intermediary (such as an executing broker) in order to be able to trade Covered Swaps for the Fund. In either scenario, the Adviser and/or the Fund may incur additional legal and compliance costs and transaction fees. Just as with the other regulatory changes imposed as a result of the implementation of the Derivatives Title, the increased costs and fees associated with trading Covered Swaps may jeopardize certain trades and/or trading strategies that may be employed by the Adviser, or at least make them more costly.

Additionally, the Regulators plan to finalize proposed regulations that would require swap dealers to collect from the Fund initial margin and variation margin for uncleared derivatives transactions and that would impose upon swap dealers new capital requirements. These requirements, when finalized, may make certain types of trades and/or trading strategies more costly.

There may be market dislocations due to uncertainty during the implementation period of any new regulation and the Adviser cannot know how the derivatives market will adjust to new regulations. Until the Regulators complete the rulemaking process for the Derivatives Title, it is unknown the extent to which such risks may materialize.

## **1940 Act Limitations**

To the extent the terms of derivatives transactions obligate the Fund to make payments, the Fund may earmark or segregate cash or liquid assets in an amount at least equal to the current value of the amount then payable by the Fund under the terms of such transactions or otherwise cover such transactions in accordance with applicable interpretations of the staff of the SEC. If the current value of the amount then payable by the Fund under the terms of such transactions is represented by the notional amounts of such investments, the Fund would segregate or earmark cash or liquid assets having a market value at least equal to such notional amounts, and if the current value of the amount then payable by the Fund under the terms of such transactions is represented by the market value of the Fund’s current obligations, the Fund would segregate or earmark cash or liquid assets having a market value at least equal to such current obligations. To the extent the terms of derivatives transactions obligate the Fund to deliver particular securities to extinguish the Fund’s obligations under such transactions the Fund may “cover” its obligations under such transactions by either (i) owning the securities or collateral underlying such transactions or (ii) having an absolute and immediate right to acquire such securities or collateral without additional cash consideration (or, if additional cash consideration is required, having earmarked or segregated an appropriate amount of cash or liquid assets). Such earmarking, segregation or cover is intended to provide the Fund with available assets to satisfy its obligations under such transactions. As a result of such earmarking, segregation or cover, the Fund’s obligations under such transactions will not be considered senior securities representing indebtedness for purposes of the 1940 Act, or considered borrowings subject to the Fund’s limitations on borrowings, but may create leverage for the Fund. To the extent that the Fund’s obligations under such transactions are not so earmarked, segregated or covered, such obligations may be considered “senior securities representing indebtedness” under the 1940 Act and therefore subject to a 300% asset coverage requirement pursuant to 1940 Act requirements.

These earmarking, segregation or cover requirements can result in the Fund maintaining securities positions it would otherwise liquidate, segregating or earmarking assets at a time when it might be disadvantageous to do so or otherwise restrict portfolio management.

## **Market Disruption and Geopolitical Risk**

The occurrence of events similar to those in recent years, such as the aftermath of the war in Iraq, instability in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Russia, Ukraine and the Middle East, ongoing epidemics of infectious diseases in certain parts of the world, terrorist attacks in the U.S. and around the world, social and political discord, debt crises (such as the recent Greek crisis), sovereign debt downgrades, or the exit or potential exit (such as Brexit) of one or more countries from the EU or the European Monetary Union, among others, may result in market volatility, may have long term effects on the U.S. and worldwide financial markets, and may cause further economic uncertainties in the U.S. and worldwide. Any such event(s) could have a significant adverse impact on the value and risk profile of the Fund's portfolio. The Fund does not know how long the securities markets may be affected by similar events and cannot predict the effects of similar events in the future on the U.S. economy and securities markets. There can be no assurance that similar events and other market disruptions will not have other material and adverse implications.

## **Economic Events and Market Risk**

Periods of market volatility remain, and may continue to occur in the future, in response to various political, social and economic events both within and outside of the United States. These conditions have resulted in, and in many cases continue to result in, greater price volatility, less liquidity, widening credit spreads and a lack of price transparency, with many securities remaining illiquid and of uncertain value. Such market conditions may adversely affect the Fund, including by making valuation of some of the Fund's securities uncertain and/or result in sudden and significant valuation increases or declines in the Fund's holdings.

Risks resulting from any future debt or other economic crisis could also have a detrimental impact on the global economic recovery, the financial condition of financial institutions and our business, financial condition and results of operation. Market and economic disruptions have affected, and may in the future affect, consumer confidence levels and spending, personal bankruptcy rates, levels of incurrence and default on consumer debt and home prices, among other factors. To the extent uncertainty regarding the U.S. or global economy negatively impacts consumer confidence and consumer credit factors, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be significantly and adversely affected. Downgrades to the credit ratings of major banks could result in increased borrowing costs for such banks and negatively affect the broader economy. Moreover, Federal Reserve policy, including with respect to certain interest rates, may also adversely affect the value, volatility and liquidity of dividend- and interest-paying securities. Market volatility, rising interest rates and/or a return to unfavorable economic conditions could impair the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

## **Government Intervention in Financial Markets Risk**

The U.S. government and certain foreign governments and their regulatory agencies or self-regulatory organizations have in the past taken, and may in the future take, legislative and regulatory actions that may affect the Fund, its securities and/or the Fund's investments. Such legislation or regulation may change the way in which the Fund is regulated and could limit or preclude the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective. The Dodd-Frank Act contains sweeping financial legislation regarding the operation of banks, private fund managers and other financial institutions. The Dodd-Frank Act includes provisions regarding, among other things, the regulation of derivatives, the identification, monitoring and prophylactic regulation of systemic risks to financial markets, and the regulation of proprietary trading and investment activity of banking institutions. The continuing implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act and any other regulations could adversely affect the Adviser and the Fund. The Adviser may attempt to take certain actions to lessen the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act and any other legislation or regulation affecting the Fund, although no assurance can be given that such actions would be successful and no assurance can be given that such actions would not have a significant negative impact on the Fund. The ultimate impact of the Dodd-Frank Act, and any additional future legislation or regulation, is not yet certain and the Adviser and the Fund may be affected by governmental action in ways that are unforeseeable.

Additionally, the SEC and its staff are also reportedly engaged in various initiatives and reviews that seek to improve and modernize the regulatory structure governing investment companies. These efforts appear to be focused on risk identification and controls in various areas, including imbedded leverage through the use of derivatives and other trading practices, cybersecurity, liquidity, enhanced regulatory and public reporting requirements and the evaluation of systemic risks. Any new rules, guidance or regulatory initiatives resulting from these efforts could increase the Fund's expenses and impact its returns or, in the extreme case, impact or limit its use of various portfolio management strategies or techniques and adversely impact the Fund.

*Change in Presidential Administration.* In addition to the risks discussed above, the change in presidential administration could significantly impact the regulation of U.S. financial markets. Areas subject to potential change, amendment or repeal include the Dodd-Frank Act, including the Volcker Rule and various swaps and derivatives regulations, the authority of the Federal Reserve and FSOC, and renewed proposals to separate banks' commercial and investment banking activities. Other potential changes that could be pursued by the new presidential administration could include the United States' withdrawal from, or attempt to renegotiate, various trade agreements or the taking of other actions that would change current trade policies of the United States. It is not possible to predict which, if any, of these actions will be taken or, if taken, their effect on the economy, securities markets or financial stability of the



United States. The Fund may be affected by governmental action in ways that are not foreseeable, and there is a possibility that such actions could have significant adverse effect on the Fund and its ability to achieve its investment objective.

## 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.

## INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

The Fund's investment objectives and the following investment restrictions are fundamental and may not be changed without the approval of a majority of the Fund's shareholders defined in the 1940 Act, as the lesser of (1) 67% of the Fund's shares present at a meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares are present in person or by proxy, or (2) more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding shares. In addition, as a fundamental policy the Fund will, under normal circumstances, invest at least 25% of its assets in the utilities industry. All other investment policies or practices are considered not to be fundamental and accordingly may be changed without shareholder approval. If a percentage restriction on investment or the use of assets set forth below is adhered to at the time the transaction is effected, later changes in percentage resulting from changing market values or total assets of the Fund will not be considered a deviation from policy. Under such restrictions, the Fund may not:

1. Purchase the securities of any one issuer, other than the U.S. government, or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, if immediately after such purchase more than 5% of the value of its total assets would be invested in such issuer or the Fund would own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, except that up to 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested without regard to such 5% and 10% limitations;
2. Invest more than 25% of the value of its total assets in any particular industry other than the utilities industry (this restriction does not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities);
3. Make loans of its assets except for: (a) purchasing private or publicly distributed debt obligations, (b) engaging in repurchase agreements, and (c) lending its portfolio securities consistent with applicable regulatory requirements;
4. Purchase securities on margin, but it may obtain such short term credits from banks as may be necessary for the clearance of purchase and sales of securities;
5. Issue senior securities, except to the extent permitted by applicable law;
6. Borrow money, except subject to the restrictions set forth in this SAI;
7. Mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate any of its assets except that, in connection with permissible borrowings mentioned in restriction (6) above, not more than 30% of the assets of the Fund (not including amounts borrowed) may be used as collateral and except for collateral arrangements with respect to options, futures, hedging transactions, short sales, when-issued and forward commitment transactions, and similar investment strategies;
8. Engage in the underwriting of securities, except insofar as the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under the 1933 Act in disposing of a portfolio security;
9. Purchase or sell commodities or commodity contracts except for bona fide hedging, yield enhancement and risk management purposes or invest in any oil, gas, or mineral interests;
10. Purchase real estate or interests therein, other than mortgage backed securities and securities of companies that invest in real estate or interests therein; or
11. Invest for the purpose of exercising control over management of any company (the Fund does not view efforts to affect management or business decisions of portfolio companies as investing for the purpose of exercising control).

Additionally, the Fund relies upon an exclusion under CFTC Rule 4.5 from the definition of “commodity pool operator” to avoid registration with the CFTC. This exclusion imposes certain trading restrictions on the Fund. These trading restrictions permit the Fund to engage in “commodity interest transactions” (collectively, futures contracts, certain option contracts, certain currency transactions and certain swaps) that include (i) “bona fide hedging” transactions, as that term is defined and interpreted by the CFTC and its staff, without regard to the percentage of the Fund’s assets committed to margin and option premiums and (ii) non-bona fide hedging transactions, provided that the Fund not enter into such non-bona fide hedging transactions if, immediately thereafter, either (a) the sum of the amount of initial margin deposits on the Fund’s existing futures or swaps positions and option or swaption premiums would exceed 5% of the market value of the Fund’s liquidating value, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such transactions, or (b) the aggregate net notional value of the Fund’s commodity interest transactions would not exceed 100% of the market value of the Fund’s liquidating value, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such transactions. In addition to meeting one of the foregoing trading limitations, the Fund may not market itself as a commodity pool or otherwise as a vehicle for trading in the future, options or swaps markets.

## **PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION**

Employees of the Adviser and its affiliates will often have access to information concerning the portfolio holdings of the Fund. The Fund and the Adviser have adopted policies and procedures that require all employees to safeguard proprietary information of the Fund, which includes information relating to the Fund’s portfolio holdings as well as portfolio trading activity of the Adviser with respect to the Fund (collectively, “Portfolio Holdings Information”). In addition, the Fund and the Adviser have adopted policies and procedures providing that Portfolio Holdings Information may not be disclosed except to the extent that it is (a) made available to the general public by posting on the Fund’s website or filed as part of a required filing on Form N-Q or N-CSR, or (b) provided to a third party for legitimate business purposes or regulatory purposes that has agreed to keep such information confidential under terms approved by the Adviser’s legal department or outside counsel, as described below. The Adviser will examine each situation under (b) with a view to determine that release of the information is in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders and, if a potential conflict between the Adviser’s interests and the Fund’s interests arises, to have such conflict resolved by the Chief Compliance Officer or those Trustees who are not considered to be “interested persons”, as defined in the 1940 Act (the “Independent Trustees”). These policies further provide that no officer of the Fund or employee of the Adviser shall communicate with the media about the Fund without obtaining the advance consent of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, or General Counsel of the Adviser.

Under the foregoing policies, the Fund may disclose Portfolio Holdings Information in the circumstances outlined below. Disclosure generally may be either on a monthly or quarterly basis with no time lag in some cases and with a time lag of up to sixty days in other cases (with the exception of proxy voting services which require a regular download of data).

1. To regulatory authorities in response to requests for such information and with the approval of the Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund;
2. To mutual fund rating and statistical agencies and to persons performing similar functions where there is a legitimate business purpose for such disclosure and such entity has agreed to keep such data confidential at least until it has been made public by the Adviser;
3. To service providers of the Fund, as necessary for the performance of their services to the Fund and to the Board where such entity has agreed to keep such data confidential at least until it has been made public by the Adviser. The Fund’s current service providers that may receive such information are its administrator, sub-administrator, custodian, independent registered public accounting firm, legal counsel, and financial printers;
4. To firms providing proxy voting or other proxy services provided such entity has agreed to keep such data confidential at least until it has been made public by the Adviser;
5. To certain broker-dealers, investment advisers, and other financial intermediaries for purposes of their performing due diligence on the Fund and not for dissemination of this information to their clients or use of this information to conduct trading for their clients. Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings Information in these circumstances requires the broker-dealer, investment adviser, or financial intermediary to agree to keep such information confidential at least until it has been made public by the Adviser and is further subject to prior approval of the Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund and shall be reported to the Board at the next quarterly meeting; and
6. To consultants for purposes of performing analysis of the Fund, which analysis may be used by the consultant with its clients or disseminated to the public, provided that such entity shall have agreed to keep such information confidential at least until it has been made public by the Adviser.

As of the date of this SAI, the Fund makes information about its portfolio securities available to its administrator, sub-administrator, custodian, and proxy voting services on a daily basis, with no time lag, to its typesetter on a quarterly basis with a ten day time lag, to its financial printers on a quarterly basis with a forty-five day time lag, and to its independent registered public accounting firm and

legal counsel on an as needed basis with no time lag. The names of the Fund’s administrator, sub-administrator, custodian, independent registered public accounting firm, and legal counsel are set forth in this SAI. The Fund’s proxy voting service is Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., Donnelley Financial Solutions, and Appatura provide typesetting services for the Fund, and the Fund selects from a number of financial printers who have agreed to keep such information confidential at least until it has been made public by the Adviser.

Other than these arrangements with the Fund’s service providers and proxy voting service, the Fund does not have any ongoing arrangements to make available information about the Fund’s portfolio securities prior to such information being disclosed in a publicly available filing with the SEC that is required to include the information.

Disclosures made pursuant to a confidentiality agreement are subject to periodic confirmation by the Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund that the recipient has utilized such information solely in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Neither the Fund, nor the Adviser, nor any of the Adviser’s affiliates will accept on behalf of itself, its affiliates, or the Fund any compensation or other consideration in connection with the disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Fund. The Board will review such arrangements annually with the Fund’s Chief Compliance Officer.

### TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

Under Delaware law, the Fund’s Board is responsible for establishing the Fund’s policies and for overseeing the management of the Fund. The Board also elects the Fund’s officers who conduct the daily business of the Fund. Information pertaining to the Trustees and Officers of the Fund is set forth below.

<u>Name, Position(s), Address<sup>(1)</sup> and Age</u>	<u>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>Number of Funds in Fund Complex<sup>(3)</sup> Overseen by Trustee</u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Other Directorships During Past Five Years<sup>(4)</sup></u>
<b><u>INTERESTED TRUSTEE<sup>(5)</sup>:</u></b>				
<b>Mario J. Gabelli, CFA</b> Chairman Age: 74	Since 1999	32	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer – Value Portfolios of GAMCO Investors, Inc. and Chief Investment Officer – Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc.; Director/Trustee or Chief Investment Officer of other registered investment companies within the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex; Chief Executive Officer of GGCP, Inc.; Executive Chairman of Associated Capital Group, Inc.	Director of Morgan Group Holdings, Inc. (holding company); Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of LICT Corp. (multimedia and communication services company); Director of CIBL, Inc. (broadcasting and wireless communications); Director of ICTC Group Inc. (communications); Director of RLJ Acquisition, Inc. (blank check company) (2011-2012)
<b><u>INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES<sup>(6)</sup>:</u></b>				
<b>Anthony J. Colavita<sup>(7)</sup></b> Trustee Age: 81	Since 1999	35	President of the law firm of Anthony J. Colavita P.C.	—
<b>Vincent D. Enright</b> Trustee Age: 73	Since 1999	17	Former Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of KeySpan Corp. (public utility) (1994-1998)	Director of Echo Therapeutics, Inc. (therapeutics and diagnostics) (2008-2014); Director of The LGL Group, Inc. (diversified manufacturing) (2011-2014)

<u>Name, Position(s), Address<sup>(1)</sup> and Age</u>	<u>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>Number of Funds in Fund Complex<sup>(3)</sup> Overseen by Trustee</u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Other Directorships During Past Five Years<sup>(4)</sup></u>
<b>Mary E. Hauck</b> Trustee Age: 74	Since 2000	4	Retired Senior Manager of the Gabelli-O'Connor Fixed Income Mutual Funds Management Company	—
<b>Kuni Nakamura</b> Trustee Age: 48	Since 2009	26	President of Advanced Polymer, Inc. (chemical manufacturing company); President of KEN Enterprises, Inc. (real estate)	—
<b>Werner J. Roeder</b> Trustee Age: 76	Since 1999	23	Retired physician; Former Vice President of Medical Affairs (Medical Director) of New York Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital (1999-2014)	—

<u>Name, Position(s), Address<sup>(1)</sup> and Age</u>	<u>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</u>
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**OFFICERS:**

<b>Bruce N. Alpert</b> President Age: 65	Since 2003	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 1988; Officer of registered investment companies within the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2008; Director of Teton Advisors, Inc., 1998 - 2012
<b>Agnes Mullady</b> Vice President Age: 58	Since 2006	Vice President of all of the open-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex since February 2017; Treasurer of all open-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex, 2006-February 2017; President and Chief Operating Officer of the Fund Division of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 2015; Chief Executive Officer of G.distributors, LLC since 2010; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2009; Vice President of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 2007; Executive Vice President of Associated Capital Group, Inc. since 2016; Officer of all of the registered investment companies within the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex
<b>John C. Ball</b> Treasurer Age: 41	Since February 2017	Treasurer of all open-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex since February 2017; Vice President and Assistant Treasurer of AMG Funds, 2014-2017; Vice President of State Street Corporation, 2007-2014
<b>Andrea R. Mango</b> Secretary Age:45	Since 2013	Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2016; Counsel of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 2013; Secretary of all registered investment companies within the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex since 2013; Vice President of all closed-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex since 2014; Corporate Vice President within the Corporate Compliance Department of New York Life Insurance Company, 2011-2013; Vice President and Counsel of Deutsche Bank, 2006-2011
<b>Richard J. Walz</b> Chief Compliance Officer Age: 58	Since 2013	Chief Compliance Officer of all of the registered investment companies within the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex since 2013; Chief Compliance Officer of AEGON USA Investment Management, 2011-2013; Chief Compliance Officer of Cutwater Asset Management, 2004-2011

(1) Address: One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422.

- (2) Each Trustee will hold office for an indefinite term until the earliest of (i) the next meeting of shareholders, if any, called for the purpose of considering the election or re-election of such Trustee and until the election and qualification of his or her successor, if any, elected at such meeting, or (ii) the date a Trustee resigns or retires, or a Trustee is removed by the Board or shareholders, in accordance with the Fund's By-Laws and Agreement and Declaration of Trust. Each officer will hold office for an indefinite term or until the date he or she resigns or retires or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

- (3) The “Fund Complex” or the “Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex” includes all the U.S. registered investment companies that are considered part of the same fund complex as the Fund because they have common or affiliated investment advisers.
- (4) This column includes only directorships of companies required to report to the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “1934 Act”), i.e. public companies or other investment companies registered under the 1940 Act.
- (5) “Interested person” of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act. Mr. Gabelli is considered to be an “interested person” of the Fund because of his affiliation with the Adviser.
- (6) Trustees who are not considered to be “interested persons” of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act are considered to be “Independent” Trustees.
- (7) Mr. Colavita’s son, Anthony S. Colavita, serves as a director of other funds in the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex.

The Board believes that each Trustee’s experience, qualifications, attributes, and skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of other Trustees lead to the conclusion that each Trustee should serve in such capacity. Among the attributes or skills common to all Trustees are their ability to review critically and to evaluate, question, and discuss information provided to them; to interact effectively with the other Trustees, the Adviser, the sub-administrator, other service providers, counsel, and the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm, and to exercise effective and independent business judgment in the performance of their duties as Trustees. Each Trustee’s ability to perform his/her duties effectively has been attained in large part through the Trustee’s business, consulting, or public service positions, and through experience from service as a member of the Board and one or more of the other funds in the Gabelli/GAMCO/Teton Fund Complex, public companies, or non-profit entities, or other organizations as set forth above and below. Each Trustee’s ability to perform his duties effectively also has been enhanced by his/her education, professional training, and experience.

#### **Interested Trustee:**

*Mario J. Gabelli, CFA.* Mr. Gabelli is Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chief Investment Officer of the Fund. Mr. Gabelli is Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer – Value Portfolios of GAMCO Investors, Inc. (“GBL”), a New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”)-listed asset manager and financial services company. He is also the Chief Investment Officer of Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc. (“GAMCO”), each of which are asset management subsidiaries of GBL. In addition, Mr. Gabelli is Chief Executive Officer, Chief Investment Officer, a director and the controlling shareholder of GGCP, Inc. (“GGCP”), a private company that holds a majority interest in GBL, and the Chairman of MJG Associates, Inc., which acts as an investment manager of various investment funds and other accounts. He is also Executive Chairman of Associated Capital Group, Inc., a public company that provides alternative management and institutional research services, and is a majority-owned subsidiary of GGCP. Mr. Gabelli serves as Overseer of the Columbia University Graduate School of Business and as a trustee of Boston College and Roger Williams University. He also serves as a director of the Winston Churchill Foundation, The E.L. Wiegand Foundation, The American-Italian Cancer Foundation, and the Foundation for Italian Art and Culture. He is Chairman of the Gabelli Foundation, Inc., a Nevada private charitable trust. Mr. Gabelli serves as Co-President of Field Point Park Association, Inc. Mr. Gabelli received his Bachelor’s degree from Fordham University, M.B.A. from Columbia Business School, and honorary Doctorates from Fordham University and Roger Williams University.

#### **Independent Trustees:**

*Anthony J. Colavita, Esq.* Mr. Colavita is a practicing attorney with over fifty-five years of experience. He is Chairman of the Fund’s Nominating Committee and a member of the Fund’s Audit and *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committees. Mr. Colavita serves on comparable or other board committees with respect to other funds in the Fund Complex on whose boards he sits. He served as a Commissioner of the New York State Thruway Authority and as a Commissioner of the New York State Bridge Authority, where his duties included reviewing financial documents of these agencies. He served for eleven years as the elected Supervisor of the Town of Eastchester, New York, responsible for ten annual municipal budgets. Mr. Colavita also served as Special Counsel to the New York State Assembly for five years and as a Senior Attorney with the New York State Insurance Department. He is also the former Chairman of the New York State Republican Party, the Westchester County Republican Party, and the Eastchester Republican Town Committee. Mr. Colavita received his Bachelor of Arts from Fairfield University and Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law.

*Vincent D. Enright.* Mr. Enright is the Lead Independent Trustee of the Fund, Chairman of the Fund’s Audit and *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committees, and a member of both multi-fund *ad hoc* Compensation Committees. He has been designated as the Fund’s Audit Committee Financial Expert. He serves on comparable or other board committees with respect to other funds in the Fund Complex on whose boards he sits. Mr. Enright was a senior executive and Chief Financial Officer of KeySpan Corp., an energy public utility, for four years. Mr. Enright is a former director of a therapeutic and diagnostic company and served as Chairman of its Compensation Committee and as a member of its Audit Committee. He is also a former director of a pharmaceutical company and a diversified manufacturing company. Mr. Enright received his Bachelor’s degree from Fordham University and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University.



*Mary E. Hauck.* Ms. Hauck was a Senior Manager of the Gabelli-O'Connor Fixed Income Mutual Funds Management Company. She serves on the boards of other funds in the Fund Complex. Ms. Hauck was formerly the Performing Arts Coordinator for The Sun Valley Center for the Arts in Sun Valley, Idaho; President of the Treasurer's Fund for Gabelli-O'Connor Fixed Income Asset Management, Co.; Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager of The Dreyfus Corp.; Senior Consultant for The Assembly on Revenue and Taxation in the California Legislature; Investment Consultant for Scudder, Stevens and Clark; Investment Manager for Standard & Poor's Counseling Corp.; Portfolio Analyst for Dodge & Cox; and a Portfolio Assistant for Wells Fargo Bank. Ms. Hauck has been affiliated with the Bedford Central School District as a Board Member; Hickory Hill Figure Skating Club as a Board Member, Secretary, and President; the Ice Skating Club of New York as a Board Member and President; and the Carl Schurz Park Association. Ms. Hauck received her Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

*Kuni Nakamura.* Mr. Nakamura is the president of Advanced Polymer, Inc., a chemical manufacturing company, and president of KEN Enterprises, Inc., a real estate company. He is a member of the Fund's Nominating Committee. Mr. Nakamura serves on comparable or other board committees with respect to other funds in the Fund Complex on whose boards he sits. Mr. Nakamura was previously a board member of The LGL Group, Inc., a diversified manufacturing company. Mr. Nakamura serves on the Board of Trustees of Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY. He chairs the Endowment Management Committee and is a member of the Audit Committee. He is also involved in various capacities with The University of Pennsylvania and The Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Mr. Nakamura is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania – The Wharton School with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Multinational Management.

*Werner J. Roeder, M.D.* Dr. Roeder is a retired physician with over forty-five years of experience and former Vice President of Medical Affairs (Medical Director) of New York Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, New York. . As Vice President of Medical Affairs at New York Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital, he was actively involved in personnel and financial matters concerning the hospital's \$140 million budget. He is a member of the Fund's Audit and *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committees, and a member of both multi-fund *ad hoc* Compensation Committees. Dr. Roeder serves on comparable or other board committees with respect to other funds in the Fund Complex on whose boards he sits. Dr. Roeder is board certified as a surgeon by The American Board of Surgery and presently serves in a consulting capacity to Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield. He obtained his Doctorate in Medicine from New York Medical College.

### **Trustees — Leadership Structure and Oversight Responsibilities**

Overall responsibility for general oversight of the Fund rests with the Board. The Board has appointed Mr. Enright as the Lead Independent Trustee. The Lead Independent Trustee presides over executive sessions of the Trustees and also serves between meetings of the Board as a liaison with service providers, officers, counsel, and other Trustees on a wide variety of matters including scheduling agenda items for Board meetings. Designation as such does not impose on the Lead Independent Trustee any obligations or standards greater than or different from other Trustees. The Board has established a Nominating Committee and an Audit Committee to assist the Board in the oversight of the management and affairs of the Fund. The Board also has an *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committee. Under certain circumstances and pursuant to specific procedures and guidelines, the *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committee will, in place of the Fund's Adviser, exercise complete control and discretion over the exercise of all rights to vote or consent with respect to certain securities owned by the Fund. The *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committee meets periodically on an as-needed basis to consider such matters. Each of the Nominating, Audit, and *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committees is entirely comprised of Independent Trustees. From time to time, the Board establishes additional committees or informal working groups to deal with specific matters or assigns one of its members to work with trustees or directors of other funds in the Fund Complex on special committees or working groups that deal with complex-wide matters, such as the multi-fund *ad hoc* Compensation Committee relating to compensation of the Chief Compliance Officer for all the funds in the Fund Complex. (The Fund Complex also has a separate multi-fund Compensation Committee relating to the compensation of certain officers of the closed-end funds in the Fund Complex, and some of the Fund's Trustees may from time to time also serve on this separate committee.)

All of the Fund's Trustees, other than Mr. Mario J. Gabelli, are Independent Trustees, and the Board believes they are able to provide effective oversight of the Fund's service providers. In addition to providing feedback and direction during Board meetings, the Trustees meet regularly in executive session and chair all committees of the Board.

The Fund's operations entail a variety of risks including investment, administration, valuation, and a range of compliance matters. Although the Adviser, the sub-administrator and the officers of the Fund are responsible for managing these risks on a day to day basis within the framework of their established risk management functions, the Board also addresses risk management of the Fund through its meetings and those of the committees and working groups. In particular, as part of its general oversight, the Board reviews with the Adviser at Board meetings the levels and types of risks being undertaken by the Fund, and the Audit Committee discusses the Fund's risk management and controls with the independent registered public accounting firm engaged by the Fund. The Board reviews

valuation policies and procedures and the valuations of specific illiquid securities. The Board also receives periodic reports from the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer regarding compliance matters relating to the Fund and its major service providers, including results of the implementation and testing of the Fund's and such providers' compliance programs. The Board's oversight function is facilitated by management reporting processes that are designed to provide information to the Board about the identification, assessment, and management of critical risks and the controls and policies and procedures used to mitigate those risks. The Board reviews its role in supervising the Fund's risk management from time to time and may make changes in its discretion at any time.

The Board has determined that its leadership structure is appropriate for the Fund because it enables the Board to exercise informed and independent judgment over matters under its purview, allocates responsibility among committees in a manner that fosters effective oversight, and allows the Board to devote appropriate resources to specific issues in a flexible manner as they arise. The Board periodically reviews its leadership structure as well as its overall structure, composition, and functioning and may make changes in its discretion at any time.

### **Standing Board Committees**

The Board has established two standing committees in connection with its governance of the Fund, the Audit and Nominating Committees, and has also established an *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committee. The Fund does not have a standing Compensation Committee (although some of the individuals who are Trustees of the Fund participate in multi-fund *ad hoc* Compensation Committees described above).

The Fund's Audit Committee consists of two members: Messrs. Enright (Chairman) and Colavita, who are Independent Trustees of the Fund. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a Charter that was most recently reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Fund on February 23, 2017. As set forth in the Charter, the function of the Audit Committee is oversight; it is management's responsibility to maintain appropriate systems for accounting and internal control and it is the independent registered public accountants' responsibility to plan and carry out a proper audit. The Audit Committee is generally responsible for reviewing and evaluating issues related to the accounting and financial reporting policies and practices of the Fund, its internal controls, and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers, overseeing the quality and objectivity of the Fund's financial statements and the audit thereof and to act as a liaison between the Board and the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, the Audit Committee met twice.

The Fund's Nominating Committee consists of two members: Mr. Colavita (Chairman) and Mr. Nakamura, who are Independent Trustees of the Fund. The Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting and recommending qualified candidates to the full Board in the event that a position is vacated or created. The Nominating Committee would consider, under procedures adopted by the Board, recommendations by shareholders if a vacancy were to exist. Such recommendations should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Fund. The Nominating Committee did not meet during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

The Fund's *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committee consists of three members: Messrs. Enright (Chairman) and Colavita, and Dr. Roeder, who are Independent Trustees of the Fund. Under certain circumstances and pursuant to specific procedures and guidelines, the *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committee will, in place of the Fund's Adviser, exercise complete control and discretion over the exercise of all rights to vote or consent with respect to certain securities owned by the Fund and may also determine to exercise complete control and discretion over the disposition of such securities. The *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committee meets periodically on an as needed basis to consider such matters and did not meet during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

## Trustee Ownership of Fund Shares

Set forth in the table below is the dollar range of equity securities in the Fund beneficially owned by each Trustee and the aggregate dollar range of equity securities in the Fund Complex beneficially owned by each Trustee as of December 31, 2016.

Name of Trustee	Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held in the Fund*	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held in Fund Complex*
<b><u>INTERESTED TRUSTEE:</u></b>		
Mario J. Gabelli	E	E
<b><u>INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES:</u></b>		
Anthony J. Colavita	D	E
Vincent D. Enright	C	E
Mary E. Hauck	C	E
Kuni Nakamura	D	E
Werner J. Roeder	C	E

\* Key to Dollar Ranges – Information as of December 31, 2016

- A. None
- B. \$1 - \$10,000
- C. \$10,001 - \$50,000
- D. \$50,001 - \$100,000
- E. Over \$100,000

Set forth in the table below is the amount of interests beneficially owned, as of December 31, 2016, by certain Independent Trustees or their immediate family members, as applicable, in a holding that may be deemed to be controlled by Mario J. Gabelli and/or affiliates and in that event would be deemed to be under common control with the Fund's Adviser.

Name of Independent Trustee	Name of Owner and Relationships to		Title of Class	Value of Interests	Percent of Class
	Trustee	Company			
Anthony J. Colavita	Same	The LGL Group, Inc.	Common Stock	\$ 6,697	*
Anthony J. Colavita	Same	The LGL Group, Inc.	Warrants	\$ 7	*
Anthony J. Colavita	Family	Gabelli Associates Fund	Membership Interests	\$951,130	*
Kuni Nakamura	Same	The LGL Group, Inc.	Common Stock	\$ 8,715	*
Kuni Nakamura	Same	The LGL Group, Inc.	Warrants	\$ 9	*

\* An asterisk indicates that the ownership amount constitutes less than 1% of the total interests outstanding.

## Trustee and Officer Compensation

No officer, director or employee of G.distributors, LLC ("G.distributors" or the "Distributor"), the Adviser, or an affiliated company receives any compensation from the Fund for serving as an Officer or Trustee of the Fund. The Fund pays each Trustee who is not considered an interested person an annual retainer of \$18,000 plus \$2,000 for each Board meeting attended and reimburses these Trustees for any out of pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings. (All Board committee members receive \$500 per meeting attended and the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Lead Independent Trustee each receives an annual fee of \$2,000). A Trustee may receive a single meeting fee, allocated among the participating funds in the Fund Complex, for participation in certain meetings held on behalf of multiple funds. Trustees who are directors or employees of the Adviser or an affiliated company receive no compensation or expense reimbursement from the Fund.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the compensation of the Fund's Trustees. Although Officers, including the chief compliance officer, may be compensated by the Fund, no Officer or person affiliated with the Fund received compensation in excess of \$60,000 from the Fund for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

## Aggregate Compensation from Fund (Fiscal Year)

### COMPENSATION TABLE

<u>Name of Person and Position</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund*</u>	<u>Total Compensation from the Fund and Fund Complex**</u>
<b><u>INTERESTED TRUSTEES:</u></b>		
Mario J. Gabelli Chairman of the Board	\$ 0	\$ 0(0)
<b><u>INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES:</u></b>		
Anthony J. Colavita Trustee	\$ 27,000	\$ 411,500(36)
Vincent D. Enright Trustee	\$ 31,000	\$ 216,109(17)
Mary E. Hauck Trustee	\$ 26,000	\$ 55,000(4)
Kuni Nakamura Trustee	\$ 26,000	\$ 219,299(20)
Werner J. Roeder Trustee	\$ 27,000	\$ 188,500(23)

\* Represents the total compensation paid to such persons for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

\*\* Represents the total compensation paid to such persons for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, by investment companies (including the Fund) or portfolios that are considered part of the same “fund complex” as the Fund because they have common or affiliated investment advisers. The parenthetical number represents the number of such investment companies and portfolios.

#### **Code of Ethics**

The Fund, its Adviser, and the Distributor have adopted a code of ethics (the “Code of Ethics”) under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. The Code of Ethics permits personnel, subject to the Code of Ethics and its restrictive provisions, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund.

#### **Proxy Voting Policies**

The Fund has delegated the voting of portfolio securities to the Adviser in its capacity as the Fund’s investment adviser. The Adviser has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures (the “Proxy Voting Policy”) for the voting of proxies on behalf of client accounts for which the Adviser has voting discretion, including the Fund. Under the Proxy Voting Policy, portfolio securities held by the Fund are to be voted in the best interests of the Fund.

Normally, the Adviser exercises proxy voting discretion on particular types of proposals in accordance with guidelines (the “Proxy Voting Guidelines”) set forth in the Proxy Voting Policy. The Proxy Voting Guidelines address, for example, proposals to elect the Board, to classify the Board, to select the independent registered public accounting firm, to issue blank check preferred stock, to use confidential ballots, to eliminate cumulative voting, to require shareholder ratification of poison pills, to support fair price provisions, to require a supermajority shareholder vote for charter or by-law amendments, to provide for director and officer indemnification and liability protection, to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock, to allow greenmail, to limit shareholders’ rights to call special meetings, to consider the non-financial effects of a merger, to limit shareholders’ rights to act by written consent, to approve executive and director compensation plans (including golden parachutes), to limit executive and director pay, to approve stock option plans, to opt in or out of state takeover statutes, and to approve mergers, acquisitions, corporate restructuring, spin-offs, buyouts, asset sales, or liquidations.

A Proxy Voting Committee comprised of senior representatives of the Adviser and its affiliated investment advisers has the responsibility for the content, interpretation, and application of the Proxy Voting Guidelines. In general, the Director of Proxy Voting Services, using the Proxy Voting Guidelines, recommendations of Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. (“ISS”), other third party services, and the analysts of G.research, LLC (“G.research”) will determine how to vote on each issue. For non-controversial matters, the Director of Proxy Voting Services may vote the proxy if the vote is (1) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer’s board of directors and not contrary to the Proxy Voting Guidelines; (2) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer’s board of directors and is a non-controversial issue not covered by the Proxy Voting Guidelines; or (3) contrary to the recommendations of the issuer’s board of directors but is consistent with the Proxy Voting Guidelines. In these instances, the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Chairman of the Committee may sign and date the proxy statement indicating how each issue will be voted.



All matters identified by the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services, or the Adviser's Legal Department as controversial, taking into account the recommendations of ISS or other third-party services and the analysts of the G.research, will be presented to the Proxy Voting Committee. If the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services, or the Adviser's Legal Department has identified the matter as one that (1) is controversial; (2) would benefit from deliberation by the Proxy Voting Committee; or (3) may give rise to a conflict of interest between the Adviser and its clients, the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee will initially determine what vote to recommend that the Adviser should cast and the matter will go before the Proxy Voting Committee.

For matters submitted to the Proxy Voting Committee, each member of the Proxy Voting Committee will receive, prior to the meeting, a copy of the proxy statement, any relevant third party research, a summary of any views provided by the Chief Investment Officer and any recommendations by the G.research's analysts. The Chief Investment Officer or the G.research's analysts may be invited to present their viewpoints. If the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Adviser's Legal Department believes that the matter before the Proxy Voting Committee is one with respect to which a conflict of interest may exist between the Adviser and its clients, legal counsel will provide an opinion to the Proxy Voting Committee concerning the conflict. If the matter is one in which the interests of the clients of the Adviser may diverge, Counsel will so advise and the Proxy Voting Committee may make different recommendations as to different clients. For any matters where the recommendation may trigger appraisal rights, counsel will provide an opinion concerning the likely risks and merits of such an appraisal action.

Each matter submitted to the Proxy Voting Committee will be determined by the vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting. Should the vote concerning one or more recommendations be tied in a vote of the Proxy Voting Committee, the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee will cast the deciding vote. The Proxy Voting Committee will notify the Proxy Department of its decisions and the proxies will be voted accordingly.

Where a proxy proposal raises a material conflict between the interests of the Fund's shareholders on the one hand, and those of the Fund's Adviser and/or the principal underwriters, on the other hand, the conflict will be brought to the *ad hoc* Proxy Voting Committee of the Fund to determine a resolution.

The Fund files Form N-PX with the Fund's complete proxy voting record for the twelve months ended June 30, no later than August 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. This filing is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free (800) 422-3554 and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

## CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

As of March 31, 2017, the following persons were known to own of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of any class of the Fund:

<u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>% OF CLASS</u>	<u>NATURE OF OWNERSHIP</u>
<b>CLASS AAA</b>		
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC FOR THE EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF OUR CUSTOMERS ATTN: MUTUAL FUNDS DEPT, 4 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310-1995	27.07%	Beneficial*†
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO INC SPECIAL CUSTODY ACCT FBO EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF CUSTOMERS ATTN MUTUAL FUNDS SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-1905	26.53%	Beneficial*
TD AMERITRADE INC FOR THE EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF OUR CUSTOMERS OMAHA, NE 68103-2226	6.88%	Beneficial*
PERSHING LLC JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399-0001	6.15%	Beneficial*

### CLASS A

PERSHING LLC JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399-0001	23.70%	Beneficial*
WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES LLC SPECIAL CUSTODY ACCT. FBO EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF CUSTOMER ST. LOUIS, MO 63103-2523	12.43%	Beneficial*

<u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>% OF CLASS</u>	<u>NATURE OF OWNERSHIP</u>
MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY JERSEY CITY, NJ 07311	8.90%	Beneficial*
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC FOR EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF OUR CUSTOMERS ATTN: MUTUAL FUNDS DEPT., 4 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310-1995	8.76%	Beneficial*/†
<b>CLASS C</b>		
WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES LLC SPECIAL CUSTODY ACCT. FBO EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF CUSTOMER ST. LOUIS, MO 63103-2523	18.47%	Beneficial*
MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY JERSEY CITY, NJ 07311	15.96%	Beneficial*
PERSHING LLC JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399-0001	14.50%	Beneficial*
MERRILL LYNCH PIERCE FENNER & SMITH INC FOR THE SOLE BENEFIT OF ITS CUSTOMERS JACKSONVILLE, FL 32246-6484	7.81%	Beneficial*
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC FOR EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF OUR CUSTOMERS ATTN MUTUAL FUNDS DEPT., 4 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310-1995	5.71%	Beneficial*
UBS WM USA SPECIAL CUSTODY A/C EBOC UBSFSI EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF CUSTOMER WEEHAWKEN, NJ 07086-6761	5.56%	Beneficial*
RAYMOND JAMES OMNIBUS FOR MUTUAL FUNDS ATTN: COURTNEY WALLER ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716-1100	5.39%	Beneficial*
<b>CLASS I</b>		
MERRILL LYNCH PIERCE FENNER & SMITH INC FOR THE SOLE BENEFIT OF ITS CUSTOMERS JACKSONVILLE, FL 32246-6484	16.98%	Beneficial*
MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY JERSEY CITY, NJ 07311	16.07%	Beneficial*
WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC SPECIAL CUSTODY ACCOUNT EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF CUSTOMER ST. LOUIS, MO 63103-2523	14.38%	Beneficial*
UBS WM USA SPECIAL CUSTODY A/C EBOC UBSFSI ATTN: DEPARTMENT MANAGER WEEHAWKEN, NJ 07086-6761	11.51%	Beneficial*/†
RBC CAPITAL MARKETS LLC MUTUAL FUND OMNIBUS PROCESSING ATTN: MUTUAL FUNDS OPS MANAGER MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-4413	6.86%	Beneficial*/†



\* Beneficial ownership is disclaimed.

† Beneficial ownership of shares representing 25% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund may be deemed to represent control, as that term is defined in the 1940 Act of the Fund. As of March 31, 2017, the Fund does not know of any person who owns 25% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

As of March 31, 2017, as a group, the Trustees and Officers of the Fund owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares (aggregating all classes) of the Fund.

## INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

### Investment Adviser

The Adviser is a New York limited liability company which serves as an investment adviser to registered investment companies with combined aggregate net assets approximating \$22.7 billion as of December 31, 2016. The Adviser is a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of GBL. Mr. Gabelli owns a majority of the stock of GGCP, which holds a majority of the capital stock and voting power of GBL. The Adviser has several affiliates that provide investment advisory services: GAMCO Asset Management Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of GBL, acts as investment adviser for individuals, pension trusts, profit sharing trusts, endowments, and The GAMCO Mathers Fund, and as a sub-adviser to certain third party investment funds, which include registered investment companies, having assets under management of approximately of \$17.2 billion as of December 31, 2016; Teton Advisors, Inc., with assets under management of approximately \$1.4 billion as of December 31, 2016, acts as investment adviser to The TETON Westwood Funds and separately managed accounts; Gabelli & Company Investment Advisers, Inc. (formerly, Gabelli Securities, Inc.), a majority-owned subsidiary of Associated Capital, acts as investment adviser for certain alternative investment products, consisting primarily of risk arbitrage and merchant banking limited partnerships and offshore companies, with assets under management of approximately \$1.0 billion as of December 31, 2016; and Gabelli Fixed Income acts as investment adviser for separate accounts having assets under management of approximately \$31 million as of December 31, 2016. Teton Advisors, Inc., was spun off by GBL in March 2009 and is an affiliate of GBL by virtue of Mr. Gabelli's ownership of GGCP, the principal shareholder of Teton Advisors, Inc., as of December 31, 2016. Associated Capital Group was spun off from GBL on November 30, 2015, and is an affiliate of GBL by virtue of Mr. Gabelli's ownership of GGCP, the principal shareholder of Associated Capital.

Affiliates of the Adviser may, in the ordinary course of their business, acquire for their own account or for the accounts of their advisory clients, significant (and possibly controlling) positions in the securities of companies that may also be suitable for investment by the Fund. The securities in which the Fund might invest may thereby be limited to some extent. For instance, many companies in the past several years have adopted so-called "poison pill" or other defensive measures designed to discourage or prevent the completion of non-negotiated offers for control of the company. Such defensive measures may have the effect of limiting the shares of the company which might otherwise be acquired by the Fund if the affiliates of the Adviser or their advisory accounts have or acquire a significant position in the same securities. However, the Adviser does not believe that the investment activities of its affiliates will have a material adverse effect upon the Fund in seeking to achieve its investment objectives. Securities purchased or sold pursuant to contemporaneous orders entered on behalf of the investment company accounts of the Adviser or the advisory accounts managed by its affiliates for their unaffiliated clients are allocated pursuant to principles believed to be fair and not disadvantageous to any such accounts. In addition, all such orders are accorded priority of execution over orders entered on behalf of accounts in which the Adviser or its affiliates have a substantial pecuniary interest. The Adviser may on occasion give advice or take action with respect to other clients that differs from the actions taken with respect to the Fund. The Fund may invest in the securities of companies which are investment management clients of GAMCO Asset Management Inc. In addition, portfolio companies or their officers or directors may be minority shareholders of the Adviser or its affiliates.

The Adviser currently serves as an investment adviser to the Fund pursuant to an Investment Advisory Contract (the "Contract"), which was initially approved by the Fund's sole shareholder on May 19, 1999. Pursuant to the Contract, the Adviser furnishes a continuous investment program for the Fund's portfolio, makes the day to day investment decisions for the Fund, arranges the portfolio transactions of the Fund, and generally manages the Fund's investments in accordance with the stated policies of the Fund, subject to the general supervision of the Board of the Fund.

Under the Contract, the Adviser also (i) provides the Fund with the services of persons competent to perform such supervisory, administrative, and clerical functions as are necessary to provide effective administration of the Fund, including maintaining certain books and records and overseeing the activities of the Fund's Custodian and Transfer Agent (as defined below); (ii) oversees the performance of administrative and professional services to the Fund by others, including the Fund's Sub-Administrator (as defined below), State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street"), the Fund's Custodian, Transfer Agent, and Dividend Disbursing Agent, as well as accounting, auditing, and other services performed for the Fund; (iii) provides the Fund with adequate office space and facilities; (iv) supervises the preparation of, but does not pay for, the periodic updating of the Fund's registration statement, prospectus and SAI, including the printing of such documents for the purpose of filings with the SEC and state securities administrators, the Fund's tax returns, and reports to the Fund's shareholders and the SEC; (v) supervises, but does not pay for, the calculation of the NAV per share of each class of shares in the Fund; (vi) supervises the preparation of, but does not pay for, all filings under the securities or "Blue Sky" laws of such states or countries as are designated by the Distributor, which may be required to register or qualify, or continue the registration or qualification, of the Fund and/or its shares under such laws; and (vii) prepares notices and agendas for meetings of the Fund's Board and minutes of such meetings in all matters required by applicable law to be acted upon by the Board.

The cost of calculating the Fund's NAV is an expense payable by the Fund pursuant to the Contract. To the extent that a portion of the sub-administration fee is used to pay for its personnel and equipment related to calculating the NAV, the Fund will reimburse the Adviser for such expense up to \$45,000. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund reimbursed the Adviser \$45,000 in connection with the cost of computing the Fund's NAV.

The Contract provides that absent willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of its duty, the Adviser and its employees, officers, trustees, and controlling persons are not liable to the Fund or any of its investors for any act or omission by the Adviser or for any error of judgment or for losses sustained by the Fund. However, the Contract provides that the Fund is not waiving any rights it may have with respect to any violation of law which cannot be waived. The Contract also provides indemnification for the Adviser and each of these persons for any conduct for which they are not liable to the Fund. The Contract in no way restricts the Adviser from acting as adviser to others. The Fund has agreed by the terms of the Contract that the word “Gabelli” in its name is derived from the name of the Adviser which in turn is derived from the name of Mario J. Gabelli; that such name is the property of the Adviser for copyright and/or other purposes; and that, therefore, such name may freely be used by the Adviser for other investment companies, entities, or products. The Fund has further agreed that in the event that for any reason, the Adviser ceases to be its investment adviser, the Fund will, unless the Adviser otherwise consents in writing, promptly take all steps necessary to change its name to one which does not include “Gabelli.”

By its terms, the Contract will remain in effect from year to year, provided each such annual continuance is specifically approved by the Fund’s Board or by a “majority” (as defined in the 1940 Act) vote of its shareholders and, in either case, by a majority vote of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called specifically for the purpose of voting on the continuance of the Contract. The Contract is terminable without penalty by the Fund on sixty days written notice when authorized either by a majority vote of its outstanding voting shares or by a vote of a majority of its Board, or by the Adviser on sixty days written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its “assignment” as defined by the 1940 Act.

As compensation for its services and the related expenses borne by the Adviser, the Fund pays the Adviser a fee, computed daily and paid monthly, at the annual rate of 1.00% of the Fund’s average daily net assets, payable out of the Fund’s net assets and allocable to each class on the basis of the assets attributable to such class.

**Advisory Fees Paid to the Adviser by the Fund**  
(Fiscal Years ended December 31)

2016	\$	20,848,808
2015	\$	24,468,526
2014	\$	33,119,721

**Portfolio Manager Information**

**Other Accounts Managed**

The information below provides summary information regarding other accounts for which the portfolio manager was primarily responsible for the day to day management during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Type of Accounts	Total Number of Accounts Managed	Total Assets	Number of Accounts Managed with Advisory Fee Based on Performance	Total Assets with Advisory Fee Based on Performance
Mario J. Gabelli	Registered Investment Companies:	23	\$ 20.4 billion	6	\$ 5.1 billion
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	9	\$340.4 million	8	\$293.4 million
	Other Accounts:	1,306	\$ 15.3 billion	13	\$ 1.3 billion

\* The above chart represents the portion of assets for which the portfolio manager has primary responsibility in the accounts indicated. Certain assets included under “Other Accounts” may be invested in Registered Investment Companies or Other Pooled Investment Vehicles primarily managed by the portfolio manager and therefore may be duplicated.

## **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when the portfolio manager also has day to day management responsibilities with respect to one or more other accounts. These potential conflicts include:

*Allocation of Limited Time and Attention.* Because the portfolio manager manages more than one account, he may not be able to formulate as complete a strategy or identify equally attractive investment opportunities for each of those accounts as if he were to devote substantially more attention to the management of only one fund.

*Allocation of Limited Investment Opportunities.* If the portfolio manager identifies an investment opportunity that may be suitable for multiple accounts, the Fund may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity because the opportunity may need to be allocated among these accounts or other accounts managed primarily by the other portfolio managers of the Adviser and its affiliates.

*Pursuit of Differing Strategies.* At times, the portfolio manager may determine that an investment opportunity may be appropriate for only some of the accounts for which the manager exercises investment responsibility, or may decide that certain of these accounts should take differing positions with respect to a particular security. In these cases, the portfolio manager may execute differing or opposite transactions for one or more accounts which may affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transactions, or both, to the detriment of one or more other accounts.

*Selection of Broker-Dealers.* The portfolio manager may be able to select or influence the selection of the brokers and dealers that are used to execute securities transactions for the funds or accounts that he supervises. In addition to providing execution of trades, some brokers and dealers provide the Adviser with brokerage and research services which may result in the payment of higher brokerage fees than might otherwise be available. These services may be more beneficial to certain funds or accounts of the Adviser and its affiliates than to others. Although the payment of brokerage commissions is subject to the requirement that the Adviser determines in good faith that the commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided to the Fund, the portfolio manager's decision as to the selection of brokers and dealers could yield disproportionate costs and benefits among the funds or other accounts that the Adviser and its affiliates manage. In addition, with respect to certain types of accounts (such as pooled investment vehicles and other accounts managed for organizations and individuals) the Adviser may be limited by the client concerning the selection of brokers or may be instructed to direct trades to particular brokers. In these cases, the Adviser or its affiliates may place separate, non-simultaneous transactions in the same security for the Fund and another account that may temporarily affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of the Fund or the other accounts. Because of Mr. Gabelli's position with the Distributor, and his indirect ownership interest in the Distributor, he may have an incentive to use the Distributor to execute portfolio transactions for the Fund.

*Variation in Compensation.* A conflict of interest may arise where the financial or other benefits available to the portfolio manager differ among the accounts that he manages. If the structure of the Adviser's management fee or the portfolio manager's compensation differs among accounts (such as where certain funds or accounts pay higher management fees or performance based management fees), the portfolio manager may be motivated to favor certain funds or accounts over others. The portfolio manager also may be motivated to favor accounts in which he has investment interests, or in which the Adviser or its affiliates have investment interests. In Mr. Gabelli's case, the Adviser's compensation (and expenses) for the Fund are marginally greater as a percentage of assets than for certain other accounts managed by Mr. Gabelli, while his personal compensation structure varies with near term performance to a greater degree in certain performance fee based accounts than with non-performance fee based accounts. In addition, he has investment interests in several of the funds managed by the Adviser and its affiliates.

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

## **Compensation Structure**

Mr. Gabelli receives incentive-based variable compensation based on a percentage of net revenues received by the Adviser for managing the Fund. Net revenues are determined by deducting from gross investment management fees the Firm's expenses (other than Mr. Gabelli's compensation) allocable to the Fund. Additionally, he receives similar incentive-based variable compensation for managing other accounts within GBL. This method of compensation is based on the premise that superior long term performance in managing a portfolio should be rewarded with higher compensation as a result of growth of assets through appreciation and net investment activity. The level of compensation is not determined with specific reference to the performance of any account against any specific benchmark. One of the other registered investment companies managed by Mr. Gabelli has a performance (fulcrum) fee arrangement for which his compensation is adjusted up or down based on the performance of the investment company relative to an index. Five closed-end registered investment companies managed by Mr. Gabelli have arrangements whereby the Adviser will only receive its investment advisory fee attributable to the liquidation value of outstanding preferred stock (and Mr. Gabelli would only



receive his percentage of such advisory fee) if certain performance levels are met. Mr. Gabelli manages other accounts with performance fees. Compensation for managing these accounts has two components. One component of his compensation is based on a percentage of net revenues received by the Adviser for managing the account. The second component is based on absolute performance of the account, with respect to which a percentage of such performance fee is paid to Mr. Gabelli. As an executive officer of the Adviser's parent company, GBL, Mr. Gabelli also receives ten percent of the net operating profits of the parent company. Mr. Gabelli receives no base salary, no annual bonus, and no stock options.

### **Ownership of Shares in the Fund**

Set forth in the table below is the dollar range of equity securities in the Fund beneficially owned by Mr. Gabelli:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held in the Fund*</u>
Mario J. Gabelli	E

\* Key to Dollar Ranges - Information as of December 31, 2016

- A. None
- B. \$1 – \$10,000
- C. \$10,001 – \$50,000
- D. \$50,001 – \$100,000
- E. \$100,001 – \$500,000
- F. \$500,001 – \$1,000,000
- G. Over \$1,000,000

### **The Sub-Administrator**

The Adviser has entered into an agreement (the "Sub-Administration Agreement") with BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc. (the "Sub-Administrator"), which is located at 301 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, DE, 19809. Under the Sub-Administration Agreement, the Sub-Administrator (a) assists in supervising all aspects of the Fund's operations except those performed by the Adviser under its advisory agreement with the Fund; (b) supplies the Fund with office facilities (which may be in the Sub-Administrator's own offices), statistical and research data, data processing services, clerical, accounting and bookkeeping services, including, but not limited to, the calculation of the NAV of each class of the Fund, internal auditing and regulatory administration services, internal executive and administrative services, and stationery and office supplies; (c) prepares and distributes materials for all of the Fund Board meetings including the mailing of all Board materials and collates the same materials into the Board books and assists in the drafting of minutes of the Board meetings; (d) prepares reports to Fund shareholders, tax returns, and reports to and filings with the SEC and state "Blue Sky" authorities; (e) provides any equipment or services necessary for the purpose of pricing shares or valuing the Fund's investment portfolio; (f) provides compliance testing of all Fund activities against applicable requirements of the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and the Fund's investment restrictions; (g) furnishes to the Adviser such statistical and other factual information and information regarding economic factors and trends as the Adviser from time to time may require; and (h) generally provides all administrative services that may be required for the ongoing operation of the Fund in a manner consistent with the requirements of the 1940 Act.

For the services it provides, the Adviser pays the Sub-Administrator an annual fee based on the value of the aggregate average daily net assets of all funds under its administration managed by the Adviser as follows: up to \$10 billion - .0275%; \$10 billion to \$15 billion - .0125%; \$15 billion to \$20 billion - .0100%; and over \$20 billion - .008%. The Sub-Administrator's fee is paid by the Adviser and will result in no additional expenses to the Fund.

### **Counsel**

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Four Times Square, New York, New York 10036, serves as the Fund's legal counsel.

### **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Ernst & Young LLP ("EY"), Five Times Square, New York, New York, 10036-6530, independent registered public accounting firm, has been selected to audit the Fund's annual financial statements.

### **Custodian, Transfer Agent, and Dividend Disbursing Agent**

State Street Bank and Trust Company, 225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 is the Custodian (the "Custodian") for the Fund's cash and securities. Boston Financial Data Services, Inc. ("BFDS" or the "Transfer Agent"), an affiliate of State Street located





at The BFDS Building, 30 Dan Road, Canton, Massachusetts 02021-2809, performs the shareholder services on behalf of State Street, and acts as the Fund's transfer agent and dividend disbursing agent for the Fund. Neither BFDS nor State Street assists in or is responsible for investment decisions involving assets of the Fund.

### Distributor

To implement the Fund's Rule 12b-1 Plans, the Fund has entered into a Distribution Agreement with G.distributors, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GBL, having its principal offices located at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422. The Distributor acts as agent of the Fund for the continuous offering of its shares on a best efforts basis. The Distributor also acts as a distributor for other funds in the Fund Complex.

Set forth in the table below are the amounts of sales commissions and underwriting fees on Class A shares and contingent deferred sales charges ("CDSC") for Class A, and Class C shares received and retained by G.research and the Distributor.

#### Sales Commissions for the Years Ended December 31:

Share Class	2014		2015		2015	
	Commissions	Retained by Distributor	Commissions	Retained by Distributor	Commissions	Retained by Distributor
Class A Sales Commissions	\$ 12,876,374	\$2,021,773	\$ 3,981,700	\$ 616,762	\$ 6,033,093	\$ 933,639
Class A CDSCs	Not Applicable	\$ 49,593	Not Applicable	\$ 180,304	Not Applicable	\$ 5,292
Class C CDSCs	Not Applicable	\$ 178,561	Not Applicable	\$ 330,636	Not Applicable	\$ 90,040

Set forth in the table below are the amounts of brokerage commissions and other compensation received by the Distributor or an affiliate during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

Net Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Compensation on Redemptions and Repurchases	Brokerage Commissions*	Other Compensation
\$933,639	\$ 95,332	\$ 126,570	N/A

\* Amounts of brokerage commissions were received and retained by G.research, an affiliate of the Adviser and Distributor.

### DISTRIBUTION PLANS

The Fund has adopted separate distribution and service plans (each a "Plan" and collectively the "Plans") pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act on behalf of each of the Class AAA, Class A, Class C, and Class T shares. Class T shares are not currently offered for sale. Payments may be made by the Fund under each Plan for the purpose of financing any activity primarily intended to result in the sales of shares of the class to which such Plan relates as determined by the Board. Such activities typically include advertising, compensation for sales and marketing activities of the Distributor and other banks, broker-dealers, and service providers; shareholder account servicing; production and dissemination of prospectuses and sales and marketing materials; and capital or other expenses of associated equipment, rent, salaries, bonuses, interest, and other overhead. To the extent any activity is one which the Fund may finance without a distribution plan, the Fund may also make payments to finance such activity outside of the Plans and not be subject to its limitations. Payments under the Plans are not dependent on distribution expenses actually incurred by the Distributor. The Plans compensate the Distributor regardless of expense, and accordingly, a portion of the payments by the Fund may be used indirectly to finance distribution activities on behalf of other funds in the Fund Complex and a portion of the payments by such other funds may be used to finance distribution activities on behalf of the Fund. The Plans are intended to benefit the Fund, among other things, by increasing its assets and thereby reducing the Fund's expense ratio.

Under its terms, each Plan remains in effect so long as its continuance is specifically approved at least annually by vote of the Fund's Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees. No Plan may be amended to materially increase the amount to be spent for services provided by the Distributor thereunder without shareholder approval, and all material amendments of any Plan must also be approved by the Board in the manner described above. Each Plan may be terminated at any time, without penalty, by vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act). Under each Plan, the Distributor will provide the Trustees with periodic reports of amounts expended under such Plan and the purpose for which such expenditures were made.

Pursuant to the Plans, the Fund pays the Distributor 0.25% of its average daily net assets of Class AAA and Class A shares, 1.00% of its average daily net assets of Class C shares, and 0.25% of its average daily net assets of Class T shares. Class T shares are not currently offered for sale. Due to the possible continuing nature of Rule 12b-1 payments, long term investors may pay more than the economic equivalent of the maximum front-end sales charge permitted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, the Fund appoints the Distributor as its general distributor and exclusive agent for the sale of the Fund's shares. The Fund has agreed to indemnify the Distributor to the extent permitted by applicable law against certain liabilities under federal securities laws. The Distribution Agreement shall remain in effect from year to year provided that continuance of such agreement shall be approved at least annually (a) by the Fund's Board, including a vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval or (b) by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding securities of the Fund and by a vote of the majority of Independent Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Distribution Agreement may be terminated by either party thereto upon sixty days written notice.

Pursuant to each Plan, the Board will review at least quarterly a written report of the distribution expenses incurred on behalf of each class of shares of the Fund by the Distributor. The report includes an itemization of the distribution expenses and the purposes of such expenditures. In addition, as long as the Plans remain in effect, the selection and nomination of Independent Trustees shall be limited to the Independent Trustees.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund made payments under the Plans for Class AAA, Class A, and Class C shares of \$10,688,811 to the Distributor. The Plans compensate the Distributor regardless of its expense and may contain a profit element.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, the Distributor identified expenditures for the Fund of approximately \$104,700 for advertising and promotion, \$15,500 for printing, postage, and stationery, \$39,400 for overhead support expenses, \$979,100 for salaries of personnel of the Distributor, \$840,900 for advanced commissions, and \$9,495,500 for third party servicing fees.

The amounts included in the previous paragraph as third party servicing fees include amounts paid to the providers of various programs that make shares available to their customers. Subject to approvals by the Board, the Fund also makes payments to the providers of these programs, out of its assets other than Rule 12b-1 payments, in amounts not greater than savings of expenses the Fund would incur in maintaining shareholder accounts for those who invest in the Fund directly rather than through these programs. The Adviser and its affiliates may also pay for all or a portion of these program's charges out of their financial resources other than Rule 12b-1 fees.

Class AAA shares were first offered to the public on August 31, 1999. Class A shares, and Class C shares were first offered to the public on December 31, 2002. Class I shares were first offered to the public on January 11, 2008.

Shares of the Fund may also be purchased through shareholder agents that are not affiliated with the Fund or the Distributor. There is no sales or service charge imposed by the Fund other than as described in the Fund's prospectus under the "Classes of Shares" section, but agents who do not receive distribution payments or sales charges may impose a charge to the investor for their services. Such fees may vary among agents, and such agents may impose higher initial or subsequent investment requirements than those established by the Fund. Services provided by broker-dealers may include allowing the investor to establish a margin account and to borrow on the value of the Fund's shares in that account. It is the responsibility of the shareholder's agent to establish procedures which would assure that upon receipt of an order to purchase shares of the Fund, the order will be transmitted so that it will be received by the Distributor before the time when the price applicable to the buy order expires.

No Independent Trustee of the Fund had a direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of any Plan or related agreements. Those interested persons who beneficially own stock in affiliates of the Adviser or the Distributor or are employed by one of the Gabelli companies may be deemed to have an indirect financial interest.

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE**

The Adviser and its affiliates currently serve as investment adviser to a number of investment companies and private account clients and may in the future act as adviser to others. It is the policy of the Adviser and its affiliates to allocate investments suitable and appropriate for each such client in a manner believed by the Adviser to be equitable to each client. In making such allocations among the Fund and other client accounts, the main factors considered are the respective investment objectives, the relative size of portfolio holdings of the same or comparable securities, the availability of cash for investment, the size of investment commitments generally held and the opinions of the persons responsible for managing the portfolios of the Fund and other client accounts.

Under the Contract, the Adviser is authorized on behalf of the Fund to employ brokers to effect the purchase or sale of portfolio securities with the objective of obtaining prompt, efficient, and reliable execution and clearance of such transactions at the most favorable price obtainable (“best execution”) at a reasonable expense. The Adviser is permitted to (1) direct Fund portfolio brokerage to G.research, a broker-dealer member of FINRA and an affiliate of the Adviser; and (2) pay commissions to brokers other than G.research which are higher than might be charged by another qualified broker to obtain brokerage and/or research services considered by the Adviser to be useful or desirable for its investment management of the Fund and/or other advisory accounts under the management of the Adviser and any investment adviser affiliated with it. The Adviser does not consider sales of shares of the Fund or other investment funds managed by the Adviser and its affiliates by brokers, including G.research, as a factor in its selection of brokers or dealers for the Fund’s portfolio transactions and has adopted compliance policies and procedures for itself and its affiliates to prevent any such transactions on that basis.

Transactions on U.S. stock exchanges involve the payment of negotiated brokerage commissions, which may vary among different brokers. Transactions in securities other than those for which a securities exchange is the principal market are generally executed through a principal market maker. However, such transactions may be effected through a brokerage firm and a commission is paid whenever it appears that the broker can obtain a price that is at least as favorable taking into account its commissions. In general, there may be no stated commission on principal transactions in over-the-counter securities, but the prices of such securities usually include undisclosed commissions or markups. Option transactions will usually be effected through a broker and a commission will be charged. The Fund also expects that securities will be purchased at times in underwritten offerings where the price includes a fixed amount of compensation generally referred to as a concession or discount.

The policy of the Fund regarding purchases and sales of securities and options for its portfolio is that primary consideration will be given to obtaining the most favorable prices and efficient execution of transactions. In seeking to implement the Fund’s policies, the Adviser effects transactions with those brokers and dealers who the Adviser believes can obtain the most favorable prices and are capable of providing efficient executions. If the Adviser believes such price and execution are obtainable from more than one broker or dealer, it may give consideration to placing portfolio transactions with those brokers or dealers who also furnish research and other services to the Fund or the Adviser of the type described in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. In doing so, the Fund may also pay higher commission rates than the lowest available when the Adviser believes it is reasonable to do so in light of the value of the brokerage and research services provided by the broker effecting the transaction. Such services may include, but are not limited to, any one or more of the following: (i) information as to the availability of securities for purchase or sale; (ii) statistical or factual information or opinions pertaining to investments; (iii) wire services; and (iv) appraisals or evaluations of potential and existing investments.

Research services furnished by brokers or dealers through which the Fund effects securities transactions are used by the Adviser and its advisory affiliates in carrying out their responsibilities with respect to all of their accounts over which they exercise investment discretion. Such investment information may be useful only to one or more of such other accounts. The purpose of this sharing of research information is to avoid duplicative charges for research provided by brokers and dealers. Neither the Fund nor the Adviser has any agreement or legally binding understanding with any broker or dealer regarding any specific amount of brokerage commissions which will be paid in recognition of such services. However, in determining the amount of portfolio commissions directed to such brokers or dealers, the Adviser considers the level of services provided, and based on such determinations the Adviser allocated brokerage commissions of \$17,645 on portfolio transactions in the principal amount of \$12,772,543 during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 to broker dealers who provided research services to the Adviser. The average commission on these transactions was \$0.05 per share.

Investment research obtained by allocations of Fund brokerage is used to augment the scope and supplement the internal research and investment strategy capabilities of the Adviser but does not reduce the overall expenses of the Adviser to any material extent. Such investment research may be in written form or through direct contact with individuals and includes information on particular companies and industries as well as market, economic, or institutional activity areas. Research services furnished by brokers through which the Fund effects securities transactions are used by the Adviser and its advisory affiliates in carrying out their responsibilities with respect to all of their accounts over which they exercise investment discretion. Such investment information may be useful only to one or more of the other accounts of the Adviser and its advisory affiliates, and research information received for the commissions of those particular accounts may be useful both to the Fund and one or more of such other accounts.

The Adviser may also place orders for the purchase or sale of portfolio securities with G.research when it appears that, as an introducing broker or otherwise, G.research can obtain a price, execution, and commission, which is at least as favorable as that obtainable by other qualified brokers and at a commission rate at least as favorable as it provides to its best customers for similar transactions. As required by Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act, the Fund’s Board has adopted procedures which provide that commissions paid to G.research on brokerage transactions must not exceed those which would have been charged by another qualified broker or member firm able to effect the same or a comparable transaction at an equally favorable price or those commissions G.research charges its most favored customers on similar transactions. Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act and the Fund’s procedures contain requirements that the Board, including its Independent Trustees, review such commissions and transactions quarterly and such procedures at least annually to determine their

continuing appropriateness. The Adviser and G.research are also required to furnish reports and maintain records in connection with such reviews.

To obtain the best execution of portfolio trades on the NYSE, G.research controls and monitors the execution of such transactions on the floor of the NYSE through independent “floor brokers” or the Designated Order Turnaround System of the NYSE. Such transactions are then cleared, confirmed to the Fund for the account of G.research, and settled directly with the Custodian of the Fund by a clearing house member firm which remits the commission less its clearing charges to G.research. G.research may also effect the Fund’s portfolio transactions in the same manner and pursuant to the same arrangements on other national securities exchanges that adopt direct access rules similar to those of the NYSE. In addition, G.research may directly execute transactions for the Fund on the floor of any exchange, provided: (i) the Fund’s Board has expressly authorized G.research to effect such transactions; and (ii) G.research annually advises the Fund of the aggregate compensation it earned on such transactions.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the Fund’s payment of brokerage commissions for the past three fiscal years ended December 31 as indicated:

	<b>Fiscal Year Ended December 31,</b>	<b>Commissions Paid</b>
Total Brokerage Commissions	2014	\$ 449,248
	2015	\$ 829,777
	2016	\$ 162,904
Commissions paid to G.research	2014	\$ 286,342
	2015	\$ 607,900
	2016	\$ 126,570
% of Total Brokerage Commissions paid to G.research	2016	77.70%
% of Total Transactions involving Commissions paid to G.research	2016	83.26%

\* The difference between the percentage of total commissions paid to G.research versus the percentage of the principal amount of commissionable trades done through G.research can be attributable to the lower commissions per share paid on NASDAQ securities executed on Electronic Trading Networks and foreign securities transactions versus the commission rates on exchange-traded securities. G.research only executed transactions on exchange-listed securities, and the rates per share on such securities are often determined without regard to the principal amount of the transaction, which led to the differences noted.

During its fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund did not acquire securities of its regular broker-dealers or their parents.

## REDEMPTION OF SHARES

Payment of the redemption price for shares redeemed may be made either in cash or in portfolio securities (selected at the discretion of the Board of the Fund and taken at their value used in determining the Fund’s NAV per share as described under “Determination of Net Asset Value”), or partly in cash and partly in portfolio securities. However, payments will be made wholly in cash unless the shareholder has redeemed more than \$250,000 over the preceding three months and the Adviser believes that economic conditions exist which would make payments in cash detrimental to the best interests of the Fund. If payment for shares redeemed is made wholly or partly in portfolio securities, brokerage costs may be incurred by the investor in converting the securities to cash. The Fund will not distribute in-kind portfolio securities that are not readily marketable.

The Fund imposes a redemption fee of 2.00% of the total redemption amount if shareholders sell or exchange any of their shares within seven days of the date of a purchase. The fee, its manner of calculation and exceptions to its applicability are discussed in the Fund’s prospectus. The fee is not a sales charge (load) and is paid directly to the Fund and not to the Adviser or Distributor.

Cancellation of purchase orders for Fund shares (as, for example, when checks submitted to purchase shares are returned unpaid) causes a loss to be incurred when the NAV of the Fund shares on the date of cancellation is less than on the original date of purchase. The investor is responsible for such loss, and the Fund may reimburse itself or the Distributor for such loss by automatically redeeming shares from any account registered at any time in that shareholder’s name, or by seeking other redress. If the Fund is unable to recover any loss to itself, it is the position of the SEC that the Distributor will be immediately obligated to make the Fund whole.

## DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

NAV is calculated separately for each class of the Fund. The NAV of Class C shares of the Fund, as applicable, will generally be lower than the NAV of Class AAA, Class A, Class T, or Class I, shares, as applicable, as a result of the higher service and distribution related fees to which Class C shares are subject. It is expected, however, that the NAV per share of each class will tend to converge immediately after the recording of dividends, if any, which will differ by approximately the amount of the distribution and/or service fee expense accrual differential among the classes.

For purposes of determining the Fund's NAV per share, portfolio securities listed or traded on a nationally recognized securities exchange or traded in the over-the-counter market for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last quoted sale price or a market's official closing price as of the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. If there were no sales that day, the security is valued at the average of the closing bid and ask prices, or, if there were no ask prices quoted on such day, then the security is valued at the most recently available bid price on that day. If no bid or ask prices are quoted on such day, the security is valued at the most recently available price, or, if the Board so determines, by such other method as the Board shall determine in good faith, to reflect its fair market value. Portfolio securities traded on more than one national securities exchange or market are valued according to the broadest and most representative market, as determined by the Adviser.

Portfolio securities primarily traded on a foreign market are generally valued at the preceding closing values of such securities on the relevant market, but may be fair valued pursuant to procedures established by the Board if market conditions change significantly after the close of the foreign market but prior to the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. Debt instruments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the average of the latest bid and ask prices. If there were no ask prices quoted on such day, the security is valued using the closing bid price, unless the Board determines such amount does not reflect the securities' fair value, in which case these securities will be fair valued as determined by the Board. Certain securities are valued principally using dealer quotations. Future contracts are valued at the closing settlement price of the exchange or board of trade on which the applicable contract is traded. OTC futures and options on futures for which market quotations are readily available will be valued by quotations received from a pricing service or, if no quotations are available from a pricing service, by quotations obtained by the Adviser from one or more dealers in the instrument in question. U.S. government obligations with maturities greater than sixty days are normally valued using a model that incorporates market observable data such as reported sales of similar securities, broker quotes, yields, bids, offers, and reference data. Certain securities are valued principally using dealer quotations.

Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available are valued at their fair value as determined in good faith under procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Board. Fair valuation methodologies and procedures may include, but are not limited to: (i) analysis and review of available financial and non-financial information about the company; (ii) comparisons with the valuation and changes in valuation of similar securities, including a comparison of foreign securities with the equivalent U.S. dollar value of American Depositary Receipts, securities at the close of the U.S. exchanges; and (iii) evaluation of any other information that could be indicative of the value of the security.

The Fund may obtain valuations on the basis of prices provided by a pricing service approved by the Board. All other investment assets, including restricted and not readily marketable securities, are valued in good faith at fair value under procedures established by and under the general supervision and responsibility of the Fund's Board. Additional information on fair valuation is provided in the Fund's prospectus under "Pricing of Fund Shares."

**NYSE Closings.** The holidays (as observed) on which the NYSE is closed, and therefore days upon which shareholders cannot redeem shares, currently are: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day and on the preceding Friday or subsequent Monday when a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, respectively.

## DIVIDENDS, DISTRIBUTIONS, AND TAXES

Each dividend and capital gains distribution, if any, declared by the Fund on its outstanding shares will, unless you have elected otherwise, be paid on the payment date fixed by the Board in additional shares of the Fund having an aggregate NAV as of the ex-dividend date of such dividend or distribution equal to the cash amount of such distribution. An election to receive dividends and distributions in cash or in additional shares may be changed by notifying the Fund in writing at any time prior to the record date for a particular dividend or distribution. No sales charges or other fees are imposed on shareholders in connection with the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions. There is no fixed dividend rate, and there can be no assurance that the Fund will realize any capital gains or other income with which to pay dividends and distributions.

## **General**

Set forth below is a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax issues concerning the Fund and the purchase, ownership, and disposition of Fund shares by U.S. persons. This discussion is based upon present provisions of the Code, the regulations promulgated thereunder, and judicial and administrative ruling authorities, all of which are subject to change, which change may be retroactive. This discussion does not purport to be complete or to deal with all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to investors in light of their particular circumstances. No ruling has been or will be sought from the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) regarding any matter discussed herein. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position different from any of the tax aspects set forth below. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisers with regard to the federal tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, or disposition of shares of the Fund, as well as the tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, foreign country, or other taxing jurisdiction.

## **Tax Status of the Fund**

The Fund has qualified and intends to remain qualified to be taxed as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. Accordingly, the Fund must, among other things, (a) derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities, or foreign currencies, or other income (including but not limited to gains from options, futures, or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities, or currencies; and (b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of the taxable year (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund’s total assets is represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies and other securities, with such other securities limited, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund’s total assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its total assets is invested in the securities of (I) any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities and the securities of other regulated investment companies), (II) any two or more issuers (other than regulated investment companies) that it controls and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or (III) any one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships.

As a regulated investment company, the Fund generally is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on income and gains that it distributes to shareholders, if at least 90% of the Fund’s investment company taxable income (which includes, among other items, dividends, interest, and the excess of any net short term capital gains over net long term capital losses) for the taxable year is distributed (or deemed distributed) in that taxable year. Any income or gains retained by the Fund will be subject to regular corporate-level income taxes. The Fund intends to distribute substantially all of its income and gains. If the Fund were to fail to meet its annual distribution requirement or otherwise fail to qualify as a regulated investment company in any given year, the Fund would be subject to U.S. Federal income tax at regular corporate rates on all of its taxable income and gains in that year.

Amounts not distributed on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax at the Fund level. To avoid the tax, the Fund must distribute during each calendar year an amount equal to at least the sum of (1) 98% of its ordinary income (not taking into account any capital gains or losses) for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for the one year period generally ending on October 31 of the calendar year (unless an election is made by the Fund with a November or December year end to use the Fund’s fiscal year), and (3) certain ordinary income and net capital gains for previous years that were not distributed during such years and upon which no income tax was imposed. To avoid application of the excise tax, the Fund intends to make distributions in accordance with the calendar year distribution requirement.

A distribution will be treated as paid on December 31 of a calendar year if it is declared by the Fund in October, November, or December of that year with a record date in such a month and paid by the Fund during January of the following year. Such a distribution will be taxable to shareholders in the calendar year in which the distribution is declared, rather than the calendar year in which it is received.

## **Distributions**

Distributions of investment company taxable income, whether paid in cash or reinvested in Fund shares, are taxable to U.S. shareholders as ordinary income. Properly designated distributions attributable to qualified dividends received by the Fund from certain U.S. and non-U.S. corporations are taxable to U.S. shareholders who are individuals at a reduced maximum rate of 20%, provided that certain holding period requirements are met. Properly designated dividends paid by the Fund to a corporate shareholder, to the extent such dividends are attributable to dividends received by the Fund from U.S. corporations may, subject to limitations, be eligible for the dividends received deduction. The alternative minimum tax applicable to corporations, however, may reduce the value of the dividends received deduction.

Distributions of gains may be taxed at different rates depending on how long the Fund held the asset giving rise to such gains. Distributions of the excess of net long term capital gains over net short term capital losses, if any, properly designated by the Fund, whether paid in cash or reinvested in Fund shares, will generally be taxable to shareholders at the rates applicable to long term capital gains, regardless of how long a shareholder has held Fund shares. The maximum U.S. federal income tax rate on net long term capital gain of individuals is generally 20%.

To the extent that the Fund retains any net long term capital gains, it may designate them as “deemed distributions” and pay a tax thereon for the benefit of its shareholders. In that event, the shareholders report their share of the amounts so designated on their individual tax returns as if it had been received, and report a credit for the tax paid thereon by the Fund. The amount of the deemed distribution net of such tax is then added to the shareholder’s cost basis for his shares. Shareholders who are not subject to U.S. federal income tax or tax on capital gains should be able to file a return on the appropriate form and a claim for refund that allows them to recover the tax paid on their behalf. Shareholders will be notified annually as to the U.S. federal tax status of distributions, and shareholders receiving distributions in the form of newly issued shares will receive a report as to the NAV of the shares received.

If the Fund’s distributions exceed the Fund’s current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will be treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the shareholder’s basis in its shares (reducing the basis accordingly). Amounts exceeding the shareholder’s basis will be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of the shares (capital gain, if the shareholder holds his shares as capital assets).

Investors should be careful to consider the tax implications of buying shares of the Fund just prior to the record date of a distribution (including a capital gain distribution). The price of shares purchased at such a time will reflect the amount of the forthcoming distribution, but the distribution will generally be taxable to the purchaser.

### **Foreign Taxes**

The Fund may be subject to certain taxes imposed by the countries in which it invests or operates. The Fund will not have more than 50% of its total assets invested in securities of foreign governments or corporations and consequently will not qualify to elect to treat any foreign taxes paid by the Fund as having been paid by the Fund’s shareholders.

### **Dispositions**

Upon a redemption, sale, or exchange of shares of the Fund, a shareholder will realize a taxable gain or loss depending upon his basis in the shares. A gain or loss will be treated as capital gain or loss if the shares are capital assets in the shareholder’s hands, and for non-corporate shareholders the rate of tax will depend upon the shareholder’s holding period for the shares and the shareholder’s level of taxable income. Any loss realized on a redemption, sale, or exchange will be disallowed to the extent the shares disposed of are replaced (including through reinvestment of dividends) within a period of sixty-one days, beginning thirty days before and ending thirty days after the shares are disposed of. In such a case, the basis of the shares acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. If a shareholder holds Fund shares for six months or less and during that period receives a distribution taxable to the shareholder as long term capital gains, any loss realized on the sale of such shares during such six month period would be a long term capital loss to the extent of such distribution.

An exchange from one share class within the Fund to another share class within the Fund is not a taxable transaction, provided that such classes have identical rights with respect to the Fund assets.

### **Medicare Tax**

Certain non-corporate U.S. shareholders whose income exceeds certain thresholds will be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax on dividend and other investment income, including dividends received from the Fund and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of the Fund’s stock.

### **Backup Withholdings**

The Fund generally will be required to withhold U.S. federal income tax (“backup withholding”) from dividends paid, capital gain distributions, and redemption proceeds to shareholders if (1) the shareholder fails to furnish the Fund with the shareholder’s correct taxpayer identification number or social security number, (2) the IRS notifies the shareholder or the Fund that the shareholder has failed to report properly certain interest and dividend income to the IRS and to respond to notices to that effect, or (3) when required to do so, the shareholder fails to certify that he or she is not subject to backup withholding. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder’s U.S. federal income tax liability.



## Certain Reportable Transactions

If a shareholder recognizes, in any taxable year, a loss with respect to the Fund's shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder (or certain greater amounts for combinations of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases exempted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a regulated investment company are not exempted. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

## Other Taxation

Distributions may be subject to additional state, local, and foreign taxes, depending on each shareholder's particular situation. Non-U.S. shareholders may be subject to U.S. tax rules that differ significantly from those summarized above, including the likelihood that ordinary income dividends distributed to them will be subject to withholding of U.S. tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower treaty rate, if applicable). Furthermore, legislation enacted in 2010 and existing guidance thereunder will require withholding at a rate of 30% on dividends in respect of, and after December 31, 2018, gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, Fund shares held by "foreign financial institutions" (including foreign investment funds), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury to report, on an annual basis, information about equity and debt interests in, and accounts maintained by, the institution to the extent such interests or accounts are held by certain United States persons or by certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by United States persons and to withhold on certain payments. Similarly, dividends in respect of, and after December 31, 2018, gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, Fund shares held by an investor that is a non-financial foreign entity will be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%, unless such entity either (i) certifies to the Fund that such entity does not have any "substantial United States owners" or (ii) provides certain information regarding the entity's "substantial United States owners," which the Fund will in turn provide to the Secretary of the Treasury. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and an applicable foreign country, or future Treasury regulations or other guidance, may modify these requirements. Non-U.S. shareholders are encouraged to consult with their tax advisers regarding the possible implications of this legislation on their investment in the Fund.

Properly-designated ordinary income dividends are generally exempt from U.S. federal withholding tax where they (i) are paid in respect of the Fund's "qualified net interest income" (generally, the Fund's U.S. source interest income, other than certain contingent interest and interest on obligations of a corporation or partnership in which the Fund is at least a 10% shareholder, reduced by expenses that are allocable to such income) or (ii) are paid in respect of the Fund's qualified short term capital gains" (generally, the excess of the Fund's net short term capital gain over the Fund's long term capital loss for such taxable year). Depending on its circumstances, the Fund may designate all, some, or none of its potentially eligible dividends, in whole or in part, as ineligible for this exemption from withholding. In order to qualify for this exemption from withholding, a foreign investor needs to comply with applicable certification requirements relating to its non-U.S. status (including, in general, furnishing an IRS Form W-8BEN or substitute Form). Investors should consult their own tax advisers regarding U.S. federal, state, local, and foreign tax considerations.

## Fund Investments

**Options, Futures, and Forward Contracts.** Any regulated futures contracts and certain options in which the Fund may invest may be "section 1256 contracts." Gains (or losses) on these contracts generally are considered to be 60% long term and 40% short term capital gains or losses. Also, section 1256 contracts held by the Fund at the end of each taxable year (and on certain other dates prescribed in the Code) are "marked to market" with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized. Code section 1092, which applies to certain straddles, may affect the taxation of the Fund's sales of securities and transactions in financial futures contracts and related options. Under section 1092, the Fund may be required to postpone recognition of losses incurred in certain sales of securities and certain closing transactions in financial futures contracts or related options.

Special Code provisions applicable to Fund investments, discussed above, may affect the characterization of gains and losses realized by the Fund, and may accelerate recognition of income or defer recognition of losses. The Fund will monitor these investments and when possible will make appropriate elections in order to mitigate unfavorable tax treatment.

## INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

From time to time, the Fund may quote its performance in advertisements or in reports and other communications to shareholders, computed according to formulas prescribed by the SEC.

The Fund's performance will vary from time to time depending upon market conditions, the composition of its portfolio, and its operating expenses. Consequently, any given performance quotation should not be considered representative of the Fund's performance for any specified period in the future. In addition, when considering "average" total return figures for periods longer than one year, it is important to note that the Fund's annual total returns for any one year in the period might have been greater or less than the average for the entire period. In addition, because the performance will fluctuate, it may not provide a basis for comparing an investment in the Fund with certain bank deposits or other investments that pay a fixed yield for a stated period of time. Investors comparing the Fund's performance with that of other mutual funds should give consideration to the quality and maturity of the respective investment companies' portfolio securities.

In reports or other communications to shareholders or in advertising material, the Fund may compare its performance with that of other mutual funds as listed in the rankings prepared by Lipper, Inc. (a Reuters Company), Morningstar, Inc., or similar independent services that monitor the performance of mutual funds or other industry or financial publications. It is important to note that the total return figures are based on historical results and are not intended to indicate future performance. Shareholders may make inquiries regarding the Fund's total return figures to the Distributor.

In its reports, investor communications, or advertisements, the Fund may also include: (i) descriptions and updates concerning its strategies and portfolio investments; (ii) its goals, risk factors, and expenses compared with other mutual funds; (iii) analysis of its investments by industry, country, credit quality, and other characteristics; (iv) a discussion of the risk/return continuum relating to different investments; (v) the potential impact of adding foreign stocks to a domestic portfolio; (vi) the general biography or work experience of the portfolio manager of the Fund; (vii) portfolio manager commentary or market updates; (viii) discussion of macroeconomic factors affecting the Fund and its investments; and (ix) other information of interest to investors.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND'S SHARES**

The Fund may issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest (par value \$0.001 per share). The Fund's shares have no preemptive or conversion rights.

### **Voting Rights**

Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each share held (and fractional votes for fractional shares) and may vote on the election of Trustees and on other matters submitted to meetings of shareholders. As a Delaware statutory trust, the Fund is not required, and does not intend, to hold regular annual shareholder meetings but may hold special meetings for the consideration of proposals requiring shareholder approval such as changing fundamental policies. In addition, if the Trustees have not called an annual meeting of shareholders for any year by May 31 of that year, the Trustees will call a meeting of shareholders upon the written request of shareholders holding in excess of 50% of the affected shares for the purpose of removing one or more Trustees or the termination of any investment advisory agreement. The Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that the Fund's shareholders have the right, upon the vote of more than 66 2/3% of its outstanding shares, to remove a Trustee. Except as may be required by the 1940 Act or any other applicable law, the Trustees may amend the Agreement and Declaration of Trust in any respect without any vote of shareholders to make any change that does not (i) impair the exemption from personal liability as provided therein or (ii) permit assessments on shareholders. Shareholders have no preemptive or conversion rights except with respect to shares that may be denominated as being convertible or as otherwise provided by the Trustees or applicable law. The Fund may be (i) terminated upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the Trustees or (ii) merged or consolidated with, or sell all or substantially all of its assets to another issuer, if such transaction is approved by the vote of two-thirds of the Trustees without any vote of the shareholders, in each case except as may be required by the 1940 Act or any other applicable law. If not so terminated, the Fund intends to continue indefinitely.

### **Liabilities**

The Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that the Trustees will not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law, but nothing in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust protects a Trustee against any liability to which he would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Fund's Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, including the Report of Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, are incorporated herein by reference to the Fund's 2016 Annual Report to Shareholders. The Fund's Annual Report is available upon request and without charge by calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554) or through the

Internet at [www.gabelli.com](http://www.gabelli.com). Ernst & Young LLP provides audit services, tax return preparation and assistance, and other assurance services in connection with certain SEC filings.

## APPENDIX A

### DESCRIPTION OF CORPORATE DEBT RATINGS

#### MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE, INC. ("Moody's")

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

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

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

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

Ba: Obligations rated Ba are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.

B: Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to very high credit risk.

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

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

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

NR: NR is assigned to an unrated issuer, obligation and/or program.

Should no rating be assigned, the reason may be one of the following:

1. An application for rating was not received or accepted.
2. The issue or issuer belongs to a group of securities that are not rated as a matter of policy.
3. There is a lack of essential data pertaining to the issue or issuer.
4. The issue was privately placed, in which case the rating is not published in Moody's publications.

Suspension or withdrawal may occur if new and material circumstances arise, the effects of which preclude satisfactory analysis; if there is no longer available reasonable up-to-date data to permit a judgment to be formed; if a bond is called for redemption; or for other reasons.

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

#### STANDARD & POOR'S RATINGS SERVICES ("S&P")

##### Investment Grade

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

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

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

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

### **Speculative Grade**

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

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

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

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

CC: An obligation rated 'CC' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The 'CC' rating is used when a default has not yet occurred, but Standard & Poor's expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.

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

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

N This indicates that no rating has been requested, or that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that Standard & Poor's does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

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

### **Description of S&P and Moody's commercial paper ratings:**

The designation A-1 by S&P indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong. Capacity for timely payment on issues with an A-2 designation is satisfactory. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated A-1.

The rating Prime-1 (P-1) is the highest commercial paper rating assigned by Moody's. Issuers of P-1 paper must have a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations, and ordinarily will be evidenced by leading market positions in well established industries, high rates of return of funds employed, conservative capitalization structures with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection, broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation, and well established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity.