

**Collaborative Investment Series Trust**

**MERCATOR INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND**

Institutional Class Shares	MOPPX
Class A Shares	MOOPX

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**April 29, 2024**

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus. It should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus for the Mercator International Opportunity Fund (the “Fund”) dated April 29, 2024. The Fund’s financial statements are included in the Annual Report, and are incorporated by reference. A copy of the Prospectus or Annual Report can be obtained at no charge by writing the transfer agent, Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC, at 8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite 400, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147-4003, or by calling 1-800-869-1679. The Fund’s Prospectus is incorporated by reference into this SAI.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Description of the Trust and Fund .....	1
Additional Information About the Fund's Investment.....	1
Investment Strategies and Risks.....	1
Certificates of Deposit and Bankers' Acceptances.....	2
Closed-End Investment Companies .....	2
Commercial Paper .....	3
Convertible Securities .....	4
Corporate Debt.....	4
Depository Receipts.....	4
Emerging Markets Securities .....	4
Equity Securities .....	5
Exchange Traded Funds .....	5
Fixed Income Securities .....	6
Foreign Securities.....	6
Foreign Currency Transactions .....	7
Options on Foreign Currencies.....	7
Illiquid Investments and Restricted Securities .....	8
Indexed Securities .....	9
Insured Bank Obligations.....	9
Investment Company Securities .....	9
Options .....	10
Certain Risks Regarding Options .....	12
Cover for Options Positions .....	13
Dealer Options.....	13
Preferred Stock.....	13
Real Estate Investment Trusts .....	14
Repurchase Agreements .....	14
Reverse Repurchase Transactions .....	14
Rights .....	15
Royalty Trusts .....	15
STRIPS.....	15
Swap Agreements.....	16
U.S. Government Securities .....	17
Warrants .....	17
Temporary Defensive Positions .....	17

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
(continued)

	<b>Page</b>
Investment Restrictions .....	18
Management of the Fund .....	20
Board Leadership Structure .....	20
Board Risk Oversight .....	20
Trustee Qualifications .....	20
Code of Ethics .....	24
Distribution Plan .....	24
Control Persons and Principal Holders of Securities .....	25
Control Persons .....	25
Management Ownership .....	25
Investment Advisory Services .....	25
Investment Adviser and Advisory Agreement .....	25
Portfolio Manager .....	26
Custodian .....	27
Fund Services .....	27
Administrator .....	28
Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm .....	28
Distributor .....	28
Compliance Officer .....	29
Brokerage Allocation and Other Practices .....	29
Portfolio Turnover .....	30
Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings .....	30
Determination of Share price .....	31
Redemption In-Kind .....	32
Tax Consequences .....	32
Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures .....	33
Financial Statements .....	34
Appendix A: Adviser Proxy Voting Policy .....	35

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST AND FUND**

The Fund was organized as a diversified series of the Collaborative Investment Series Trust (the “Trust”) on November 5, 2017 and commenced investment operations on April 2, 2018. The Trust is an open-end investment company established under the laws of Delaware by an Agreement and Declaration of Trust dated July 26, 2017 (the “Trust Agreement”). The Trust Agreement permits the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) to authorize and issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest of separate series without par value. The investment adviser to the Fund is Mercator Investment Management, LLC (the “Adviser”).

The Fund offers two classes of shares: Institutional and Class A. The Fund does not issue share certificates. All shares are held in non-certificated form registered on the books of the Fund and the transfer agent for the account of the shareholder. Each share of a series represents an equal proportionate interest in the assets and liabilities belonging to that series with each other share of that series and is entitled to such dividends and distributions out of income belonging to the series as are declared by the Trustees. The shares do not have cumulative voting rights or any preemptive or conversion rights, and the Trustees have the authority from time to time to divide or combine the shares of any series into a greater or lesser number of shares of that series so long as the proportionate beneficial interest in the assets belonging to that series and the rights of shares of any other series are in no way affected. In case of any liquidation of a series, the holders of shares of the series being liquidated will be entitled to receive as a class a distribution out of the assets, net of the liabilities, belonging to that series. Expenses attributable to any series are borne by that series. Any general expenses of the Trust not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular series are allocated by or under the direction of the Trustees in such manner as the Trustees determine to be fair and equitable. No shareholder is liable to further calls or to assessment by the Trust without his or her express consent.

The Trust does not hold an annual meeting of shareholders. When matters are submitted to shareholders for a vote, each shareholder is entitled to one vote for each whole share he owns and fractional votes for fractional shares he owns. All shares of the Fund have equal voting rights and liquidation rights. The Agreement and Declaration of Trust can be amended by the Trustees, except that any amendment that adversely affects the rights of shareholders must be approved by the shareholders affected. All shares of the Fund are subject to involuntary redemption if the Trustees determine to liquidate the Fund. An involuntary redemption will create a capital gain or a capital loss, which may have tax consequences about which you should consult your tax adviser.

For information concerning the purchase and redemption of shares of the Fund, see “How to Buy Shares” and “How to Redeem Shares” in the Prospectus. For a description of the methods used to determine the share price and value of the Fund’s assets, see “How to Purchase Shares” in the Prospectus and “Determination of Share Price” in this SAI.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND’S INVESTMENT**

### **Investment Strategies and Risks**

All principal investment strategies and risks are discussed in the Prospectus. This section contains a more detailed discussion of some of the investments the Fund may make and some of the techniques they may use, as described in the “Principal Investments Risks” section in the Prospectus. Additional non-principal strategies and risks also are discussed here.

## **Certificates of Deposit and Bankers' Acceptances**

The Fund may invest in certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances, which are considered to be short-term money market instruments.

Certificates of deposit are receipts issued by a depository institution in exchange for the deposit of funds. The issuer agrees to pay the amount deposited plus interest to the bearer of the receipt on the date specified on the certificate. The certificate usually can be traded in the secondary market prior to maturity. Bankers' acceptances typically arise from short-term credit arrangements designed to enable businesses to obtain funds to finance commercial transactions. Generally, an acceptance is a time draft drawn on a bank by an exporter or an importer to obtain a stated amount of funds to pay for specific merchandise. The draft is then "accepted" by a bank that, in effect, unconditionally guarantees to pay the face value of the instrument on its maturity date. The acceptance may then be held by the accepting bank as an earning asset or it may be sold in the secondary market at the going rate of discount for a specific maturity. Although maturities for acceptances can be as long as 270 days, most acceptances have maturities of six months or less. The interest rate on these instruments may be increased or decreased periodically. Variable rate certificates of deposit normally carry a higher interest rate than fixed rate certificates of deposit with shorter maturities, because the bank issuing the variable rate certificate of deposit pays the investor a premium as the bank has the use of the investors' money for a longer period of time. Variable rate certificates of deposit can be sold in the secondary market. Certificates of deposit generally have penalties for early withdrawal, but can be sold to third parties subject to the same risks as other debt securities.

## **Closed-End Investment Companies**

The Fund may invest assets in closed-end investment companies (or "closed-end funds"), subject to the investment restrictions set forth below. Shares of closed-end funds are typically offered to the public in a one-time initial public offering by a group of underwriters who retain a spread or underwriting commission of between 4% or 6% of the initial public offering price. Such securities are then listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), the NYSE MKT LLC (formerly known as the American Stock Exchange), the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (commonly known as "NASDAQ") and, in some cases, may be traded in other over-the-counter markets. Because the shares of closed-end funds cannot be redeemed upon demand to the issuer like the shares of an open-end investment company (such as the Fund), investors seek to buy and sell shares of closed-end funds in the secondary market.

The Fund generally will purchase shares of closed-end funds only in the secondary market. The Fund will incur normal brokerage costs on such purchases similar to the expenses the Fund would incur for the purchase of securities of any other type of issuer in the secondary market. The Fund may, however, also purchase securities of a closed-end fund in an initial public offering when, in the opinion of the Adviser, based on a consideration of the nature of the closed-end fund's proposed investments, the prevailing market conditions and the level of demand for such securities, they represent an attractive opportunity for growth of capital. The initial offering price typically will include a dealer spread, which may be higher than the applicable brokerage cost if the Fund purchased such securities in the secondary market.

The shares of many closed-end funds, after their initial public offering, frequently trade at a price per share that is less than the net asset value per share, the difference representing the "market discount" of such shares. This market discount may be due in part to the investment objective of long-term appreciation, which is sought by many closed-end funds, as well as to the fact that the shares of closed-end funds are not redeemable by the holder upon demand to the issuer at the next determined net asset

value, but rather, are subject to supply and demand in the secondary market. A relative lack of secondary market purchasers of closed-end fund shares also may contribute to such shares trading at a discount to their net asset value.

The Fund may invest in shares of closed-end funds that are trading at a discount to net asset value or at a premium to net asset value. There can be no assurance that the market discount on shares of any closed-end fund purchased by the Fund will ever decrease. In fact, it is possible that this market discount may increase and the Fund may suffer realized or unrealized capital losses due to further decline in the market price of the securities of such closed-end funds, thereby adversely affecting the net asset value of the Fund's shares. Similarly, there can be no assurance that any shares of a closed-end fund purchased by the Fund at a premium will continue to trade at a premium or that the premium will not decrease subsequent to a purchase of such shares by the Fund.

Closed-end funds may issue senior securities (including preferred stock and debt obligations) for the purpose of leveraging the closed-end fund's common shares in an attempt to enhance the current return to such closed-end fund's common shareholders. The Fund's investment in the common shares of closed-end funds that are financially leveraged may create an opportunity for greater total return on its investment, but at the same time may be expected to exhibit more volatility in market price and net asset value than an investment in shares of investment companies without a leveraged capital structure.

### **Commercial Paper**

The Fund may purchase commercial paper. Commercial paper consists of unsecured promissory notes, including Master Notes, issued by corporations. Issues of commercial paper normally have maturities of less than nine months and fixed rates of return. Master Notes, however, are obligations that provide for a periodic adjustment in the interest rate paid and permit daily changes in the amount borrowed.

Master Notes are governed by agreements between the issuer and the Adviser acting as agent, for no additional fee, in its capacity as Adviser to the Fund and as fiduciary for other clients for whom it exercises investment discretion. The monies loaned to the borrower come from accounts maintained with or managed by the Adviser or its affiliates pursuant to arrangements with such accounts. Interest and principal payments are credited to such accounts. The Adviser, acting as a fiduciary on behalf of its clients, has the right to increase or decrease the amount provided to the borrower under an obligation. The borrower has the right to pay without penalty all or any part of the principal amount then outstanding on an obligation together with interest to the date of payment. Since these obligations typically provide that the interest rate is tied to the Treasury bill auction rate, the rate on Master Notes is subject to change. Adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the borrower to meet its financial commitment on the Master Note. Repayment of Master Notes to participating accounts depends on the ability of the borrower to pay the accrued interest and principal of the obligation on demand which is continuously monitored by the advisor. Master Notes typically are not rated by credit rating agencies. The Fund is exposed to interest rate risk relating to changes in a Master Notes' value as a result of the change in interest rates. The value of Master Notes increase when interest rates fall and decrease when interest rates rise.

The Fund may purchase commercial paper consisting of issues rated at the time of purchase within the three highest rating categories by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (the "NRSRO"). The Fund may also invest in commercial paper that is not rated but is determined by the Adviser, under guidelines established by the Board, to be of comparable quality.

## **Convertible Securities**

The Fund may invest in convertible securities. Convertible securities include fixed income securities that may be exchanged or converted into a predetermined number of shares of the issuer's underlying common stock at the option of the holder during a specified period. Convertible securities may take the form of convertible preferred stock, convertible bonds or debentures, units consisting of “usable” bonds and warrants or a combination of the features of several of these securities. Convertible securities are senior to common stocks in an issuer’s capital structure, but are usually subordinated to similar non-convertible securities. While providing a fixed-income stream (generally higher in yield than the income derivable from common stock but lower than that afforded by a similar nonconvertible security), a convertible security also gives an investor the opportunity, through its conversion feature, to participate in the capital appreciation of the issuing company depending upon a market price advance in the convertible security’s underlying common stock. Convertible securities may be less sensitive to interest rate changes than non-convertible bonds as a result of convertible securities’ convertibility and “put” features. Interest rate risk is generally greater for longer-term bonds and convertible securities whose underlying stock price has fallen significantly below the conversion price.

## **Corporate Debt**

Corporate debt securities are long and short-term debt obligations issued by companies (such as publicly issued and privately placed bonds, notes and commercial paper). The Adviser considers corporate debt securities to be of investment grade quality if they are rated BBB- or higher by S&P or Baa3 or higher by Moody's, or if unrated, determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality. Investment grade debt securities generally have adequate to strong protection of principal and interest payments. In the lower end of this category, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to pay interest and repay principal than in higher rated categories. The Fund may invest in both secured and unsecured corporate bonds. A secured bond is backed by collateral and an unsecured bond is not. Therefore, an unsecured bond may have a lower recovery value than a secured bond in the event of a default by its issuer. The Adviser may incorrectly analyze the risks inherent in corporate bonds, such as the issuer's ability to meet interest and principal payments, resulting in a loss to the Fund.

## **Depository Receipts**

The Fund may invest in sponsored and unsponsored American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”), which are receipts issued by an American bank or trust company evidencing ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign issuer. ADRs, in sponsored form, are designed for use in U.S. securities markets. A sponsoring company provides financial information to the bank and may subsidize administration of the ADR. Unsponsored ADRs may be created by a broker-dealer or depository bank without the participation of the foreign issuer. Holders of these ADRs generally bear all the costs of the ADR facility, whereas foreign issuers typically bear certain costs in a sponsored ADR. The bank or trust company depository of an unsponsored ADR may be under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the foreign issuer or to pass through voting rights. Unsponsored ADRs may carry more risk than sponsored ADRs because of the absence of financial information provided by the underlying company. Many of the risks described below regarding foreign securities apply to investments in ADRs.

## **Emerging Markets Securities**

The Fund may purchase exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) and other closed-end funds that invest in emerging market securities. Investing in emerging market securities imposes risks different from, or greater than, risks of investing in foreign developed countries. These risks include (i) the smaller market

capitalization of securities markets, which may suffer periods of relative illiquidity, (ii) significant price volatility, (iii) restrictions on foreign investment, and (iv) possible repatriation of investment income and capital. In addition, foreign investors may be required to register the proceeds of sales, and future economic or political crises could lead to price controls, forced mergers, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, seizure, nationalization, or the creation of government monopolies. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience significant declines against the U.S. dollar, and devaluation may occur subsequent to investments in these currencies by the Fund. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries.

Additional risks of emerging markets securities may include (i) greater social, economic and political uncertainty and instability, (ii) more substantial governmental involvement in the economy, (iii) less governmental supervision and regulation, (iv) the unavailability of currency hedging techniques, (v) companies that are newly organized and small, (vi) differences in auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers, and (vii) less developed legal systems. In addition, emerging securities markets may have different clearance and settlement procedures, which may be unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions or otherwise make it difficult to engage in such transactions. Settlement problems may cause the Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities, hold a portion of its assets in cash pending investment, or be delayed in disposing of a portfolio security. Such a delay could result in possible liability to a purchaser of the security.

### **Equity Securities**

Equity securities consist of common stock, convertible preferred stock, rights and warrants. Common stocks, the most familiar type, represent an equity (ownership) interest in a corporation. Warrants are options to purchase equity securities at a specified price for a specific time period. Rights are similar to warrants, but normally have a short duration and are distributed by the issuer to its shareholders. Although equity securities have a history of long-term growth in value, their prices fluctuate based on changes in a company's financial condition and on overall market and economic conditions.

Investments in equity securities are subject to inherent market risks and fluctuations in value due to earnings, economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the Adviser. As a result, the return and net asset value of the Fund will fluctuate. Securities in the Fund's portfolio may not increase as much as the market as a whole and some undervalued securities may continue to be undervalued for long periods of time. Although profits in some Fund holdings may be realized quickly, it is not expected that most investments will appreciate rapidly.

### **Exchange Traded Funds**

The Fund may invest in a range of ETFs. Because many ETFs are considered to be investment companies, see "Investments in Other Investment Companies" below for additional information.

When the Fund invests in sector ETFs, there is a risk that securities within the same group of industries will decline in price due to sector-specific market or economic developments. If the Fund invests more heavily in a particular sector, the value of its shares may be especially sensitive to factors and economic risks that specifically affect that sector. As a result, the Fund's share price may fluctuate more widely than the value of shares of a mutual fund that invests in a broader range of industries. Additionally, some sectors could be subject to greater government regulation than other sectors. Therefore, changes in regulatory policies for those sectors may have a material effect on the value of

securities issued by companies in those sectors. The sectors in which the Fund may be more heavily invested will vary.

The shares of an ETF may be assembled in a block (typically 50,000 shares) known as a creation unit and redeemed in-kind for a portfolio of the underlying securities (based on the ETF's net asset value) together with a cash payment generally equal to accumulated dividends as of the date of redemption. Conversely, a creation unit may be purchased from the ETF by depositing a specified portfolio of the ETF's underlying securities, as well as a cash payment generally equal to accumulated dividends of the securities (net of expenses) up to the time of deposit. The Fund may redeem creation units for the underlying securities (and any applicable cash), and may assemble a portfolio of the underlying securities and use it (and any required cash) to purchase creation units, if the Fund's Adviser believes it is in the Fund's interest to do so. The Fund's ability to redeem creation units may be limited by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), which provides that the ETFs will not be obligated to redeem shares held by the Fund in an amount exceeding one percent of their total outstanding securities during any period of less than 30 days.

There is a risk that the underlying ETFs in which the Fund invests may terminate due to extraordinary events that may cause any of the service providers to the ETFs, such as the trustee or sponsor, to close or otherwise fail to perform their obligations to the ETF. Also, because the ETFs in which the Fund intends to invest may be granted licenses by agreement to use the indices as a basis for determining their compositions and/or otherwise to use certain trade names, the ETFs may terminate if such license agreements are terminated. In addition, an ETF may terminate if its entire net asset value falls below a certain amount. Although the Fund believes that, in the event of the termination of an underlying ETF they will be able to invest instead in shares of an alternate ETF tracking the same market index or another market index with the same general market, there is no guarantee that shares of an alternate ETF would be available for investment at that time.

### **Fixed Income Securities**

Fixed income securities include bonds and securities offered on a when-issued, delayed delivery, or forward commitment basis. Fixed income securities are subject to credit risk and interest rate risk. Credit risk is the risk that the Fund could lose money if an issuer of a fixed income security cannot meet its financial obligations or goes bankrupt. Interest rate risk is the risk that the Fund's investments in fixed income securities may fall when interest rates rise.

Investments in high-yield bonds are considered to be more speculative than higher quality fixed income securities. They are more susceptible to credit risk than investment-grade securities, especially during periods of economic uncertainty or economic downturns. The value of lower quality securities are subject to greater volatility and are generally more dependent on the ability of the issuer to meet interest and principal payments than higher quality securities. Issuers of high-yield securities may not be as strong financially as those issuing bonds with higher credit ratings.

### **Foreign Securities**

The Fund may gain exposure to foreign securities both directly and indirectly through underlying investment companies that invest in foreign securities or by trading in domestic markets through an ADR. Purchases of foreign equity securities entail certain risks. For example, there may be less information publicly available about a foreign company than about a U.S. company, and foreign companies generally are not subject to accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and practices comparable to those in the U.S. Other risks associated with investments in foreign securities include changes in restrictions on foreign currency transactions and rates of exchange, changes in the administrations or economic and

monetary policies of foreign governments, the imposition of exchange control regulations, the possibility of expropriation decrees and other adverse foreign governmental action, the imposition of foreign taxes, less liquid markets, less government supervision of exchanges, brokers and issuers, difficulty in enforcing contractual obligations, delays in settlement of securities transactions and greater price volatility. In addition, investing in foreign securities will generally result in higher commissions than investing in similar domestic securities.

### **Foreign Currency Transactions**

The Fund may enter into forward currency contracts to hedge or seek returns. A forward currency contract is an obligation to purchase or sell a currency against another currency at a future date at a price agreed upon by the parties. The Fund may either accept or make delivery of the currency at the maturity of the contract or, prior to maturity, enter into a closing transaction involving the purchase or sale of an offsetting contract. The Fund will engage in forward currency transactions in anticipation of or to protect itself against fluctuations in currency exchange rates or as an investment strategy. Forward currency contracts are not traded on regulated commodities exchanges. Any fund entering into a forward currency contract incurs the risk of default by the counter party to the transaction.

There can be no assurance that a liquid market will exist when the Fund seeks to close out a forward currency position, in which case the Fund might not be able to effect a closing purchase transaction at any particular time. While these contracts tend to minimize the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, at the same time, they tend to limit any potential gain which might result should the value of such currency increase.

Although the Fund values assets daily in U.S. dollars, it does not intend to physically convert its holdings of foreign currencies into U.S. dollars on a daily basis. The Fund will do so from time to time and investors should be aware of the costs of currency conversion. Although foreign exchange dealers do not charge a fee for conversion, they do realize a profit based on the difference (the “spread”) between the prices at which they are buying and selling various currencies. Thus, a dealer may offer to sell a foreign currency to the Fund at one rate, while offering a lesser rate of exchange should the Fund desire to resell that currency to the dealer.

### **Options on Foreign Currencies**

The Fund may invest in call and put options on domestic and foreign securities and foreign currencies. The Fund may purchase and write call and put options on foreign currencies as a hedge against changes in the value of the U.S. dollar (or another currency) in relation to a foreign currency in which portfolio securities of the Fund may be denominated, or as an investment strategy. A call option on a foreign currency gives the purchaser the right to buy, and a put option the right to sell, a certain amount of foreign currency at a specified price during a fixed period of time. The Fund may enter into closing sale transactions with respect to such options, exercise them, or permit them to expire.

The Fund may employ hedging strategies with options on currencies before the Fund purchases a foreign security denominated in the hedged currency, during the period the Fund holds the foreign security, or between the day the foreign security is purchased or sold and the date on which payment therefore is made or received. Hedging against a change in the value of a foreign currency in the foregoing manner does not eliminate fluctuations in the prices of portfolio securities or prevent losses if the prices of such securities decline. Furthermore, such hedging transactions reduce or preclude the opportunity for gain if the value of the hedged currency should increase relative to the U.S. dollar. The Fund will purchase options on foreign currencies for hedging purposes and may also speculate in options

on foreign currencies. The Fund may invest in options on foreign currencies which are either listed on a domestic securities exchange or traded on a recognized foreign exchange.

An option position on a foreign currency may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for an option of the same series. Although the Fund will typically purchase exchange-traded options, there is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an exchange will exist for any particular option, or at any particular time. In the event no liquid secondary market exists, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options. If the Fund cannot close out an exchange-traded option which it holds, it would have to exercise its option in order to realize any profit and would incur transactional costs on the sale of the underlying assets.

### **Illiquid Investments and Restricted Securities**

The Fund may invest up to 15% of their net assets in illiquid investments. Illiquid investments include securities subject to contractual or legal restrictions on resale (e.g., because they have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”)) and securities that are otherwise not readily marketable (e.g., because trading in the security is suspended or because market makers do not exist or will not entertain bids or offers). Securities that have not been registered under the Securities Act are referred to as private placements or restricted securities and are purchased directly from the issuer or in the secondary market. Foreign securities that are freely tradable in their principal markets are not considered to be illiquid. The Fund may gain exposure to foreign securities through its investment in ADRs. Certain ADRs are not listed on an exchange and therefore may be considered to be illiquid.

Restricted securities and other illiquid investments may be subject to the potential for delays on resale and uncertainty in valuation. The Fund might be unable to dispose of illiquid securities promptly or at reasonable prices and might thereby experience difficulty in satisfying redemption requests from shareholders. The Fund might have to register restricted securities in order to dispose of them, resulting in additional expense and delay. Adverse market conditions could impede such a public offering of securities.

A large institutional market exists for certain securities that are not registered under the Securities Act, including foreign securities. The fact that there are contractual or legal restrictions on resale to the general public or to certain institutions may not be indicative of the liquidity of such investments. Rule 144A under the Securities Act allows such a broader institutional trading market for securities otherwise subject to restrictions on resale to the general public. Rule 144A establishes a “safe harbor” from the registration requirements of the Securities Act for resale of certain securities to qualified institutional buyers. Rule 144A has produced enhanced liquidity for many restricted securities, and market liquidity for such securities may continue to expand as a result of this regulation and the consequent existence of the PORTAL system, which is an automated system for the trading, clearance and settlement of unregistered securities of domestic and foreign issuers sponsored by NASDAQ.

Under guidelines adopted by the Board, the Adviser may determine that particular Rule 144A securities, and commercial paper issued in reliance on the private placement exemption from registration afforded by Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act, are liquid even though they are not registered. A determination of whether such a security is liquid or not is a question of fact. In making this determination, the Adviser will consider, as it deems appropriate under the circumstances and among other factors: (1) the frequency of trades and quotes for the security; (2) the number of dealers willing to purchase or sell the security; (3) the number of other potential purchasers of the security; (4) dealer undertakings to make a market in the security; (5) the nature of the security (e.g., debt or equity, date of maturity, terms of dividend or interest payments, and other material terms) and the nature of the marketplace trades (e.g., the time needed to dispose of the security, the method of soliciting offers, and

the mechanics of transfer); and (6) the rating of the security and the financial condition and prospects of the issuer. In the case of commercial paper, the Adviser will also determine that the paper (1) is not traded flat or in default as to principal and interest, and (2) is rated in one of the two highest rating categories by at least two National Statistical Rating Organization (“NRSRO”) or, if only one NRSRO rates the security, by that NRSRO, or, if the security is unrated, the Adviser determines that it is of equivalent quality.

Rule 144A securities and Section 4(a)(2) commercial paper that have been deemed liquid as described above will continue to be monitored by the Adviser to determine if the security is no longer liquid as the result of changed conditions. Investing in Rule 144A securities or Section 4(a)(2) commercial paper could have the effect of increasing the amount of the Fund’s assets invested in illiquid securities if institutional buyers are unwilling to purchase such securities.

### **Indexed Securities**

The Fund may purchase indexed securities consistent with their investment objectives. Indexed securities are those, the value of which varies positively or negatively in relation to the value of other securities, securities indices or other financial indicators. Indexed securities may be debt securities or deposits whose value at maturity or coupon rate is determined by reference to a specific instrument or statistic. Recent issuers of indexed securities have included banks, corporations and certain U.S. Government agencies.

The performance of indexed securities depends to a great extent on the performance of the security or other instrument to which they are indexed and also may be influenced by interest rate changes in the United States and abroad. Indexed securities are subject to the credit risks associated with the issuer of the security, and their values may decline substantially if the issuer’s creditworthiness deteriorates. Indexed securities may be more volatile than the underlying instruments. Certain indexed securities that are not traded on an established market may be deemed illiquid.

### **Insured Bank Obligations**

The Fund may invest in insured bank obligations. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) insures the deposits of federally insured banks and savings and loan associations (collectively referred to as “banks”) up to \$250,000. The Fund may purchase bank obligations which are fully insured as to principal by the FDIC. Currently, to remain fully insured as to principal, these investments must be limited to \$250,000 per bank; if the principal amount and accrued interest together exceed \$250,000, the excess principal and accrued interest will not be insured. Insured bank obligations may have limited marketability.

### **Investment Company Securities**

The Fund may invest in investment companies such as open-end funds (mutual funds), closed-end funds, and exchange traded funds (also referred to as "Underlying Funds"). The 1940 Act provides that the mutual funds may not: (1) purchase more than 3% of an investment company's outstanding shares; (2) invest more than 5% of its assets in any single such investment company (the "5% Limit"), and (3) invest more than 10% of its assets in investment companies overall (the "10% Limit"), unless: (i) the underlying investment company and/or the Fund has received an order for exemptive relief from such limitations from the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"); and (ii) the underlying investment company and the Fund take appropriate steps to comply with any conditions in such order.

The Fund may exceed these statutory limits when permitted by SEC order or other applicable law or regulatory guidance, such as is the case with many ETFs. The SEC recently adopted certain regulatory changes and took other actions related to the ability of an investment company to invest in the securities of another investment company. These changes include, among other things, the rescission of certain SEC exemptive orders permitting investments in excess of the statutory limits and the withdrawal of certain related SEC staff no-action letters, and the adoption of Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act. Rule 12d1-4 permits the Fund to invest in other investment companies beyond the statutory limits, subject to certain conditions. The rescission of the applicable exemptive orders and the withdrawal of the applicable no-action letters is effective on January 19, 2022. After such time, an investment company will no longer be able to rely on the aforementioned exemptive orders and no-action letters, and will be subject instead to Rule 12d1-4 and other applicable rules under Section 12(d)(1).

In addition, Section 12(d)(1)(F) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended provides that the provisions of paragraph 12(d)(1) shall not apply to securities purchased or otherwise acquired by the Fund if (i) immediately after such purchase or acquisition not more than 3% of the total outstanding stock of such registered investment company is owned by the Fund and all affiliated persons of the Fund; and (ii) the Fund has not, and is not proposing to offer or sell any security issued by it through a principal underwriter or otherwise at a public or offering price which includes a sales load of more than 1 ½% percent. An investment company that issues shares to the Fund pursuant to paragraph 12(d)(1)(F) shall not be required to redeem its shares in an amount exceeding 1% of such investment company's total outstanding shares in any period of less than thirty days. The Fund (or the Adviser acting on behalf of the Fund) must comply with the following voting restrictions: when the Fund exercises voting rights, by proxy or otherwise, with respect to investment companies owned by the Fund, the Fund will either seek instruction from the Fund's shareholders with regard to the voting of all proxies and vote in accordance with such instructions, or vote the shares held by the Fund in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of such security.

Further, the Fund may rely on Rule 12d1-3, which allows unaffiliated mutual funds to exceed the 5% Limitation and the 10% Limitation, pursuant to Section 12(d)(1)(F) provided the aggregate sales loads any investor pays (i.e., the combined distribution expenses of both the acquiring fund and the acquired funds) does not exceed the limits on sales loads established by the FINRA for funds of funds.

Under certain circumstances an Underlying Fund may determine to make payment of a redemption by the Fund wholly or partly by a distribution in kind of securities from its portfolio, in lieu of cash, in conformity with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). In such cases, the Fund may hold securities distributed by an Underlying Fund until the Adviser determines that it is appropriate to dispose of such securities.

Investment decisions by the investment advisors of the Underlying Funds are made independently of the Fund and its Adviser. Therefore, the investment advisor of one Underlying Fund may be purchasing shares of the same issuer whose shares are being sold by the investment advisor of another such fund. The result would be an indirect expense to the Fund without accomplishing any investment purpose. Because other investment companies employ an investment adviser, such investments by the Fund may cause shareholders to bear duplicate fees.

## **Options**

The Fund may purchase and write (i.e., sell) put and call options. Such options may relate to particular securities or stock indices, and may or may not be listed on a domestic or foreign securities exchange and may or may not be issued by the Options Clearing Corporation. Options trading is a highly specialized activity that entails greater than ordinary investment risk. Options may be more volatile than

the underlying instruments, and therefore, on a percentage basis, an investment in options may be subject to greater fluctuation than an investment in the underlying instruments themselves.

A call option for a particular security gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and the writer (seller) the obligation to sell, the underlying security at the stated exercise price at any time prior to the expiration of the option, regardless of the market price of the security. The premium paid to the writer is in consideration for undertaking the obligation under the option contract. A put option for a particular security gives the purchaser the right to sell the security at the stated exercise price at any time prior to the expiration date of the option, regardless of the market price of the security.

Stock index options are put options and call options on various stock indices. In most respects, they are identical to listed options on common stocks. The primary difference between stock options and index options occurs when index options are exercised. In the case of stock options, the underlying security, common stock, is delivered. However, upon the exercise of an index option, settlement does not occur by delivery of the securities comprising the index. The option holder who exercises the index option receives an amount of cash if the closing level of the stock index upon which the option is based is greater than, in the case of a call, or less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option. This amount of cash is equal to the difference between the closing price of the stock index and the exercise price of the option expressed in dollars times a specified multiple. A stock index fluctuates with changes in the market value of the stocks included in the index. For example, some stock index options are based on a broad market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 500® Index or the Value Line Composite Index or a narrower market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 100®. Indices may also be based on an industry or market segment, such as the NYSE Arca Oil and Gas Index. Options on stock indices are currently traded on the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the NYSE, and NASDAQ OMX PHLX.

The Fund's obligation to sell an instrument subject to a call option written by it, or to purchase an instrument subject to a put option written by it, may be terminated prior to the expiration date of the option by the Fund's execution of a closing purchase transaction, which is effected by purchasing on an exchange an option of the same series (i.e., same underlying instrument, exercise price and expiration date) as the option previously written. A closing purchase transaction will ordinarily be effected to realize a profit on an outstanding option, to prevent an underlying instrument from being called, to permit the sale of the underlying instrument or to permit the writing of a new option containing different terms on such underlying instrument. The cost of such a liquidation purchase plus transactions costs may be greater than the premium received upon the original option, in which event the Fund will have incurred a loss in the transaction. There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular option. An option writer unable to effect a closing purchase transaction will not be able to sell the underlying instrument or liquidate the assets held in a segregated account, as described below, until the option expires or the optioned instrument is delivered upon exercise. In such circumstances, the writer will be subject to the risk of market decline or appreciation in the instrument during such period.

If an option purchased by the Fund expires unexercised, the Fund realizes a loss equal to the premium paid. If the Fund enters into a closing sale transaction on an option purchased by it, the Fund will realize a gain if the premium received by the Fund on the closing transaction is more than the premium paid to purchase the option or a loss if it is less. If an option written by the Fund expires on the stipulated expiration date or if the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction, it will realize a gain (or loss if the cost of a closing purchase transaction exceeds the net premium received when the option is sold). If an option written by the Fund is exercised, the proceeds of the sale will be increased by the net premium originally received and the Fund will realize a gain or loss.

## **Certain Risks Regarding Options**

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

Successful use by the Fund of options on stock indices will be subject to the ability of the Adviser to correctly predict movements in the directions of the stock market. This requires different skills and techniques than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. In addition, the Fund's ability to effectively hedge all or a portion of the securities in a portfolio, in anticipation of or during a market decline, through transactions in put options on stock indices, depends on the degree to which price movements in the underlying index correlate with the price movements of the securities held by the Fund. Inasmuch as the Fund's securities will not duplicate the components of an index, the correlation will not be perfect. Consequently, the Fund bears the risk that the prices of its securities being hedged will not move in the same amount as the prices of its put options on the stock indices. It is also possible that there may be a negative correlation between the index and the Fund's securities that would result in a loss on both such securities and the options on stock indices acquired by the Fund.

The hours of trading for options may not conform to the hours during which the underlying securities are traded. To the extent that the options markets close before the markets for the underlying securities, significant price and rate movements can take place in the underlying markets that cannot be reflected in the options markets. The purchase of options is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. The purchase of stock index options involves the risk that the premium and transaction costs paid by the Fund in purchasing an option will be lost as a result of unanticipated movements in prices of the securities comprising the stock index on which the option is based.

There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an options exchange will exist for any particular option, or at any particular time, and for some options no secondary market on an exchange or elsewhere may exist. If the Fund is unable to close out a call option on securities that it has written before the option is exercised, the Fund may be required to purchase the optioned securities in order to satisfy its obligation under the option to deliver such securities. If the Fund is unable to effect a closing sale transaction with respect to options on securities purchased, the Fund would have to exercise the option in order to realize any profit and would incur transaction costs upon the purchase and sale of the underlying securities.

## **Cover for Options Positions**

Transactions using options (other than options that a Fund has purchased) expose the Fund to an obligation to another party. The Fund will not enter into any such transactions unless it owns either (i) an offsetting (“covered”) position in securities or other options or (ii) cash or liquid securities with a value sufficient at all times to cover its potential obligations not covered as provided in (i) above.

## **Dealer Options**

The Fund may engage in transactions involving dealer options as well as exchange-traded options. Certain additional risks are specific to dealer options. While the Fund might look to a clearing corporation to exercise exchange-traded options, if the Fund were to purchase a dealer option it would need to rely on the dealer from which it purchased the option to perform if the option were exercised. Failure by the dealer to do so would result in the loss of the premium paid by the Fund as well as loss of the expected benefit of the transaction.

Exchange-traded options generally have a continuous liquid market while dealer options may not. Consequently, the Fund may generally be able to realize the value of a dealer option it has purchased only by exercising or reselling the option to the dealer who issued it. Similarly, when the Fund writes a dealer option, the Fund may generally be able to close out the option prior to its expiration only by entering into a closing purchase transaction with the dealer to whom the Fund originally wrote the option. While the Fund will seek to enter into dealer options only with dealers who will agree to and which are expected to be capable of entering into closing transactions with the Fund, there can be no assurance that the Fund will at any time be able to liquidate a dealer option at a favorable price at any time prior to expiration. Unless the Fund, as a covered dealer call option writer, is able to effect a closing purchase transaction, it will not be able to liquidate securities (or other assets) used as cover until the option expires or is exercised. In the event of insolvency of the other party, the Fund may be unable to liquidate a dealer option. With respect to options written by the Fund, the inability to enter into a closing transaction may result in material losses to the Fund. For example, because the Fund must maintain a secured position with respect to any call option on a security it writes, the Fund may not sell the assets that it has segregated to secure the position while it is obligated under the option. This requirement may impair the Fund’s ability to sell portfolio securities at a time when such sale might be advantageous.

The Staff of the SEC has taken the position that purchased dealer options are illiquid investments. The Fund may treat the cover used for written dealer options as liquid if the dealer agrees that the Fund may repurchase the dealer option it has written for a maximum price to be calculated by a predetermined formula. In such cases, the dealer option would be considered illiquid only to the extent the maximum purchase price under the formula exceeds the intrinsic value of the option. Accordingly, the Fund will treat dealer options as subject to the Fund’s limitation on illiquid investments. If the SEC changes its position on the liquidity of dealer options, the Fund will change treatment of such instruments accordingly.

## **Preferred Stock**

Preferred stocks are securities that have characteristics of both common stocks and corporate bonds. Preferred stocks may receive dividends but payment is not guaranteed as with a bond. These securities may be undervalued because of a lack of analyst coverage resulting in a high dividend yield or yield to maturity. The risks of preferred stocks are a lack of voting rights and the Adviser may incorrectly analyze the security, resulting in a loss to the Fund. Furthermore, preferred stock dividends are not guaranteed and management can elect to forego the preferred dividend, resulting in a loss to the Fund.

## **Real Estate Investment Trusts**

Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”) are pooled investment vehicles which invest primarily in income producing real estate or real estate related loans or interest. REITs are generally classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or a combination of equity and mortgage REITs. Equity REITs invest the majority of their assets directly in real property and derive income primarily from the collection of rents. Equity REITs can also realize capital gains by selling property that has appreciated in value. Mortgage REITs invest the majority of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive income from the collection of interest payments. The real property and mortgages serving as investment vehicles for REITs may be either residential or commercial in nature and may include healthcare facilities. Similar to investment companies, REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided they comply with several requirements of the Code. Such tax requirements limit a REIT’s ability to respond to changes in the commercial real estate market.

Investments in REITs are subject to the same risks as direct investments in real estate. Real estate values rise and fall in response to many factors, including local, regional and national economic conditions, the demand for rental property, and interest rates. In addition, REITs may have limited financial resources, may trade less frequently and in limited volume and may be more volatile than other securities.

## **Repurchase Agreements**

The Fund may invest in fully collateralized repurchase agreements. A repurchase agreement is a short-term investment in which the purchaser (*i.e.*, the Fund) acquires ownership of a security and the seller agrees to repurchase the obligation at a future time at a set price, thereby determining the yield during the purchaser’s holding period (usually not more than 7 days from the date of purchase). Any repurchase transaction in which the Fund engages will require full collateralization of the seller’s obligation during the entire term of the repurchase agreement. In the event of a bankruptcy or other default of the seller, the Fund could experience both delays in liquidating the underlying security and losses in value. However, the Fund intends to enter into repurchase agreements only with its custodian, other banks with assets of \$1 billion or more and registered securities dealers determined by the adviser to be creditworthy. The Adviser monitors the creditworthiness of the banks and securities dealers with which the Fund engages in repurchase transactions. The Fund may not enter into a repurchase agreement with a term of more than seven days if, as a result, more than 15% of the value of its net assets would then be invested in such repurchase agreements and other illiquid investments.

## **Reverse Repurchase Transactions**

The Fund may enter into reverse repurchase transactions. In a reverse repurchase transaction, the Fund concurrently agrees to sell portfolio securities to financial institutions such as banks and broker-dealers, and to repurchase the same securities at a later date at a mutually agreed upon price. The repurchase price generally is equal to the original sales price plus interest. The Fund retains record ownership of the securities and the right to receive interest and principal payments. The Fund will enter into a reverse repurchase transaction in order to obtain funds to pursue additional investment opportunities with a return in excess of the cost of the reverse repurchase transaction. Such transactions may increase fluctuations in the market value of Fund assets and may be viewed as a form of leverage. Reverse purchase transactions also involve the risk that the market value of the securities sold by the Fund may decline below the price at which the Fund is obligated to repurchase the securities. In the event of bankruptcy or other default by the purchaser, the Fund could experience both delays in repurchasing the portfolio securities and losses. The Fund will enter into reverse purchase transactions only with parties whose creditworthiness has been reviewed and found satisfactory by the adviser.

Reverse purchase transactions are considered by the SEC to be borrowings by the Fund under the 1940 Act. At the time the Fund enters into a reverse purchase transaction, it will direct its custodian to place in a segregated account assets (such as cash or liquid securities consistent with the Fund's investment restrictions) having a value equal to the repurchase price (including accrued interest). The Fund will monitor the account to ensure that the market value of the account equals the amount of the Fund's commitments to repurchase securities.

## **Rights**

Rights are usually granted to existing shareholders of a corporation to subscribe to shares of a new issue of common stock before it is issued to the public. The right entitles its holder to buy common stock at a specified price. Rights have similar features to warrants, except that the life of a right is typically much shorter, usually a few weeks. The Adviser believes rights may become underpriced if they are sold without regard to value and if analysts do not include them in their research. The risk in investing in rights is that the Adviser might miscalculate their value resulting in a loss to the Fund. Another risk is the underlying common stock may not reach the Adviser's anticipated price within the life of the right.

## **Royalty Trusts**

The Fund may invest in royalty trusts. Royalty trusts are special purpose financing vehicles organized as investment trusts created to make investments in operating companies or their cash flows. Royalty trusts buy the right to royalties on the production and sales of a natural resource company. Income and cash flows generated by a royalty trust are passed directly to investors in the form of dividends or the return of invested capital. Examples of royalty trusts include BP Prudhoe Bay Royalty Trust, Cross Timbers Royalty Trust and Williams Coal Seam Gas Royalty Trust. The yield generated by a royalty trust is not guaranteed and because developments in the oil, gas and natural resources markets will affect payouts, could be volatile. For example, the yield on an oil royalty trust can be affected by changes in production levels, natural resources, political and military developments, regulatory changes and conservation efforts. In addition, natural resources are depleting assets. Eventually, the income-producing ability of the royalty trust will be exhausted, at which point the trustees may choose to liquidate, or will attempt to raise or retain funds to make new acquisitions. The purchase of new assets can depress current income and increase the risk that the new property is of lower quality than the property held by the trust. Generally, higher yielding trusts have less time until depletion of proven reserves.

## **STRIPS**

The Federal Reserve creates STRIPS (Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities ("STRIP")) by separating the coupon payments and the principal payment from an outstanding Treasury security and selling them as individual securities. To the extent the Fund purchases the principal portion of the STRIP, the Fund will not receive regular interest payments. Instead they are sold at a deep discount from their face value. The Fund will accrue income on such STRIPS for tax and accounting purposes, in accordance with applicable law, which income is distributable to shareholders. Because no cash is received at the time such income is accrued, the Fund may be required to liquidate other Fund securities to satisfy its distribution obligations. Because the principal portion of the STRIP does not pay current income, its price can be very volatile when interest rates change. In calculating its dividend, the Fund takes into account as income a portion of the difference between the principal portion of the STRIP's purchase price and its face value.

## Swap Agreements

The Fund may enter into interest rate, index and currency exchange rate swap agreements in an attempt to obtain a particular desired return at a lower cost to the Fund than if they had invested directly in an instrument that yielded that desired return. Swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. In a standard “swap” transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of returns) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments. The gross returns to be exchanged or “swapped” between the parties are calculated with respect to a “notional amount,” i.e., the return on or increase in value of a particular dollar amount invested at a particular interest rate, in a particular foreign currency, or in a “basket” of securities representing a particular index. The “notional amount” of the swap agreement is only a fictive basis on which to calculate the obligations the parties to a swap agreement have agreed to exchange. The Fund’s obligations (or rights) under a swap agreement will generally be equal only to the amount to be paid or received under the agreement based on the relative values of the positions held by each party to the agreement (the “net amount”). The Fund’s obligations under a swap agreement will be accrued daily (offset against any amounts owing to the Fund) and any accrued but unpaid net amounts owed to a swap counterparty will be covered by the maintenance of a segregated account consisting of cash, U.S. government securities, or other liquid securities, to avoid leveraging of the Fund’s portfolio.

Whether the Fund’s use of swap agreements enhance the Fund’s total return will depend on the Adviser’s ability correctly to predict whether certain types of investments are likely to produce greater returns than other investments. Because they are two-party contracts and may have terms of greater than seven days, swap agreements may be considered to be illiquid. Moreover, the Fund bears the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a swap agreement in the event of the default or bankruptcy of a swap agreement counterparty. The Adviser will cause the Fund to enter into swap agreements only with counterparties that it deem creditworthy. The swap market is a relatively new market and is largely unregulated. It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect the Fund’s ability to terminate existing swap agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

Certain swap agreements are exempt from most provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”) and, therefore, are not regulated as futures or commodity option transactions under the CEA, pursuant to regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”). To qualify for this exemption, a swap agreement must be entered into by “eligible participants,” which include the following, provided the participants’ total assets exceed established levels: a bank or trust company, savings association or credit union, insurance company, investment company subject to regulation under the 1940 Act, commodity pool, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, organization, trust or other entity, employee benefit plan, governmental entity, broker-dealer, futures commission merchant, natural person, or regulated foreign person. To be eligible, natural persons and most other entities must have total assets exceeding \$10 million; commodity pools and employees benefit plans must have assets exceeding \$5 million. In addition, an eligible swap transaction must meet three conditions. First, the swap agreement may not be part of a fungible class of agreements that are standardized as to their material economic terms. Second, the creditworthiness of parties with actual or potential obligations under the swap agreement must be a material consideration in entering into or determining the terms of the swap agreement, including pricing, cost or credit enhancement terms. Third, swap agreements may not be entered into and traded on or through a multilateral transaction execution facility.

## **U.S. Government Securities**

The Fund may invest in U.S. government securities. These securities may be backed by the credit of the government as a whole or only by the issuing agency. U.S. Treasury bonds, notes, and bills and some agency securities, such as those issued by the Federal Housing Administration and the Government National Mortgage Association (“Ginnie Mae”), are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government as to payment of principal and interest and are the highest quality government securities. Other securities issued by U.S. government agencies or instrumentalities, such as securities issued by the Federal Home Loan Banks and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“Freddie Mac”), are supported only by the credit of the agency that issued them, and not by the U.S. government. Securities issued by the Federal Farm Credit System, the Federal Land Banks, and the Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”) are supported by the agency’s right to borrow money from the U.S. Treasury under certain circumstances, but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

The Fund’s investments in U.S. Government securities may include agency step-up obligations. These obligations are structured with a coupon rate that “steps-up” periodically over the life of the obligation. Step-up obligations typically contain a call option, permitting the issuer to buy back the obligation upon exercise of the option. Step-up obligations are designed for investors who are unwilling to invest in a long-term security in a low interest rate environment. Step-up obligations are used in an attempt to reduce the risk of a price decline should interest rates rise significantly at any time during the life of the obligation. However, step-up obligations also carry the risk that market interest rates may be significantly below the new, stepped-up coupon rate. If this occurs, the issuer of the obligation likely will exercise the call option, leaving investors with cash to reinvest. As a result, these obligations may expose the Fund to the risk that proceeds from a called security may be reinvested in another security paying a lower rate of interest.

## **Warrants**

Warrants are securities that are usually issued with a bond or preferred stock but may trade separately in the market. A warrant allows its holder to purchase a specified amount of common stock at a specified price for a specified time. The risk in investing in warrants is the Adviser might miscalculate their value, resulting in a loss to the Fund. Another risk is the warrants will not realize their value because the underlying common stock does not reach the Adviser’s anticipated price within the life of the warrant.

## **Temporary Defensive Positions**

To respond to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions, the Fund may invest 100% of its total assets, without limitation, in high-quality short-term debt securities and money market instruments denominated in U.S. dollars. The Fund may be invested solely in these instruments for extended periods, depending on the Adviser’s assessment of market conditions. These short-term debt securities and money market instruments include shares of other mutual funds, commercial paper, certificates of deposit, bankers’ acceptances, U.S. Government securities and repurchase agreements. While the Fund is in a defensive position, the opportunity to achieve its investment objective will be limited. Furthermore, to the extent that the Fund invests in money market mutual funds for its cash position, there will be some duplication of expenses because the Fund would bear its pro-rata portion of such money market funds’ advisory fees and operational fees. The Fund may also invest a substantial portion of its assets in such instruments at any time to maintain liquidity or pending selection of investments in accordance with its policies.

## Investment Restrictions

Fundamental Investment Limitations. The investment limitations described below have been adopted by the Trust with respect to the Fund and are fundamental, *i.e.*, they may not be changed without the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund. As used in the Prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information, the term “majority” of the outstanding shares of the Fund means the lesser of: (1) 67% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present or represented at such meeting; or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund. Other investment practices, which may be changed by the Board without the approval of shareholders to the extent permitted by applicable law, regulation or regulatory policy, are considered non-fundamental (“Non-Fundamental”).

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

2. Senior Securities. The Fund will not issue senior securities. This limitation is not applicable to activities that may be deemed to involve the issuance or sale of a senior security by the Fund, provided that the Fund’s engagement in such activities is consistent with or permitted by the 1940 Act, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or interpretations of the SEC or its staff.

3. Underwriting. The Fund will not act as underwriter of securities issued by other persons. This limitation is not applicable to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities (including restricted securities), the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under certain federal securities laws.

4. Real Estate. The Fund will not purchase or sell real estate. This limitation is not applicable to investments in marketable securities that are secured by or represent interests in real estate. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from investing in mortgage-related securities or investing in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including real estate investment trusts).

5. Commodities. The Fund will not purchase or sell commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other investments. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from purchasing or selling options or futures contracts, from investing in securities or other instruments backed by commodities or from investing in companies, which are engaged in a commodities business or have a significant portion of their assets in commodities.

6. Loans. The Fund will not make loans to other persons, except: (a) by loaning portfolio securities; (b) by engaging in repurchase agreements; or (c) by purchasing non-publicly offered debt securities. For purposes of this limitation, the term “loans” shall not include the purchase of a portion of an issue of publicly distributed bonds, debentures or other securities.

7. Concentration. The Fund will not invest 25% or more of its total assets in a particular industry or group of industries. This limitation is not applicable to investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities or repurchase agreements with respect thereto.

8. Diversification. The Fund will invest in the securities of any issuer only if, immediately after such investment, at least 75% of the value of the total assets of the Fund will be invested in cash and cash items (including receivables), government securities, securities of other investment companies, and other securities for the purposes of this calculation limited in respect of any one issuer to an amount (determined immediately after the latest acquisition of securities of the issuer) not greater in value than 5% of the value of the total assets of the Fund and to not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer.

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

The 1940 Act limits the Fund's ability to borrow money, prohibiting the Fund from issuing senior securities, except the Fund may borrow from any bank provided that immediately after any such borrowing there is an asset coverage of at least 300% for all borrowings by the Fund and provided further, that in the event that such asset coverage shall at any time fall below 300%, the Fund shall, within three days thereafter or such longer period as the SEC may prescribe by rules and regulations, reduce the amount of its borrowings to such an extent that the asset coverage of such borrowing shall be at least 300%. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing limitations, any investment company, whether organized as a trust, association or corporation, or a personal holding company, may be merged or consolidated with or acquired by the Trust, provided that if such merger, consolidation or acquisition results in an investment in the securities of any issuer prohibited by said paragraphs, the Trust shall, within ninety days after the consummation of such merger, consolidation or acquisition, dispose of all of the securities of such issuer so acquired or such portion thereof as shall bring the total investment therein within the limitations imposed by said paragraphs above as of the date of consummation.

Non-Fundamental. The following limitations have been adopted by the Trust with respect to the Fund and are Non-Fundamental (see "Investment Limitations - Fundamental" above).

1. Pledging. The Fund will not mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or in any manner transfer, as security for indebtedness, any assets of the Fund except as may be necessary in connection with borrowings described in limitation (1) above. Margin deposits, security interests, liens and collateral arrangements with respect to transactions involving options, short sales and other permitted investments and techniques are not deemed to be a mortgage, pledge or hypothecation of assets for purposes of this limitation.

2. Borrowing. The Fund will not purchase any security while borrowings (including reverse repurchase agreements) representing more than one third of its total assets are outstanding.

3. Margin Purchases. The Fund will not purchase securities or evidences of interest thereon on "margin." This limitation is not applicable to short-term credit obtained by the Fund for the clearance of purchases and sales or redemption of securities, or to arrangements with respect to transactions involving options.

4. Illiquid Investments. The Fund will not invest 15% or more of its net assets in securities for which there are legal or contractual restrictions on resale and other illiquid securities.

5. Foreign Securities. The Fund will invest at least 40% of its assets in securities of companies outside the United States.

With respect to Fundamental Investment Limitation #7, the Fund will examine its other investment company holdings to ensure that the Fund is not indirectly concentrating its investments in a particular industry.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND**

The Board supervises the business activities of the Trust and appoints the officers. Each Trustee serves as a trustee until the termination of the Trust unless the Trustee dies, resigns, retires or is removed. Board generally meets four times a year to review the progress and status of the Fund.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

The Trust is led by Gregory Skidmore, who has served as the Chairman of the Board since November 5, 2021. Mr. Skidmore is considered an “Interested” Trustees as defined in the 1940 Act, because of his ownership interest in Collaborative Fund Services, LLC. Collaborative Fund Services, LLC is the administrator to the Trust. The Board is comprised of Mr. Skidmore and four other Trustees, none of whom are an interested person (“Independent Trustees”). Additionally, under certain 1940 Act governance guidelines that apply to the Trust, the Independent Trustees meet in executive session, at least quarterly. Under the Trust’s Agreement and Declaration of Trust and By-Laws, the Chairman of the Board is responsible for (a) presiding at board meetings, (b) calling special meetings on an as-needed basis, and, more generally, in-practice (c) execution and administration of Trust policies including (i) setting the agendas for board meetings and (ii) providing information to board members in advance of each board meeting and between board meetings. Generally, the Trust believes it best to have a single leader who is seen by shareholders, business partners and other stakeholders as providing strong leadership. The Trust believes that its Chairman together with the standing independent Audit Committee and the full Board, provide effective leadership that is in the best interests of the Trust and the Fund’s shareholders because of the Board’s collective business acumen and understanding of the regulatory framework under which investment companies must operate.

### **Board Risk Oversight**

The Board is responsible for overseeing risk management, and the full Board regularly engages in discussions of risk management and receives compliance reports that inform its oversight of risk management from its Chief Compliance Officer at quarterly meetings and on an ad hoc basis, when and if necessary. The Audit Committee considers financial and reporting risk within its area of responsibilities. Generally, the Board believes that its oversight of material risks is adequately maintained through the compliance-reporting chain where the Chief Compliance Officer is the primary recipient and communicator of such risk-related information, and the Audit Committee’s communications with the independent registered public accounting firm.

### **Trustee Qualifications**

Generally, the Trust believes that each Trustee is competent to serve because of their individual overall merits including: (i) experience, (ii) qualifications, (iii) attributes and (iv) skills.

Gregory Skidmore – **Interested Trustee** – Mr. Skidmore has fifteen years of financial industry experience, holds a series 65 license, and possesses a strong understanding of the regulatory framework under which investment companies operate. He graduated from Connecticut College in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and History.

Dean Drulias Esq. – **Independent Trustee** – Mr. Drulias has been a practicing attorney for over thirty years. He has extensive experience and possesses a strong understanding of the regulatory framework under which financial entities must operate. Additionally, he is well versed in corporate and transactional law.

Shawn Orser – **Independent Trustee** – Mr. Orser has over ten years’ experience in the financial services industry, spanning from Merrill Lynch to the hedge fund industry. Mr. Orser holds a FINRA Series 7, Series 63, Series 55, and Series 66 licenses. He has a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Syracuse University.

Fredrick Stoleru – **Independent Trustee** – Mr. Stoleru has over two decades of financial industry experience, holds both FINRA Series 7 and Series 63 licenses, and has a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Georgetown University. Like other trustees, his experience has given him a strong understanding of the regulatory framework under which investment companies operate.

Ronald Young Jr. – **Independent Trustee** – Mr. Young currently serves as the President of Young Consulting, LLC, a company that provides business consulting. He also, currently serves as President of Tri-State LED, Inc., a corporation that provides comprehensive LED lighting solutions. Previously, he co-founded and served as the managing partner for a diversified private equity capital firm and real estate development company.

Each of the Independent Trustees possess a strong understanding of the regulatory framework under which investment companies must operate. The Trust does not believe any one factor is determinative in assessing a Trustee’s qualifications, but that the collective experience of each Trustee makes the Board highly effective.

The following tables provide information about the Board and the senior officers of the Trust. Information about each Trustee is provided below and includes each person’s: name, address, age (as of the date of the Fund’s most recent fiscal year end), present position(s) held with the Trust, term of office and length of time served, and principal occupations for the past five years. Unless otherwise noted, the business address of each person listed below is c/o Collaborative Fund Services, LLC, 500 Damonte Ranch Parkway Building, Unit 700, Reno, NV 89521. Unless otherwise noted, each officer is elected annually by the Board.

<b>Name, Address<sup>2</sup> and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Fund</b>	<b>Term of Office/Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>1</sup> Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years</b>
Dean Drulias, Esq. Birth Year: 1947	Trustee	Indefinite/ November 2017 - present	Attorney (self-employed), since 2012.	13	Trustee for Belpointe PREP Manager, LLC (2021-Present)
Shawn Orser Birth Year: 1975	Trustee	Indefinite/ November 2017 - present	CEO, Seaside Advisory (6/2016-Present).	13	Trustee for Belpointe PREP Manager, LLC (2021-Present)

Fredrick Stoleru Birth Year: 1971	Trustee	Indefinite/ November 2017 - present	Chief Operations Officer, Belpoint Prep, LLC since September 2022, Principal, Hepco Capital Management 9/2018- 9/2022, Chief Executive Officer and President of Atlas Resources LLC 2/2017- 2018, Vice President of the General Partner of Atlas Growth Partners, L.P. since 2013.	13	None
Ronald Young Jr. Birth Year: 1974	Trustee	Indefinite/ March 2020 - present	President – Young Consulting, Inc. (2008-Present); President – Tri State LED, Inc. (2010-Present).	13	Trustee for Belpointe PREP Manager, LLC (2021-Present)

<sup>1</sup> The “Fund Complex” consists of the Collaborative Investment Series Trust.

<sup>2</sup> The address for each Trustee listed is 500 Damonte Ranch Parkway Building 700, Unit 700, Reno, NV 89521.

The following table provides information regarding each Trustee who is an “interested person” of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act, and each officer of the Trust.

<b>Name, Address<sup>3</sup> and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Fund</b>	<b>Term of Office<sup>4</sup>/ Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>1</sup> Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years</b>
Gregory Skidmore <sup>2</sup> Year of Birth: 1976	Trustee and President	Indefinite/ November 2017- present	President, Belpointe Asset Management, LLC since 2007.	13	None
Kyle R. Bubeck Year of Birth: 1955	Chief Compliance Officer	Indefinite/ October 2021- present	President and Founder of Beacon Compliance Consulting, Inc. (since 2010).	N/A	N/A
William McCormick Year of Birth: 1964	Treasurer	Indefinite/ October 2021- present	Senior Wealth Advisor – Belpointe Asset Management (since 2019); Wealth Advisor – Advisory Services Network (2016 to 2019)	N/A	N/A

Brad Rundbaken Year of Birth: 1970	Secretary	Indefinite/ October 2021- present	Manager – Collaborative Fund Services, LLC (since 2018); Wealth Advisor – Belpointe Asset Management (2015-2018)	N/A	N/A
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<sup>1</sup> The “Fund Complex” consists of the Collaborative Investment Series Trust. As of April 1, 2024, the Trust was comprised of 13 active series.

<sup>2</sup> Gregory Skidmore is considered an “Interested” Trustee as defined in the 1940 Act, because of his ownership interest in Collaborative Fund Services, LLC.

<sup>3</sup> The address for each Trustee and Officer listed is 500 Damonte Ranch Parkway Building 700, Unit 700, Reno, NV 89521.

The Board’s audit committee consists of the Independent Trustees. The audit committee is responsible for (i) overseeing the accounting and financial reporting policies and practices of the Fund, their internal controls and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers; (ii) overseeing the quality and objectivity of the Fund’s financial statements and the independent audit of the financial statements; and (iii) acting as a liaison between the Fund’s independent auditors and the full Board of Trustees. The Audit committee met six times during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

As of December 31, 2023, the Trustees beneficially owned the following amounts in the Fund:

Name of Trustee or Officer	Dollar Range of Securities in the Mercator International Opportunity Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Securities In Trust <sup>2</sup>
Gregory Skidmore <sup>1</sup>	\$50,001–\$100,000	\$50,001–\$100,000
Dean Drulias	None	None
Shawn Orser	None	None
Fredrick Stoleru	None	None
Ronald Young Jr.	None	None

<sup>1</sup> Gregory Skidmore is considered “Interested” Trustees as defined in the 1940 Act, because of his ownership interest in Collaborative Fund Services, LLC.

<sup>2</sup> As of December 31, 2023, the Trust was comprised of 14 active series.

The following table describes the compensation paid to the Trustees for the Trust’s fiscal year. Trustees of the Fund who are deemed “interested persons” of the Trust receive no compensation from the Fund. The Trust does not have a bonus, profit sharing, pension or retirement plan.

Name	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund	Total Compensation from the Fund Complex <sup>1</sup>
Gregory Skidmore <sup>2</sup>	\$0	\$0
Dean Drulias	\$1200	\$19,501.30
Shawn Orser	\$1200	\$19,501.30
Fredrick Stoleru	\$1200	\$19,501.30

Ronald Young	\$1200	\$19,501.30
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<sup>1</sup> The term “Fund Complex” includes the series of the Trust.

<sup>2</sup> Gregory Skidmore is considered “Interested” Trustees as defined in the 1940 Act, because of his ownership interest in Collaborative Fund Services, LLC.

## CODE OF ETHICS

Pursuant to the requirements of Rule 17j-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended and in order to protect against certain unlawful acts, practices and courses of business by certain individuals or entities related to the Fund, the Fund, the Adviser, and the Distributor (defined below under the heading “Distribution Plan”) have each adopted a Code of Ethics and procedures for implementing the provisions of the Code. The personnel of the Fund, the Adviser, and the Distributor are subject to the code of ethics when investing in securities that may be purchased, sold or held by the Fund.

## DISTRIBUTION PLAN

The Fund has adopted a plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, (the “Plan”). The Plan permits the Fund to pay Arbor Court Capital, LLC (the “Distributor”) for certain distribution and promotion expenses related to marketing Class A shares of the Fund. The amount payable annually by the Fund is up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the Class A shares. The plan is a reimbursement style plan which means the Fund pays the Distributor for actual expenses incurred.

Under the Plan, the Trust may engage in any activities related to the distribution of Fund shares, including without limitation the following: (i) payments, including incentive compensation, to securities dealers or other financial intermediaries, financial institutions, investment advisers and others that are engaged in the sale of shares of the Fund, or that may be advising shareholders of the Trust regarding the purchase, sale or retention of shares of the Fund; (ii) expenses of maintaining personnel (including personnel of organizations with which the Trust has entered into agreements related to this Plan) who engage in or support distribution of shares of the Fund; (iii) costs of preparing, printing and distributing prospectuses and statements of additional information and reports of the Fund for recipients other than existing shareholders of the Fund; (iv) costs of formulating and implementing marketing and promotional activities, including, but not limited to, sales seminars, direct mail promotions and television, radio, newspaper, magazine and other mass media advertising; (v) costs of preparing, printing and distributing sales literature; (vi) costs of obtaining such information, analyses and reports with respect to marketing and promotional activities as the Trust may, from time to time, deem advisable; and (vii) costs of implementing and operating this Plan.

The Trustees expect that the Plan could significantly enhance the Fund’s ability to expand distribution of shares of the Fund. It is also anticipated that an increase in the size of the Fund will produce economies of scale that benefit the shareholders, facilitate more efficient portfolio management, and assist the Fund in seeking to achieve its investment objective.

The Plan has been approved by the Board, including a majority of the Trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Trust and who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the Plan or any related agreement, by a vote cast in person. Continuation of the Plan and the related agreements must be approved by the Trustees annually, in the same manner, and the Plan or any related agreement may be terminated at any time without penalty by a majority of such independent Trustees or by a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund. Any amendment increasing the maximum percentage payable under the Plan or other material change must be approved by a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund, and all other material amendments to the Plan or any related agreement must be approved by a majority of the

independent Trustees. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund incurred \$18,854 in distribution fees under the Plan.

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

### **Control Persons**

A principal shareholder is any person who owns (either of record or beneficially) 5% or more of the outstanding shares of a fund. Shareholders owning more than 25% of the shares of the Fund are considered to “control” the Fund as that term is defined under the 1940 Act. Persons controlling the Fund can determine the outcome of any proposal submitted to the shareholders for approval, including changes to the Fund’s fundamental policies or the terms of the management agreement with the Adviser. As of April 1, 2024, the following shareholders owned 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

#### Institutional Class

Name & Address	Shares	Percentage of Class
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO. INC. SPECIAL CUSTODY A/C FBO CUST 211 MAIN STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105	1,178,344	98.76%

#### Class A

Name & Address	Shares	Percentage of Class
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO. INC. SPECIAL CUSTODY A/C FBO CUST 211 MAIN STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105	786,407	98.56%

### **Management Ownership**

As of April 1, 2024, the Trustees as a group owned less than 1.00% of the Fund’s outstanding shares.

## **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

### **Investment Adviser and Advisory Agreement**

Mercator Investment Management, LLC, located at 144 Brookhollow Lane, Stamford, Connecticut 06902, serves as the investment adviser to the Fund. The Adviser was established in 2018 to provide investment advisory services to investment companies. Herve van Caloen is deemed to control the Adviser by virtue of his majority ownership of its shares.

Under the terms of the management agreement (the “Agreement”), the Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board, provides or arranges to be provided to the Fund such investment advice as it deems advisable and will furnish or arrange to be furnished a continuous investment program for the Fund consistent with the Fund’s investment objective and policies. As compensation for its management

services, the Fund is obligated to pay the Adviser a fee computed and accrued daily and paid monthly at an annual rate of 0.84% of the average daily net assets of the Fund. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund paid the Adviser an advisory fee equal to 0.25% of its average daily net assets.

The Agreement had an initial term of two years and is renewed on a year-to-year basis, provided that continuance is approved at least annually by specific approval of the Board or by vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. In either event, it must also be approved by a majority of the Trustees who are neither parties to the agreement nor interested persons as defined in the 1940 Act, at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Agreement may be terminated at any time without the payment of any penalty by the Board or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund on not more than 60 days' written notice to the Adviser. In the event of its assignment, the Agreement will terminate automatically.

The Adviser has contractually agreed to reduce its fees and to reimburse expenses, at least through April 30, 2025, to ensure that total annual Fund operating expenses after fee waiver and reimbursement (exclusive of any front-end or contingent deferred loads, taxes, leverage interest, borrowing interest, brokerage commissions, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, dividend expense on securities sold short, acquired (underlying) fund fees and expenses or extraordinary expenses such as litigation) will not exceed 1.40% and 1.55% of the average daily net assets attributable to the Institutional Class and Class A shares, respectively. These fee waivers and expense reimbursements are subject to possible recoupment from the Fund within three years of the date on which the waiver or reimbursement occurs, if such recoupment can be achieved within the lesser of the foregoing expense limits or the expense limits in place at the time of recoupment. This agreement may be terminated only by the Board, on 60 days' written notice to the Adviser. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, the Adviser earned \$371,761 in advisory fees and waived fees and reimbursed expenses in the amount of \$110,876. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the Adviser earned \$231,994 in advisory fees and waived fees and reimbursed expenses in the amount of \$145,147. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the Adviser earned \$190,538 in advisory fees and waived fees and reimbursed expenses in the amount of \$134,298.

A discussion regarding the basis of the Board's approval of the Agreement is available in the Fund's semi-annual report dated June 30, 2023.

### Portfolio Manager

Herve van Caloen is the portfolio manager responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

As of December 31, 2023, Mr. van Caloen also is responsible for the management of the following other types of accounts:

<b>Account Type</b>	<b>Number of Accounts by Account Type</b>	<b>Total Assets By Account Type</b>	<b>Number of Accounts by Type Subject to a Performance Fee</b>	<b>Total Assets By Account Type Subject to a Performance Fee</b>
Registered Investment Companies	0	0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	0	0	\$0

Other Accounts	0	0	0	\$0
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The Adviser has not identified any material conflicts between the Fund and other accounts managed by Mr. van Caloen. However, actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise in connection with the day-to-day management of the Fund and other accounts. The management of the Fund and other accounts may result in unequal time and attention being devoted to the Fund and other accounts. Another potential conflict of interest may arise where another account has the same investment objective as either of the Fund, whereby the portfolio manager could favor one account over another. Further, a potential conflict could include knowledge about the size, timing and possible market impact of Fund trades, whereby they could use this information to the advantage of other accounts and to the disadvantage of the Fund. These potential conflicts of interest could create the appearance that a portfolio manager is favoring one investment vehicle over another

Mr. van Caloen receives a salary plus a discretionary bonus, based on the profits of the Adviser.

The following table shows the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the portfolio manager of the Fund as of December 31, 2023:

<b>Name of Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Mercator International Opportunity Fund</b>
Herve van Caloen	\$100,001-\$500,000

### **Custodian**

U.S. Bank, 425 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, serves as the Fund’s custodian (“Custodian”). The Custodian acts as the Fund’s depository, provides safekeeping of its portfolio securities, collects all income and other payments with respect thereto, disburses funds at the Fund’s request and maintains records in connection with its duties.

### **Fund Services**

Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC. (“MSS”), 8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite 400, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147-4003, acts as the transfer agent (“Transfer Agent”) for the Fund. MSS maintains the records of the shareholder’s account, answers shareholders’ inquiries concerning their accounts, processes purchases and redemptions of the Fund’s shares, acts as dividend and distribution disbursing agent and performs other transfer agent and shareholder service functions. MSS receives an annual fee from the Trust of \$11.50 per shareholder (subject to a minimum monthly fee of \$775.00 per Fund) for these transfer agency services.

In addition, MSS provides the Fund with accounting services, which includes certain monthly reports, record-keeping and other management-related services. For its services as fund accountant (“Fund Accounting Agent”), MSS receives an annual fee from the Trust based on the average value of the Fund. These fees are: from \$0 to \$25 million in assets the annual fee is \$22, 200, from \$25 million to \$50 million in assets the annual fee is \$31,700, from \$50 million to \$75 million in assets the annual fee is \$37,450, from \$75 million to \$100 million in assets the annual fee is \$43,200, from \$100 million to \$125 million in assets the annual fee is \$48,950, from \$125 million to \$150 million in assets the annual fee is

\$54,700, from \$150 million to \$200 million in assets the annual fee is \$60,450, for assets above \$200 million the annual fee is \$60,450 plus .01% on assets greater than \$200,000,000, and for assets above \$300,000,000 the annual fee is \$70,450 plus .005% on assets greater than \$300,000,000. The Trust will receive a discount ranging from 10-50% depending on the net assets of the Trust until the Trust reaches \$10 million in assets. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund paid \$31,779 in Fund accounting and transfer agent fees. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the Fund paid \$36,992 in Fund accounting and transfer agent fees. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, the Fund paid \$44,445 in Fund accounting and transfer agent fees.

### **Administrator**

Collaborative Fund Services, LLC (“CFS”), located at 500 Damonte Ranch Parkway, Building 700, Unit 700, Reno, NV 89521, serves as the Fund’s Administrator and provides administrative services to the Fund. For its service, CFS receives an annual fee of 0.35% of the Fund’s average daily net assets. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, the Fund paid CFS \$154,900. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, CFS waived fees in the amount of \$35,354. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, CFS earned \$86,634 for these services. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, CFS earned \$68,049 for these services.

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

The firm of Cohen and Company, Ltd., located at 342 N. Water St., Suite 830, Milwaukee, WI 53202, serves as the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm providing services including (1) audit of annual financial statements, and (2) other audit, tax, and related services to the Fund.

### **Distributor**

The Trust selected Arbor Court Capital, LLC, located at 8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite 400, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147 as the Fund’s distributor. The Distributor serves as the principal underwriter and national distributor for the shares of the Fund pursuant to an underwriting agreement with the Trust (the “Underwriting Agreement”). The Distributor is registered as broker-dealer under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 and each state’s securities laws and is a member of FINRA. The offering of the Fund’s shares are continuous. The Underwriting Agreement provides that the Distributor, as agent in connection with the distribution of the Fund’s shares, will use reasonable efforts to facilitate the sale of the Fund’s shares.

The Underwriting Agreement provides that, unless sooner terminated, it will continue in effect for two years initially and thereafter shall continue from year to year, subject to annual approval by (a) the Board or a vote of a majority of the outstanding shares, and (b) by a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Trust or of the Distributor by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

The Underwriting Agreement may be terminated by the Fund at any time, without the payment of any penalty, by a vote of a majority of the entire Board or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund on 60 days’ written notice to the Distributor, or by the Distributor at any time, without any payment of any penalty, on 60 days’ written notice to the Fund. The Underwriting Agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment.

## **Compliance Officer**

Beacon Compliance Consulting Inc. (“Beacon”), P.O. Box 11550, Overland Park, KS, provides a Chief Compliance Officer to the Trust as well as related compliance services pursuant to a consulting agreement between Beacon and the Trust. Beacon’s compliance services consist primarily of reviewing and assessing the policies and procedures of the Trust and its service providers pertaining to compliance with applicable federal securities laws, including Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act. For the compliance services rendered to the Fund, the Fund pays Beacon a reoccurring fund fee. The Fund also pays Beacon for any out-of-pocket expenses.

## **BROKERAGE ALLOCATION AND OTHER PRACTICES**

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

The Adviser is specifically authorized to select brokers or dealers who also provide brokerage and research services to the Fund and/or the other accounts over which the Adviser exercises investment discretion, and to pay such brokers or dealers a commission in excess of the commission another broker or dealer would charge if the Adviser determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided. The determination may be viewed in terms of a particular transaction or the Adviser’s overall responsibilities with respect to the Trust and to other accounts over which it exercises investment discretion. The Adviser may not give consideration to sales of shares of the Trust as a factor in the selection of brokers and dealers to execute portfolio transactions. However, the Adviser may place portfolio transactions with brokers or dealers that promote or sell the Fund’s shares so long as such placements are made pursuant to policies approved by the Board that are designed to ensure that the selection is based on the quality of the broker’s execution and not on its sales efforts.

Research services include supplemental research, securities and economic analyses, statistical services and information with respect to the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities, and analyses of reports concerning performance of accounts. The research services and other information furnished by brokers through whom the Fund effects securities transactions may also be used by the Adviser in servicing all of its accounts. Similarly, research and information provided by brokers or dealers serving other clients may be useful to the Adviser in connection with its services to the Fund. Although research services and other information are useful to the Fund and the Adviser, it is not possible to place a dollar value on the research and other information received. It is the opinion of the Board and the Adviser that the review and study of the research and other information will not reduce the overall cost to the Adviser of performing its duties to the Fund under the Agreement.

Over-the-counter transactions will be placed either directly with principal market makers or with broker-dealers, if the same or a better price, including commissions and executions, is available. Fixed income securities are normally purchased directly from the issuer, an underwriter or a market maker. Purchases include a concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter and the purchase price paid to a market maker may include the spread between the bid and asked prices.

When the Fund and another of the Adviser's clients seek to purchase or sell the same security at or about the same time, the Adviser may execute the transaction on a combined ("blocked") basis. Blocked transactions can produce better execution for the Fund because of the increased volume of the transaction. If the entire blocked order is not filled, the Fund may not be able to acquire as large a position in such security as it desires or it may have to pay a higher price for the security. Similarly, the Fund may not be able to obtain as large an execution of an order to sell or as high a price for any particular portfolio security if the other client desires to sell the same portfolio security at the same time. In the event that the entire blocked order is not filled, the purchase or sale will normally be allocated on a pro rata basis. The Adviser may adjust the allocation when, taking into account such factors as the size of the individual orders and transaction costs, the Adviser believes an adjustment is reasonable. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, the Fund paid \$96,621 in brokerage commissions. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the Fund paid \$73,842 in brokerage commissions. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund paid \$50,935 in brokerage commissions.

### **Portfolio Turnover**

The portfolio turnover rate for the Fund is calculated by dividing the lesser of the Fund's purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the year by the monthly average value of the portfolio securities. The calculation excludes all securities whose remaining maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less. The portfolio turnover rate may vary greatly from year to year as well as within a particular year, and may also be affected by cash requirements for redemptions of shares. High portfolio turnover rates will generally result in higher transaction costs, including brokerage commissions, to the Fund and may result in additional tax consequences to the Fund's Shareholders. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the Fund's turnover rate was 43.94%. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund's turnover rate was 43.39%.

### **DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

The Fund is required to include a schedule of portfolio holdings in its annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders, which is sent to shareholders within 60 days of the end of the second and fourth fiscal quarters and which is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on Form N-CSR within 70 days of the end of the second and fourth fiscal quarters. The Fund also is required to file a schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC on Form N-PORT within 60 days of the end of the first and third fiscal quarters. The Fund must provide a copy of the complete schedule of portfolio holdings as filed with the SEC to any shareholder of the Fund, upon request, free of charge. This policy is applied uniformly to all shareholders of the Fund without regard to the type of requesting shareholder (i.e., regardless of whether the shareholder is an individual or institutional investor). The Fund may enter into ongoing arrangements to release portfolio holdings to rating agencies, such as Morningstar or Lipper, in order for the agencies to assign a rating or ranking to the Fund. Portfolio holdings will be supplied to rating agencies no more frequently than quarterly and only after the Fund has filed a Form N-CSR or Form N-PORT with the SEC. The Fund currently does not have any ongoing arrangements to release portfolio holdings information to rating agencies.

Pursuant to policies and procedures adopted by the Board, the Fund has ongoing arrangements to release portfolio holdings information on a daily basis to the Adviser, Transfer Agent, Fund Accounting Agent and Custodian and on an as needed basis to other third parties providing services to the Fund. The Adviser, Transfer Agent, Fund Accounting Agent and Custodian receive portfolio holdings information daily in order to carry out the essential operations of the Fund. The Fund discloses portfolio holdings to its independent registered public accounting firm (Cohen & Company, Ltd.), legal counsel (Thompson Hine LLP), proxy voting services (if applicable), pricing services, printers, parties to merger and reorganization agreements and their agents, and prospective or newly hired investment advisers or sub-

advisers. The lag between the date of the information and the date on which the information is disclosed will vary based on the identity of the party to whom the information is disclosed. For instance, the information may be provided to auditors within days of the end of an annual period, while the information may be given to legal counsel at any time. The Fund makes publicly available on a monthly basis an updated list of the Fund's top ten holdings, sector weightings and other Fund characteristics. This information is made available on the Fund's website. The same information may also be included in printed marketing materials. The information is updated monthly and is usually available within 5 days of the month end. The Fund's Form N-CSR and Form N-PORT will contain the Fund's entire list of portfolio holdings as of the applicable quarter end.

The Fund, the Adviser, the Transfer Agent, the Fund Accounting Agent and the Custodian are prohibited from entering into any special or ad hoc arrangements with any person to make available information about the Fund's portfolio holdings without the specific approval of the Board. Any party wishing to release portfolio holdings information on an ad hoc or special basis must submit any proposed arrangement to the Board, which will review the arrangement to determine (i) whether the arrangement is in the best interests of the Fund's shareholders, (ii) the information will be kept confidential (based on the factors discussed below), (iii) whether sufficient protections are in place to guard against personal trading based on the information, and (iv) whether the disclosure presents a conflict of interest between the interests of Fund shareholders and those of the Adviser, or any affiliated person of the Fund or the Adviser. Additionally, the Adviser, and any affiliated persons of the Adviser, are prohibited from receiving compensation or other consideration, for themselves or on behalf of the Fund, as a result of disclosing the Fund's portfolio holdings.

Information disclosed to third parties, whether on an ongoing or ad hoc basis, is disclosed under conditions of confidentiality. "Conditions of confidentiality" include (i) confidentiality clauses in written agreements, (ii) confidentiality implied by the nature of the relationship (e.g., attorney-client relationship), (iii) confidentiality required by fiduciary or regulatory principles (e.g., custody relationships) or (iv) understandings or expectations between the parties that the information will be kept confidential. The agreements with the Adviser, Transfer Agent, Fund Accounting Agent and Custodian contain confidentiality clauses, which the Board and these parties have determined extend to the disclosure of nonpublic information about the Fund's portfolio holding and the duty not to trade on the non-public information. The Fund believes, based upon its size and history, that these are reasonable procedures to protect the confidentiality of the Fund's portfolio holdings and will provide sufficient protection against personal trading based on the information.

## **DETERMINATION OF SHARE PRICE**

The price (net asset value) of the shares of the Fund is determined at the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open for business. For a description of the methods used to determine the net asset value, see "How to Purchase Shares" in the prospectus.

Equity securities generally are valued by using market quotations, but may be valued on the basis of prices furnished by a pricing service when the Adviser believes such prices accurately reflect the fair market value of such securities. Securities that are traded on any stock exchange or on the NASDAQ over-the-counter market are generally valued by the pricing service at the last quoted sale price. Lacking a last sale price, an equity security is generally valued by the pricing service at its last bid price. When market quotations are not readily available, when the Adviser determines that the market quotation or the price provided by the pricing service does not accurately reflect the current market value, or when restricted or illiquid securities are being valued, such securities are valued as determined in good faith by the Adviser, in conformity with guidelines adopted by and subject to review of the Board.

Fixed income securities generally are valued by using market quotations, but may be valued on the basis of prices furnished by a pricing service when the Adviser believes such prices accurately reflect the fair market value of such securities. A pricing service utilizes electronic data processing techniques based on yield spreads relating to securities with similar characteristics to determine prices for normal institutional-size trading units of debt securities without regard to sale or bid prices. If the Adviser decides that a price provided by the pricing service does not accurately reflect the fair market value of the securities, when prices are not readily available from a pricing service, or when restricted or illiquid securities are being valued, securities are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Adviser, as the Valuation Designee, in conformity with guidelines adopted by and subject to review of the Board. Short-term investments in fixed income securities with maturities of less than 60 days when acquired, or which subsequently are within 60 days of maturity, are valued by using the amortized cost method of valuation, which the Board has determined will represent fair value.

### **REDEMPTION IN-KIND**

The Fund reserves the right to honor requests for redemption or repurchase orders made by a shareholder during any 90-day period by making payment in whole or in part in portfolio securities if the amount of such a request is large enough to affect operations (if the request is greater than the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the Fund's net assets at the beginning of the 90-day period) in order to protect the interests of remaining shareholders, or to accommodate a request by a particular shareholder. In the event that an in-kind distribution is made, a shareholder may incur additional expenses, such as the payment of brokerage commissions, on the sale or other disposition of the securities received from the Fund.

### **TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The Fund intends to continue to qualify under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code. Under provisions of Sub-Chapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended, the Fund, by paying out substantially all of its investment income and realized capital gains, intends to be relieved of federal income tax on the amounts distributed to shareholders. In order to qualify as a "regulated investment company" under Sub-Chapter M, at least 90% of the Fund's income must be derived from dividends, interest and gains from securities transactions, and no more than 50% of the Fund's total assets may be in two or more securities that exceed 5% of the total assets of the Fund at the time of each security's purchase. Not qualifying under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code would cause the Fund to be considered a personal holding company subject to normal corporate income taxes. The Fund then would be liable for federal income tax on the capital gains and net investment income distributed to its shareholders, resulting in a second level of taxation that would substantially reduce net after-tax returns from the Fund. Any subsequent dividend distribution of the Fund's earnings after taxes would still be taxable as received by shareholders.

*Tax Distribution:* The Fund's distributions (capital gains and dividend income), whether received by shareholders in cash or reinvested in additional shares of the Fund, may be subject to federal income tax payable by shareholders. All income realized by the Fund including short-term capital gains, will be taxable to the shareholder as ordinary income. Dividends from net income will be made annually or more frequently at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. Dividends received shortly after purchase of Fund shares by an investor will have the effect of reducing the per share net asset value of his/her shares by the amount of such dividends or distributions. You should consult a tax adviser regarding the effect of federal, state, local, and foreign taxes on an investment in the Fund.

*Federal Withholding:* The Fund is required by federal law to withhold 31% of reportable payments (which may include dividends, capital gains, distributions and redemptions) paid to shareholders who have not complied with IRS regulations. In order to avoid this withholding requirement,

you must certify on a W-9 tax form supplied by the Fund that your Social Security or Taxpayer Identification Number provided is correct and that you are not currently subject to back-up withholding, or that you are exempt from back-up withholding.

*Medicare Tax:* An additional 3.8% Medicare tax generally will be imposed on certain net investment income (including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from the Fund and net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of Fund shares) of U.S. individuals, estates and trusts to the extent that any such person's "modified adjusted gross income" (in the case of an individual) or "adjusted gross income" (in the case of an estate or trust) exceeds certain threshold amounts. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors about the application of federal, state, local and foreign tax law in light of their particular situation. Should additional series, or funds, be created by the Trustees, the Fund would be treated as a separate tax entity for federal tax purposes.

*Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act:* Payments to a shareholder that is either a foreign financial institution ("FFI") or a non-financial foreign entity ("NFFE") within the meaning of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") may be subject to a generally nonrefundable 30% withholding tax on: (a) income dividends paid by the Fund and (b) certain capital gain distributions and the proceeds arising from the sale of Fund shares paid by the Fund. FATCA withholding tax generally can be avoided: (a) by an FFI, subject to any applicable intergovernmental agreement or other exemption, if it enters into a valid agreement with the IRS to, among other requirements, report required information about certain direct and indirect ownership of foreign financial accounts held by U.S. persons with the FFI and (b) by an NFFE, if it: (i) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (ii) if it does have such owners, reports information relating to them. The Fund may disclose the information that it receives from its shareholders to the IRS, non-U.S. taxing authorities or other parties as necessary to comply with FATCA. Withholding also may be required if a foreign entity that is a shareholder of the Fund fails to provide the Fund with appropriate certifications or other documentation concerning its status under FATCA.

*Tax Loss Carryforward:* Under current tax law, net capital losses realized after October 31 and net ordinary losses incurred after December 31 may be deferred and treated as occurring on the first day of the following fiscal year. The Fund's carryforward losses, post-October losses and post-December losses are determined only at the end of each fiscal year. Under the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010 (the "Act"), net capital losses recognized after December 31, 2010, may be carried forward indefinitely, and their character is retained as short-term and/or long-term. Although the Act provides several benefits, including the unlimited carryover of future capital losses, there may be a greater likelihood that all or a portion of the Fund's pre-enactment capital loss carryovers may expire without being utilized due to the fact that post-enactment capital losses get utilized before pre-enactment capital loss carryovers.

The undistributed ordinary income and capital gains (losses) shown above differ from corresponding accumulated net investment income and accumulated net realized gain (loss) figures reported in the statement of assets and liabilities due to post-October capital loss deferrals on the Fund. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, the Fund paid an ordinary distribution of \$403,664, and a long-term capital gain distribution of \$3,031,179. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the Fund utilized \$8,101,368 of its capital loss carryforward. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund utilized \$10,384,569 of its capital loss carryforward.

## **PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Board has delegated responsibilities for decisions regarding proxy voting for securities held by the Fund to the Adviser. A copy of the proxy voting policies of the Adviser are attached hereto as

Appendix A. MORE INFORMATION. The actual voting records relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll free, 1-800-869-1679. The information also is available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, a copy of the Trust's proxy voting policies and procedures are also available by calling 1-800-869-1679 and will be sent within three business days of receipt of a request.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements and report of the independent registered public accounting firm required to be included in this SAI are hereby incorporated by reference to the annual report for the Fund for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. You can obtain a copy of the Annual Report without charge by calling the Fund at 1-800-869-1679.

## **Appendix A**

### **Adviser Proxy Voting Policy**

#### **Background**

Proxy voting is an important right of shareholders and reasonable care and diligence must be undertaken to ensure that such rights are properly and timely exercised.

Investment advisers registered with the SEC, and which exercise voting authority with respect to client securities, are required by Rule 206(4)-6 of the Advisers Act to (a) adopt and implement written policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that client securities are voted in the best interests of clients, which must include how an adviser addresses material conflicts that may arise between an adviser's interests and those of its clients; (b) to disclose to clients how they may obtain information from the adviser with respect to the voting of proxies for their securities; (c) to describe to clients a summary of its proxy voting policies and procedures and, upon request, furnish a copy to its clients; and (d) maintain certain records relating to the adviser's proxy voting activities when the adviser does have proxy voting authority.

#### **Policy**

Mercator Investment Management, LLC (the "Adviser"), as a matter of policy and as a fiduciary to our clients, has responsibility for voting proxies for portfolio securities consistent with the best economic interests of the clients. Our Firm maintains written policies and procedures as to the handling, research, voting and reporting of proxy voting and makes appropriate disclosures about our Firm's proxy policies and practices.

Our general policy is to refrain from voting proxies because we believe the time cost of voting a proxy typically outweighs the benefits to our clients in aggregate. From time-to-time we may elect to vote proxies when we believe the benefit outweighs these costs.

The Adviser's policy when managing accounts for investment companies is to determine how to vote proxies based on our reasonable judgment of that vote most likely to produce favorable financial results for the fund's shareholders. Proxy votes generally will be cast in favor of proposals that maintain or strengthen the shared interests of shareholders and management, increase shareholder value, maintain or increase shareholder influence over the issuer's board of directors and management, and maintain or increase the rights of shareholders; proxy votes generally will be cast against proposals having the opposite effect. However, the Adviser will consider both sides of each proxy issue.

Our policy and practice includes the responsibility to receive and disclose any potential conflicts of interest and maintaining relevant and required records.

#### **Responsibility**

The Designated Supervisor is responsible for implementing and monitoring the Adviser's proxy voting policy, practices, disclosures and record keeping, including outlining our voting guidelines in our procedures.

## **Procedure**

The Adviser has adopted procedures to implement the Firm's policy and reviews to monitor and ensure the Firm's policy is observed, implemented properly and amended or updated, as appropriate, which include the following:

### Procedures for Investment Company Clients

#### *Voting Procedures*

Once proxy material has been received, it is then promptly reviewed by the Portfolio Manager. The Portfolio Manager is to evaluate the issues presented. The Portfolio Manager generally vote in a manner consistent with the following Voting Guidelines.

#### Voting Guidelines

A. From time to time, it is possible that the portfolio manager will decide (i) to vote shares held in client accounts he or she manages differently from the vote of another Mercator portfolio manager whose client accounts hold the same security or (ii) to abstain from voting on behalf of client accounts he or she manages when another Mercator portfolio manager is casting votes on behalf of other Mercator client accounts.

The CCO or CIO reviews all proxy votes collected from the Adviser's portfolio manager prior to such votes being cast. The CCO maintains a log of all votes. The CCO, or their designee, performs a quarterly review of all votes cast by the Adviser to confirm that any conflicting votes were properly handled.

B. There are many circumstances that might cause the Adviser to vote against an issuer's board of directors or "management" proposal. These would include, among others, excessive compensation, unusual management stock options, preferential voting and poison pills. The portfolio managers decide these issues on a case-by-case basis.

C. The portfolio manager may, determine to take no action on a proxy or a specific proxy item and not submit a vote when he or she concludes that the potential benefit of voting is outweighed by the cost, when it is not in the client account's best interest to vote.

#### *Conflicts of Interest*

The Adviser will identify any conflicts that exist between the interests of the adviser and the client by reviewing the relationship of the Adviser with the issuer of each security to determine if the Adviser or any of its Supervised Persons has any financial, business or personal relationship with the issuer.

If a material conflict of interest exists, the CCO will determine whether it is appropriate to disclose the conflict to the affected clients, to give the clients an opportunity to vote the proxies themselves, or to address the voting issue through other objective means such as voting in a manner consistent with a predetermined voting policy or receiving an independent third party voting recommendation. The Adviser will maintain a record of the voting resolution of any conflict of interest.

#### *Recordkeeping*

The Designated Supervisor shall retain the following proxy records in accordance with the SEC's five-year retention requirement.

- These policies and procedures and any amendments;
- A record of each vote that the Adviser casts;
- Any document the Adviser created that was material to making a decision how to vote proxies, or that memorializes that decision including periodic reports to CCO or proxy committee, if applicable.
- A copy of each written request from a client for information on how the Adviser voted such client's proxies, and a copy of any written response.