

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

May 1, 2018

This Statement of Additional Information (SAI), which is not a prospectus, supplements and should be read in conjunction with the current prospectus of each fund listed below, as such prospectuses may be revised from time to time. To obtain a copy of a fund's prospectus, please call your financial adviser, or write to the fund at 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11556-0144, visit www.dreyfus.com, or call 1-800-DREYFUS (inside the U.S. only).

Fund shares are currently offered only to variable annuity and variable life insurance separate accounts established by Participating Insurance Companies to fund the Policies. The Policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the separate accounts. Not all funds or share classes may be available through a particular Policy. Fund shares also may be, but are not currently, offered to certain qualified pension and retirement plans and other accounts permitting accumulation of assets on a tax-deferred basis (collectively, "Eligible Plans"). For information about Eligible Plan investing, please write or call the address or phone number above. Individuals may not purchase shares of any fund directly from the fund .

The most recent annual report and semi-annual report to shareholders for each fund are separate documents supplied with this SAI, and the financial statements, accompanying notes and report of the independent registered public accounting firm appearing in the annual report are incorporated by reference into this SAI. All classes of a fund have the same fiscal year end and prospectus date, except if otherwise indicated. Capitalized but undefined terms used in this SAI are defined in the Glossary at the end of this SAI.

Fund	Abbreviation	Share Classes	Fiscal Year End	Prospectus Date
Dreyfus Investment Portfolios	DIP			
<i>Core Value Portfolio</i>	CVP	Initial Shares	December 31 st	May 1 st
		Service Shares		
<i>MidCap Stock Portfolio</i>	MCSP	Initial Shares	December 31 st	May 1 st
		Service Shares		
<i>Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio</i>	SCSIP	Service Shares	December 31 st	May 1 st
<i>Technology Growth Portfolio</i>	TGP	Initial Shares	December 31 st	May 1 st
		Service Shares		
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.	DSUSEP	Initial Shares	December 31 st	May 1 st
		Service Shares		

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BOARD INFORMATION

Information About Each Board Member's Experience, Qualifications, Attributes or Skills

Board members for the funds, together with information as to their positions with the funds, principal occupations and other board memberships during the past five years, are shown below. The address of each board member is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

Independent Board Members

Name Year of Birth Position¹	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Other Public Company Board Memberships During Past 5 Years
Joseph S. DiMartino 1943 Chairman of the Board	Corporate Director and Trustee (1995 – present)	CBIZ (formerly, Century Business Services, Inc.), a provider of outsourcing functions for small and medium size companies, <i>Director</i> (1997 – present)
Francine J. Bovich 1951 Board Member	Trustee, The Bradley Trusts, private trust funds (2011 – present)	Annaly Capital Management, Inc., a real estate investment trust, <i>Director</i> (2014 – present)
Isabel P. Dunst 1947 Board Member	Senior Counsel to the law firm of Hogan Lovells LLP (2015-present; previously, Partner, 1990-2014)	N/A
Nathan Leventhal 1943 Board Member	President Emeritus of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (2001 – present) Chairman of the Avery Fisher Artist Program (1997 – 2014)	Movado Group, Inc., <i>Director</i> (2003 – present)
Robin A. Melvin 1963 Board Member	Co-Chair, Illinois Mentoring Partnership, non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the quantity and quality of mentoring services in Illinois (2014 – present; board member since 2013)	N/A
Roslyn M. Watson 1949 Board Member	Principal, Watson Ventures, Inc., a real estate investment company (1993 – present)	N/A

Name Year of Birth Position¹	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Other Public Company Board Memberships During Past 5 Years
Benaree Pratt Wiley 1946 Board Member	Principal, The Wiley Group, a firm specializing in strategy and business development (2005 – present)	CBIZ (formerly, Century Business Services, Inc.), a provider of outsourcing functions for small and medium size companies, <i>Director</i> (2008 – present)

¹ Each of the Independent Board Members serves on the boards' audit, nominating, compensation and litigation committees, except that Mr. DiMartino does not serve on the compensation committee.

Interested Board Members

Name Year of Birth Position	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Other Public Company Board Memberships During Past 5 Years
J. Charles Cardona ¹ 1955 Board Member	Retired. President and a Director of the Manager (2008 – 2016) Chairman of the Distributor (2013 – 2016; Executive Vice President, 1997 – 2013)	N/A
Gordon J. Davis ² 1941 Board Member	Partner in the law firm of Venable LLP (2012 – present)	Consolidated Edison, Inc., a utility company, <i>Director</i> (1997 – 2014) The Phoenix Companies, Inc., a life insurance company, <i>Director</i> (2000 – 2014)

¹ Mr. Cardona is deemed to be an Interested Board Member of all of the funds because of his previous positions with the Manager and its affiliates. Mr. Cardona does not serve on the boards' audit, nominating, compensation or litigation committees.

² Mr. Davis is deemed to be an Interested Board Member of DSUSEP as a result of his affiliation with Venable LLP, which provides legal services for DSUSEP. Mr. Davis serves on the audit, nominating, compensation and litigation committees for each fund except DSUSEP.

The following table shows the year each board member joined each fund's board.

	<i>Independent Board Members</i>						<i>Interested Board Members</i>		
Fund	Joseph S. DiMartino	Francine J. Bovich	Isabel P. Dunst	Nathan Leventhal	Robin A. Melvin	Roslyn M. Watson	Benaree Pratt Wiley	J. Charles Cardona	Gordon J. Davis
DIP	1998	2015	2014	2009	2014	2014	2009	2014	2012
DSUSEP	1995	2015	2014	2009	2014	2014	2009	2014	2012

Each board member, except for Ms. Bovich and Mr. Cardona, has been a Dreyfus Family of Funds board member for over twenty years. Ms. Bovich has been in the asset management business for 40 years, and Mr. Cardona was an employee of Dreyfus for over 30 years prior to his retirement in 2016. Additional information about each board member follows (supplementing the information provided in the table above) that describes some of the specific

experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that each board member possesses which the boards believe has prepared them to be effective board members. The boards believe that the significance of each board member's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills is an individual matter (meaning that experience that is important for one board member may not have the same value for another) and that these factors are best evaluated at the board level, with no single board member, or particular factor, being indicative of board effectiveness. However, the boards believe that board members need to have the ability to critically review, evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, and to interact effectively with fund management, service providers and counsel, in order to exercise effective business judgment in the performance of their duties; each board believes that its members satisfy this standard. Experience relevant to having this ability may be achieved through a board member's educational background; business, professional training or practice (*e.g.*, medicine, accounting or law), public service or academic positions; experience from service as a board member (including the boards for the funds) or as an executive of investment funds, public companies or significant private or not-for-profit entities or other organizations; and/or other life experiences. The charter for the boards' nominating committees contains certain other factors considered by the committees in identifying and evaluating potential board member nominees. To assist them in evaluating matters under federal and state law, the board members are counseled by their independent legal counsel, who participates in board meetings and interacts with the Manager, and also may benefit from information provided by the Manager's counsel; counsel to the funds and to the boards have significant experience advising funds and fund board members. The boards and their committees have the ability to engage other experts as appropriate. The boards evaluate their performance on an annual basis.

Independent Board Members

- Joseph S. DiMartino – Mr. DiMartino has been the Chairman of the Board of the funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for over 20 years. From 1971 through 1994, Mr. DiMartino served in various roles as an employee of Dreyfus (prior to its acquisition by a predecessor of BNY Mellon in August 1994 and related management changes), including portfolio manager, President, Chief Operating Officer and a director. He ceased being an employee or director of Dreyfus by the end of 1994. From July 1995 to November 1997, Mr. DiMartino served as Chairman of the Board of The Noel Group, a public buyout firm; in that capacity, he helped manage, acquire, take public and liquidate a number of operating companies. From 1986 to 2010, Mr. DiMartino served as a Director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.
- Francine J. Bovich – Ms. Bovich currently also serves as a Trustee for The Bradley Trusts, private trust funds, and as a Director of Annaly Capital Management, Inc. She is an Emeritus Trustee of Connecticut College, where she served as Trustee from 1986 to 1997, and currently serves as Chair of the Investment Sub-Committee for Connecticut College's endowment fund. From April 1993 until September 2010, Ms. Bovich was a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, holding various positions including Co-Head of Global Tactical Asset Allocation Group, Operations Officer, and Head of the U.S. Institutional Equity Group. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley Investment Management, Ms. Bovich was Principal, Executive Vice President and Senior Portfolio Manager at Westwood Management Corporation, where she worked from 1986 until 1993. From 1980 to 1986, she worked at CitiCorp Investment Management, Inc. as Managing Director and Senior Portfolio Manager. From 1973 to 1980, Ms. Bovich was an Assistant Vice President and Equity Portfolio Manager at Bankers Trust Company. From 1991 to 2005, she served as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Investments Committee, advising a global portfolio of approximately \$30 billion.
- Isabel P. Dunst – Ms. Dunst has been practicing law for over 40 years. Half of her career was spent at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she had major legal and management responsibilities for the operation of the General Counsel's Office of the Agency, including serving as the Deputy General Counsel, the senior career legal position. Ms. Dunst currently is Senior Counsel to Hogan Lovells LLP, a Washington based international law firm, which she joined in 1990. Ms. Dunst was a partner of the firm for approximately 25 years. Ms. Dunst currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Union for Reform Judaism and on the Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion.
- Nathan Leventhal – Mr. Leventhal was previously a Commissioner of the New York City Planning Commission. Previously, Mr. Leventhal served in a number of senior positions in New York City Government, including Fiscal Director of the Human Resources Administration and Chief of Staff to Mayor John V. Lindsay, Deputy Mayor to Mayor Ed Koch, and Transition Chairman for both Mayors David Dinkins and Michael

Bloomberg. Mr. Leventhal is a former partner in the law firm Poletti Freidin Prashker Feldman & Gartner. In the not-for-profit sector, Mr. Leventhal served as President of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and Chairman of the Avery Fisher Artist Program; he is now President Emeritus of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

- Robin A. Melvin – Since 2014, Ms. Melvin has served as a Co-Chair of Illinois Mentoring Partnership, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the quantity and quality of mentoring services in Illinois, and has served as a board member since 2013. Ms. Melvin served as Director of the Boisi Family Foundation, a private family foundation that supports organizations serving the needs of youth from disadvantaged circumstances, from 1995 to 2012. In that role she also managed the Boisi Family Office, providing the primary interface with all investment managers, legal advisors and other service providers to the family. She has also served in various roles with MENTOR, a national non-profit youth mentoring advocacy organization, including Executive Director of the New York City affiliate, Vice President of the national affiliate network, Vice President of Development, and, immediately prior to her departure, Senior Vice President in charge of strategy. Prior to that, Ms. Melvin was an investment banker with Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
- Roslyn M. Watson – Ms. Watson has been a business entrepreneur in commercial and residential real estate for over 15 years. Ms. Watson currently serves as President and Founder of Watson Ventures, Inc. a real estate development investment firm, and her current board memberships include American Express Bank, FSB, The Hyams Foundation, Inc. (emeritus), Pathfinder International and Simmons College. Previously, she held various positions in the public and private sectors, including General Manager for the Massachusetts Port Authority. She has received numerous awards, including the Woman of Achievement award from the Boston Big Sister Association and the Working Woman of the Year Award from Working Woman Magazine.
- Benaree Pratt Wiley – Ms. Wiley is a Principal of The Wiley Group, a firm specializing in personnel strategy, talent management and leadership development primarily for global insurance and consulting firms. Prior to that, Ms. Wiley served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Partnership, Inc., a talent management organization for multicultural professionals in the greater Boston region. Ms. Wiley currently serves on the board of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. She has also served on the boards of several public companies and charitable organizations, including serving as chair of the advisory board of PepsiCo African-American.

Interested Board Members

- J. Charles Cardona – Mr. Cardona was the President and a Director of Dreyfus and the Chief Executive Officer of BNY Mellon Cash Investment Strategies, a division of Dreyfus, until he retired in 2016. From 2013 to 2016, Mr. Cardona served as Chairman of the Distributor, and he previously served as an Executive Vice President, from 1997 to 2013. He also served as President of the Institutional Services Division of the Distributor. He joined the Institutional Services Division in 1985 with management responsibility for all Institutional Operations and Client Service units. Prior to joining the Institutional Services Division, he served as Assistant Director of Sales and Services in Dreyfus Retail Division of the Distributor, which he joined in 1981.
- Gordon J. Davis – Mr. Davis is a partner in the law firm of Venable LLP where his practice focuses on complex real estate, land use development and related environmental matters; state and municipal authorities and financings; and cultural and not-for-profit organizations. Prior to joining the firm in 2012, Mr. Davis served as a partner in the law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP from 1994 until 2012. Mr. Davis also served as a Commissioner and member of the New York City Planning Commission, and as Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of New York. Mr. Davis was a co-founder of the Central Park Conservancy and the founding Chairman of Jazz at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. Mr. Davis also served as President of Lincoln Center. Mr. Davis also served on the board of Dreyfus (prior to its acquisition by a predecessor of BNY Mellon in August 1994 and related management changes). He also served as a Director of Consolidated Edison, Inc., a utility company, and The Phoenix Companies, Inc., a life insurance company.

Committee Meetings

The boards' audit, nominating, compensation, litigation and pricing committees met during the funds' last fiscal years as indicated below:

Fund	Audit	Nominating	Compensation	Litigation	Pricing
DIP	4	0	1	0	0
DSUSEP	4	0	1	0	0

Board Members' and Officers' Fund Share Ownership

The table below indicates the dollar range of each board member's ownership of fund shares and shares of other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, in each case as of December 31, 2017.

Fund	<i>Independent Board Members</i>							<i>Interested Board Members</i>	
	Joseph S. DiMartino	Francine J. Bovich	Isabel P. Dunst	Nathan Leventhal	Robin A. Melvin	Roslyn M. Watson	Benaree Pratt Wiley	J. Charles Cardona	Gordon J. Davis
DIP	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
DSUSEP	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Aggregate holdings of funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds	Over \$100,000	None	None	None	Over \$100,000	\$50,001-\$100,000	\$50,001-\$100,000	\$10,001-\$50,000	None

Board members and officers, as a group, owned less than 1% of each class of each fund's voting securities outstanding on April 3, 2018.

As of December 31, 2017, none of the board members or their immediate family members owned securities of the Manager, any Sub-Advisers, the Distributor or any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Manager, any Sub-Advisers or the Distributor.

Board Members' Compensation

Annual retainer fees and meeting attendance fees are allocated among the funds on the basis of net assets, with the Chairman of the Boards, Joseph S. DiMartino, receiving an additional 25% of such compensation. The funds reimburse board members for their expenses. The funds do not have a bonus, pension, profit-sharing or retirement plan. Each emeritus board member is entitled to receive an annual retainer of one-half the amount paid as a retainer at the time the board member became emeritus and a per meeting attended fee of one-half the amount paid to board members.

The aggregate amount of fees received from the funds by each current board member for the funds' last fiscal years, and by all funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which such person was a board member during 2017, were as follows:†

<i>Independent Board Members</i>							
Fund	Joseph S. DiMartino*	Francine J. Bovich	Isabel P. Dunst	Nathan Leventhal	Robin A. Melvin	Roslyn M. Watson	Benaree Pratt Wiley
DIP	\$39,919	\$32,410	\$30,625	\$32,423	\$32,395	\$32,426	\$32,414
DSUSEP	\$8,398	\$6,812	\$6,293	\$6,815	\$6,809	\$6,816	\$6,813
Total compensation from the funds and fund complex (**)	\$1,224,375 (139)	\$611,500 (78)	\$235,000 (35)	\$414,000 (49)	\$802,000 (110)	\$435,500 (64)	\$603,500 (89)

Fund	<i>Interested Board Members</i>		<i>Emeritus Board Members</i>			
	J. Charles Cardona	Gordon J. Davis	Clifford L. Alexander	Whitney I. Gerard	George L. Perry	Philip Toia¹
DIP	\$31,991	\$33,171	\$7,986	\$16,644	\$7,986	\$5,012
DSUSEP	\$6,731	\$6,727	\$1,723	\$3,498	\$1,723	\$1,106
Total compensation from the funds and fund complex (**)	\$247,000 (35)	\$422,000 (60)	\$168,000 (49)	\$110,500 (35)	\$88,000 (35)	\$160,500 (71)

† Amounts shown do not include expenses reimbursed to board members for attending board meetings.

* Amounts shown do not include the costs of office space and related parking, office supplies, secretarial services and health benefits for the Chairman of the Boards and health benefits for the Chairman's spouse, which also are paid by the funds (also allocated based on net assets). The amount paid by each fund in 2017 ranged from \$30 to \$428.

** Represents the number of separate portfolios comprising the investment companies in the fund complex, including the funds, for which the board member served in 2017.

¹ Mr. Toia receives compensation from the funds for attending board meetings in an advisory role although not a board member or emeritus board member of the funds.

OFFICERS

Name Year of Birth Position Since	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Investment Companies (Portfolios) for which serves as an Officer (all managed by Dreyfus)
Bradley J. Skapyak 1958 President 2010	Chief Operating Officer and a director of Dreyfus; Chairman of the Transfer Agent; Chief Executive Officer of the Distributor since August 2016	62 (125)
James Windels 1958 Treasurer 2001	Director – Mutual Fund Accounting of Dreyfus	63 (150)

Name Year of Birth Position Since	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Investment Companies (Portfolios) for which serves as an Officer (all managed by Dreyfus)
Bennett A. MacDougall 1971 Chief Legal Officer 2015	Chief Legal Officer of Dreyfus and Associate General Counsel and Managing Director of BNY Mellon since June 2015; from June 2005 to June 2015, Director and Associate General Counsel of Deutsche Bank – Asset & Wealth Management Division and Chief Legal Officer of Deutsche Investment Management Americas Inc.	63 (150)
James Bitetto ¹ 1966 Vice President and Secretary 2005	Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon and Secretary of Dreyfus	63 (150)
Joseph M. Chioffi 1961 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2005	Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon	63 (150)
Sonalee Cross 1988 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2016	Counsel and Vice President of BNY Mellon since October 2016; Associate at Proskauer Rose LLP from April 2016 to September 2016; Attorney at EnTrust Capital from August 2015 to February 2016; Associate at Sidley Austin LLP from September 2013 to August 2015	63 (150)
Maureen E. Kane 1962 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2015	Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon since July 2014; General Counsel from October 2004 until July 2014; CCO of Century Capital Management from May 2009 until July 2014	63 (150)
Sarah S. Kelleher 1975 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2014	Senior Counsel of BNY Mellon since March 2013; from August 2005 to March 2013, Associate General Counsel, Third Avenue Management	63 (150)
Jeff S. Prusnofsky 1965 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2005	Senior Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon	63 (150)

Name Year of Birth Position Since	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Investment Companies (Portfolios) for which serves as an Officer (all managed by Dreyfus)
Natalya Zelensky 1985 Vice President and Assistant Secretary 2017	Counsel and Vice President of BNY Mellon since May 2016; Attorney at Wildermuth Endowment Strategy Fund/Wildermuth Advisory, LLC from November 2015 until May 2016; Assistant General Counsel at RCS Advisory Services from July 2014 until November 2015; Associate at Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan from January 2013 until January 2014; Associate at K&L Gates from October 2011 until January 2013	63 (150)
Richard S. Cassaro 1959 Assistant Treasurer 2008	Senior Accounting Manager – Money Market and Municipal Bond Funds of Dreyfus	63 (150)
Gavin C. Reilly 1968 Assistant Treasurer 2005	Tax Manager of the Investment Accounting and Support Department of Dreyfus	63 (150)
Robert S. Robol 1964 Assistant Treasurer 2002	Senior Accounting Manager – Dreyfus Financial Reporting	63 (150)
Robert Salviolo 1967 Assistant Treasurer 2007	Senior Accounting Manager – Equity Funds of Dreyfus	63 (150)
Robert Svagna 1967 Assistant Treasurer 2002	Senior Accounting Manager – Fixed Income and Equity Funds of Dreyfus	63 (150)
Joseph W. Connolly 1957 Chief Compliance Officer 2004	CCO of Dreyfus, the Dreyfus Family of Funds and BNY Mellon Funds Trust	63 (150)
Caridad M. Carosella 1968 Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer 2016	Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the Dreyfus Family of Funds and BNY Mellon Funds Trust since January 2016; from May 2015 to December 2015, Interim Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the Dreyfus Family of Funds and BNY Mellon Funds Trust and the Distributor; from January 2012 to May 2015, AML Surveillance Officer of the Distributor	57 (144)

¹ Vice President and Secretary since 2018; previously, Vice President and Assistant Secretary.

The address of each officer is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

CERTAIN PORTFOLIO MANAGER INFORMATION
(not applicable to money market funds)

The following table lists the funds' portfolio managers, if any, who are in addition to the primary portfolio managers listed in the prospectus. See the prospectus for a list of, and certain other information regarding, the primary portfolio manager(s) for your fund.

Fund	Additional Portfolio Managers
CVP	N/A
MCSP	N/A
SCSIP	Warren E. Carlson, H. Lara Dalisay, Rebecca Gao, David France, Danny Lai, Todd Rose, Marlene Walker Smith and Josephine Tong
TGP	Matthew Griffin and Erik Swords
DSUSEP	N/A

The following table lists the number and types of accounts (including the funds) advised by each fund's primary portfolio manager(s) and assets under management in those accounts as of the end of the last fiscal year of the funds they manage.

Primary Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Companies	Total Assets Managed	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Total Assets Managed	Other Accounts	Total Assets Managed
C. Wesley Boggs	18	\$4.1B	14	\$582M	42	\$4.2B
Richard A. Brown	128	\$111.4B	108	\$91.2B	107	\$106.1B
William Cazalet	18	\$4.1B	14	\$582M	42	\$4.2B
Terry Coles	2	\$549M	3	\$485M	4	\$1.8B
Thomas Durante	128	\$111.4B	108	\$91.2B	107	\$106.1B
Brian C. Ferguson	14	\$5.8B	3	\$376M	36	\$4.4B
John Gilmore	2	\$549M	None	N/A	None	N/A
Peter D. Goslin	18	\$4.1B	14	\$582M	42	\$4.2B
Barry K. Mills	15	\$7.0B	1	\$182M	23	\$1.6B
Jeff Munroe	2	\$1.3B	7	\$4.1B	15	\$6.2B
Karen Q. Wong	128	\$111.4B	108	\$91.2B	107	\$106.1B
Syed A. Zamil	18	\$4.1B	14	\$582M	42	\$4.2B

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

Primary Portfolio Manager	Type of Account	Number of Accounts Subject to Performance Fees	Total Assets of Accounts
C. Wesley Boggs	Other Accounts	7	\$709.9M
Richard A. Brown	None	N/A	N/A
William Cazalet	Other Accounts	7	\$709.9M
Terry Coles	Other Accounts	N/A	N/A
Thomas Durante	None	N/A	N/A
Brian C. Ferguson	Other Accounts	2	\$1.5B
John Gilmore	None	N/A	N/A
Peter D. Goslin	Other Accounts	7	\$709.9M
Barry K. Mills	Other Accounts	1	\$55.0M
Jeff Munroe	Other Accounts	7	\$3.7B
Karen Q. Wong	None	N/A	N/A
Syed A. Zamil	Other Accounts	7	\$709.9M

The following table lists the dollar range of fund shares beneficially owned by the primary portfolio manager(s) as of the end of the fund's last fiscal year.

Primary Portfolio Manager	Fund	Dollar Range of Fund Shares Beneficially Owned
C. Wesley Boggs	MCSP	None
Richard A. Brown	SCSIP	None
William Cazalet	MCSP	None
Terry Coles	DSUSEP	None
Thomas Durante	SCSIP	None
Brian C. Ferguson	CVP	None
John Gilmore	DSUSEP	None
Peter D. Goslin	MCSP	None
Barry K. Mills	TGP	None
Jeff Munroe	DSUSEP	None
Karen Q. Wong	SCSIP	None
Syed A. Zamil	MCSP	None

MANAGER'S AND SUB-ADVISERS' COMPENSATION; COMPLIANCE SERVICES

Manager's and Sub-Advisers' Compensation

For each fund's last three fiscal years, the management fees payable by the fund, the reduction, if any, in the amount of the fee paid due to fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements by the Manager and the net fees paid by the fund were as follows:

Fund	2017 Fiscal Year			2016 Fiscal Year			2015 Fiscal Year		
	Fee payable	Reduction in fee	Net fee paid	Fee payable	Reduction in fee	Net fee paid	Fee payable	Reduction in fee	Net fee paid
CVP	\$198,674	\$0	\$198,674	\$219,699	\$0	\$219,699	\$245,063	\$0	\$245,063
MCSP	\$1,388,334	\$0	\$1,388,334	\$1,286,415	\$0	\$1,286,415	\$1,482,767	\$0	\$1,482,767
SCSIP	\$1,876,630	\$155,355	\$1,721,275	\$1,303,057	\$102,777	\$1,200,280	\$1,138,686	\$85,855	\$1,052,831
TGP	\$3,080,520	\$0	\$3,080,520	\$2,324,004	\$0	\$2,324,004	\$2,195,558	\$0	\$2,195,558
DSUSEP	\$1,544,822	\$65,850	\$1,478,972	\$1,714,315	\$0	\$1,714,315	\$1,974,147	\$0	\$1,974,147

The contractual fee rates paid by the Manager to a fund's Sub-Adviser or Index Manager, if any, and the effective rate paid in the last fiscal year, are as follows (expressed as an annual rate as a percentage of the fund's average daily net assets):

Fund	Sub-Adviser or Index Manager	Fee Rate	Effective Fee Rate for the Last Fiscal Year
DSUSEP	Newton	0.29%	0.29%

For a fund's last fiscal year, the fees payable by the Manager (for DSUSEP, payable by the fund) to a fund's Sub-Adviser or Index Manager, if any, the reduction, if any, in the amount of the fee paid due to fee waivers by the Sub-Adviser or Index Manager and the net fees paid were as follows:

Fund	2017 Fiscal Year			2016 Fiscal Year			2015 Fiscal Year		
	Fee payable	Reduction in fee	Net fee paid	Fee payable	Reduction in fee	Net fee paid	Fee payable	Reduction in fee	Net fee paid
DSUSEP	\$741,515	\$165,850	\$675,665	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Compliance Services

The funds' compliance program is developed, implemented and maintained by the funds' CCO and his staff. The funds bear a portion of the CCO's compensation (which is approved by the boards), as well as the compensation of the CCO's staff and the expenses of the CCO and his staff (including administrative expenses). The CCO's staff works exclusively on the compliance program and related matters for the funds and other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds and BNY Mellon Funds Trust, and compensation and expenses of the CCO and his staff generally are allocated among such funds based on an equal amount per fund with incremental amounts allocated to funds with more service providers (including Sub-Advisers). Such compensation and expenses for the funds' last fiscal years were as follows:

Fund	CCO and Staff Compensation and Expenses*
CVP	\$11,202
MCSP	\$11,202
SCSIP*	\$11,202
TGP	\$11,202
DSUSEP	\$11,202

* For unitary fee funds, such compensation and expenses are borne by the Manager.

SECURITIES LENDING ACTIVITIES

The dollar amounts of income and fees and compensation paid to all service providers (including fees paid to Dreyfus for cash collateral management and fees paid to BNY Mellon as securities lending agent), related to certain funds' securities lending activities during the most recent fiscal year were as follows:

Fund	CVP	MCSP	SCSIP	TGP	DSUSEP
Gross income from securities lending activities (including income from cash collateral reinvestment)	\$3,357	\$122,271	\$795,577	\$197,802	\$8,959
<i>Fees and/or compensation for securities lending activities and related services</i>					
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$226	\$7,725	\$112,092	\$29,795	\$1,058
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service (including fees deducted from a pooled cash collateral reinvestment vehicle) that are not included in the revenue split	\$312	\$11,244	\$47,341	\$15,653	\$852
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indemnification fees not included in revenue split	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rebate (paid to borrower)	\$1,619	\$64,749	\$0	\$0	\$2,813
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	\$538	\$18,969	\$159,433	\$45,448	\$1,910
Net income from securities lending activities	\$1,203	\$38,540	\$635,688	\$152,747	\$4,236

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

DISTRIBUTOR'S COMPENSATION

The amounts paid by each fund to the Distributor under the fund's Plan or Plans, as applicable, for services described in Part II and Part III of this SAI under "Shareholder Services Plan" and "Distribution Plans", respectively, for the fund's last fiscal year were as follows:

Fund	Plan	Class	Distributor Payments	Printing and Implementation and Operation of Plan	Amount Reimbursed to Fund Pursuant to Undertaking in Effect	Total Amount
CVP	Distribution Plan	Service Shares	\$21,385	N/A	N/A	\$21,385
MCSP	Distribution Plan	Service Shares	\$172,800	N/A	N/A	\$172,800
SCSIP	Distribution Plan	Service Shares	\$1,340,450	N/A	N/A	\$1,340,450
TGP	Distribution Plan	Service Shares	\$757,372	N/A	N/A	\$757,372
DSUSEP	Distribution Plan	Service Shares	\$27,562	N/A	N/A	\$27,562

SECURITIES OF REGULAR BROKERS OR DEALERS

A fund may acquire securities issued by one or more of its "regular brokers or dealers," as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act. Rule 10b-1 provides that a "regular broker or dealer" is one of the ten brokers or dealers that, during the fund's last fiscal year: (1) received the greatest dollar amount of brokerage commissions from participating, either directly or indirectly, in the fund's portfolio transactions, (2) engaged as principal in the largest dollar amount of the fund's portfolio transactions or (3) sold the largest dollar amount of the fund's securities. The following is a list of the issuers of the securities, and the aggregate value per issuer, of a fund's regular brokers or dealers held by such fund as of the end of its last fiscal year:

Fund	Regular Broker or Dealer	Aggregate Value Per Issuer
CVP	J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	\$927,000
	BB&T Corp	\$248,000
	Citigroup Inc.	\$313,000
	Bank of America NA	\$850,000
	Goldman, Sachs & Co.	\$146,000
	Morgan Stanley	\$99,000
MCSP	N/A	N/A
SCSIP	N/A	N/A
TGP	N/A	N/A
DSUSEP	Citigroup Inc.	\$7,761,000

COMMISSIONS

The approximate aggregate amounts of commissions paid by each fund for brokerage commissions for its last three fiscal years, none of which were paid to Affiliated Brokers,* were as follows:

Fund	2017 Fiscal Year	2016 Fiscal Year	2015 Fiscal Year
	Commissions	Commissions	Commissions
CVP	\$19,650	\$24,023	\$32,293
MCSP	\$99,088	\$99,939	\$131,221
SCSIP	\$256,166	\$43,784	\$12,685
TGP	\$115,326	\$123,683	\$156,382
DSUSEP	\$125,235	\$85,963	\$102,414

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

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

Fund	Reason for Any Material Difference in Commissions
CVP	N/A*
MCSP	N/A
SCSIP	N/A
TGP	N/A
DSUSEP	N/A

* N/A = Not applicable.

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

Fund	Transactions	Related Commissions
CVP	\$18,556,310	\$11,334
MCSP	\$245,164,493	\$61,873
SCSIP	N/A	N/A
TGP	\$102,113,222	\$29,237
DSUSEP	\$110,295,078	\$61,002

PORTFOLIO TURNOVER VARIATION (not applicable to money market funds)

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

Fund	Reason for Any Significant Portfolio Turnover Rate Variation, or Anticipated Variation
CVP	Increased trading to take advantage of investment opportunities and reposition the portfolio.
MCSP	N/A
SCSIP	N/A
TGP	N/A
DSUSEP	N/A

SHARE OWNERSHIP

The following persons are known by each fund to own of record 5% or more of the indicated class of the fund's outstanding voting securities. A shareholder who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, more than 25% of a fund's voting securities may be deemed to "control" (as defined in the 1940 Act) the fund. All information for a fund is as of the date indicated for the first listed class. Except as may be otherwise indicated, board members and officers, as a group, owned less than 1% of each class of each fund's voting securities outstanding as of the date indicated below.

Date	Fund	Class	Name & Address	Percent Owned
April 2, 2018	CVP	Initial	Transamerica Life Insurance Company EM Private Placement 4333 Edgewood Road Northeast Cedar Rapids, IA 52499-0001	91.3032%
			Transamerica Life Insurance Company Separate Account VA-2LNY 4333 Edgewood Road Northeast Cedar Rapids, IA 52499-0001	8.6968%
		Service	Principal Life Insurance Company FBO Principal Executive Variable Universal Life II Attn: Individual Life Accounting 711 High Street Des Moines, IA 50392	99.9995%
April 2, 2018	MCSP	Initial	Zurich American Life Insurance Company Attn: Maria Pacione 1299 Zurich Way 3 West-3.1.105 Schaumburg IL 60196	33.9640%
			Transamerica Life Insurance Company 4333 Edgewood Road Northeast Cedar Rapids, IA 52499-0001	15.6639%
			Symetra Life Insurance Company Attn: RS Accounting P.O. Box 305156 Nashville, TN 37230-5156	15.4235%
			Transamerica Life Insurance Company 4333 Edgewood Road Northeast Cedar Rapids, IA 52499-0001	6.2675%
			Pruco Life Insurance Company of Arizona 213 Washington Street, Floor 7 Newark, NJ 07102-2917	6.0718%

Date	Fund	Class	Name & Address	Percent Owned
			Delaware Life Insurance Company Attn: Revenue Sharing 1601 Trapelo Road, Suite 30 Waltham, MA 02451	5.8078%
			American General Life Insurance Company Carlotta Matthews 5-36 2727A Allen Parkway Houston, TX 77019-2116	5.6630%
		Service	Nationwide Life Insurance Company C/O IPO Portfolio Accounting P.O. Box 182029 Columbus, OH 43218-2029	60.2267%
			First Security Benefit Life Insurance Company FBO FSBL Unbundled 1SW Security Benefit Place Topeka, KS 66636-1000	7.7830%
			Transamerica Life Insurance Company Separate Account VA-2L 4333 Edgewood Road Northeast Cedar Rapids, IA 52499-0001	7.6671%%
			Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation Americas Variable Separate Account Attn: Variable Trades 5900 O Street Lincoln, NE 68510-2234	7.6669%
			Zurich American Life Insurance Company Product Valuation One Security Benefit Place Topeka, KS 66636-1000	6.4174%
			Pruco Life Insurance Company of Arizona 213 Washington Street, Floor 7 Newark, NJ 07102-2917	6.1105%
April 2, 2018	SCSIP	Service	Nationwide Life Insurance Company C/O IPO Portfolio Accounting P.O. Box 182029 Columbus, OH 43218-2029	58.6181%
			Horace Mann Life Insurance Company 1 Horace Mann Plaza Springfield, IL 62715-0001	28.8389%

Date	Fund	Class	Name & Address	Percent Owned
			Jefferson National Life Insurance Company Attn: Separate Accounts 10350 Ormsby Park Place Suite 600 Louisville, KY 40223-6178	5.8698%
April 2, 2018	TGP	Initial	New York Life Insurance and Annuity Corporation 30 Hudson Street Jersey City, NJ 07302-4600	58.8818%
			Annuity Investors Life Insurance Company Attn: Variable Annuity Department P.O. Box 5423 Cincinnati, OH 45201-5423	14.9812%
			Transamerica Life Insurance Company Separate Account VA-2LNY 4333 Edgewood Road Northeast Cedar Rapids, IA 52499-0001	13.0222%
			Symetra Life Insurance Company Attn: RS Accounting P.O. Box 305156 Nashville, TN 37230-5156	5.8644%
		Service	New York Life Insurance and Annuity Corporation 30 Hudson Street Jersey City, NJ 07302-4600	87.6916%
April 2, 2018	DSUSEP	Initial	Nationwide Corporation Department 781368 P.O. Box 78000 Detroit, MI 48278-1368	49.9971%
			American Fidelity Assurance Company Separate Account "C" 9000 Cameron Parkway Oklahoma City, OK 73114-3701	17.1206%
			CMFG Group Variable Annuity Account Product Valuation 5801 Southwest Sixth Avenue Topeka, KS 66636-0001	7.3137%
			Transamerica Life Insurance Company 4333 Edgewood Road Northeast Cedar Rapids, IA 52499-0001	5.0187%
		Service	Modern Woodmen Product Valuation 5801 Southwest Sixth Ave Topeka, KS 66636-1001	27.5204%

Date	Fund	Class	Name & Address	Percent Owned
			Annuity Investors Life Insurance Company Attn: Variable Annuity Department PO Box 5423 Cincinnati, OH 45201-5423	18.5052%
			Farmer New World Life Insurance Company Variable Universal Life Attn: Separate Accounts Department 3003 77 th Avenue Southeast Mercer Island, WA 98040-2890	15.9609%
			Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company 5400 University Avenue West Des Moines, IA 50266-5950	11.2698%
			Pruco Life Insurance Company of Arizona 213 Washington Street, Floor 7 Newark, NJ 07102-2917	10.9298%
			Travelers Insurance Company Attn: Shareholder Accounting 6MS P.O. Box 99027 Hartford, CT 06199-0027	5.2514%

INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES AND RISKS

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

Fund	Equity Securities¹	IPOs	U.S. Government Securities²	Corporate Debt Securities	High Yield and Lower-Rated Securities	Zero Coupon, Pay-in-Kind and Step-Up Securities	Inflation-Indexed Securities (other than TIPS)
Core Value Portfolio	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
MidCap Stock Portfolio	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio	✓	✓	✓				
Technology Growth Portfolio	✓	✓	✓	✓			
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.	✓	✓	✓				

¹ For each of Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio (1) includes common and preferred stock, convertible securities and warrants and (2) each fund is limited to investing 5% of its net assets in warrants, except that this limitation does not apply to warrants purchased by a fund that are sold in units with, or attached to, other securities.

For The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc., includes common and preferred stock and warrants; the fund may not purchase warrants in excess of 2% of its net assets.

For Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio, includes common and preferred stock only.

² For Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio, see "Money Market Instruments" below.

Fund	Variable and Floating Rate Securities³	Loans	Mortgage-Related Securities	Asset-Backed Securities
Core Value Portfolio	✓			
MidCap Stock Portfolio	✓			
Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio	✓			
Technology Growth Portfolio	✓			
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.				

³ Each fund except The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. may invest in variable amount master demand notes as part of its investment in money market instruments.

Fund	Municipal Securities	REITs	Money Market Instruments⁴	Foreign Securities	Emerging Markets	Depository Receipts
Core Value Portfolio		✓	✓	✓ (up to 20% of assets)	✓	✓
MidCap Stock Portfolio		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio		✓	✓			
Technology Growth Portfolio			✓	✓ (up to 25% of assets)	✓	✓
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.		✓	✓	✓ (up to 20% of net assets)	✓ (up to 10% of net assets)	✓

⁴ Includes short-term U.S. Government securities, bank obligations, repurchase agreements and, except for The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc., commercial paper. Generally, (1) except for The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc., when the Adviser determines that adverse market conditions exist, a fund may adopt a temporary defensive position and invest up to 100% of its assets in money market instruments, and (2) a fund also may purchase money market instruments when it has cash reserves or in anticipation of taking a market position. The commercial paper purchased by a fund will consist only of direct obligations which, at the time of their purchase, are (a) rated at least P-1 by Moody's, A-1 by S&P or F-1 by Fitch, or (b) issued by companies having an outstanding unsecured debt issue currently rated at least A by Moody's, S&P or Fitch, or (c) if unrated, determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality to those rated obligations which may be purchased by the fund.

For The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc., during a period when it becomes desirable to move the fund toward a defensive position because of adverse trends in the financial markets or the economy, the fund may invest some or all of its assets in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities, corporate bonds, high grade commercial paper, repurchase agreements, time deposits, bank certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and other short-term bank obligations issued in this country as well as those issued in dollar denominations by the foreign branches of U.S. banks, and cash or cash equivalents, without limit as to amount, as long as such investments are made in securities of eligible companies and domestic banks.

Fund	Investment Companies	ETFs	Exchange-Traded Notes	Futures Transactions⁵	Options Transactions⁶
Core Value Portfolio	✓	✓		✓	✓
MidCap Stock Portfolio	✓	✓		✓	✓
Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio	✓	✓		✓	
Technology Growth Portfolio	✓	✓		✓	✓
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Fund	Swap Transactions	Credit Linked Securities	Credit Derivatives	MLPs
Core Value Portfolio	✓			✓
MidCap Stock Portfolio	✓			✓
Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio				✓
Technology Growth Portfolio	✓			✓
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.				

⁵ MidCap Stock Portfolio and Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio may enter into futures contracts in U.S. domestic markets only.

⁶ Each of Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio (1) is limited to investing up to 5% of its assets, represented by the premium paid, in the purchase of call and put options and (2) may write (*i.e.*, sell) covered call and put option contracts to the extent of 20% of the value of its net assets at the time such option contracts are written.

For The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc., the fund is permitted to use derivative instruments, such as options, futures and options on futures (including those relating to stocks, indices and foreign currencies), and forward contracts. The fund, however, may not engage in the purchase and sale of put, call, straddle, or spread options or combinations thereof, or in writing such options, except that the fund may write and sell covered call option contracts on securities owned by the fund up to, but not in excess of, 20% of the market value of its net assets at the time such option contracts are written, and may purchase call options only to close out open positions.

Fund	Foreign Currency Transactions	Short-Selling	Lending Portfolio Securities	Borrowing Money⁷
Core Value Portfolio	✓		✓	✓
MidCap Stock Portfolio	✓		✓	✓
Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio			✓	✓
Technology Growth Portfolio	✓	✓ ⁸	✓	✓
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.	✓			✓

Fund	Borrowing Money for Leverage⁷	Reverse Repurchase Agreements	Forward Commitments	Illiquid Securities
Core Value Portfolio	✓	✓	✓	✓
MidCap Stock Portfolio	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio		✓		✓
Technology Growth Portfolio	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.			✓	✓

⁷ Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio currently intends to borrow money only for temporary or emergency (not leveraging) purposes. Each fund except The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. may borrow for investment purposes on a secured basis through entering into reverse repurchase agreements.

⁸ The fund will not sell securities short if, after effect is given to any such short sale, the total market value of all securities sold short would exceed 25% of the value of the fund's net assets, and at no time will more than 15% of the value of the fund's net assets be in deposits on short sales against the box.

Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio. The fund is managed by determining which stocks are to be purchased or sold to match, to the extent feasible, the investment characteristics of its Index. The fund will attempt to achieve a correlation between its performance and that of the fund's Index, in both rising and falling markets, of at least 0.95, without taking into account expenses. A correlation of 1.00 would indicate perfect correlation, which would be achieved when the fund's net asset value, including the value of its dividends and capital gain distributions, increases or decreases in exact proportion to changes in the Index. The fund's ability to correlate its performance with that of its Index, however, may be affected by, among other things, changes in securities markets, the manner in which the total return of the fund's Index is calculated, the size of the fund's portfolio, the amount of cash or cash equivalents held in the fund's portfolio, and the timing, frequency and size of shareholder purchases and redemptions. The fund will use cash flows from shareholder purchase and redemption activity to maintain, to the extent feasible, the similarity of its portfolio to the securities comprising the fund's Index. Inclusion of a security in an Index in no way implies an opinion by the sponsor of the Index as to its attractiveness as an investment. In the future, subject to the approval of the fund's shareholders, the fund may select a different index if such a standard of comparison is deemed to be more representative of the performance of the securities the fund seeks to match. The fund is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by the sponsor of its Index.

The fund may not hold all of the issues that comprise its Index because of the costs involved and the illiquidity of certain securities which comprise such Index. Instead, the fund will attempt to hold a representative sample of the securities in its Index so that, in the aggregate, the investment characteristics of the fund's portfolio resemble those of its Index. The stocks to be included in the fund's portfolio will be selected using a statistical process known as "sampling." The process will be used to select stocks so that the market capitalizations, industry weightings, dividend yield, and beta closely approximate those of the Index. The sampling techniques utilized by the fund are expected to be an effective means of substantially duplicating the investment performance of the Index; however, the fund is not expected to track its Index with the same degree of accuracy that complete replication of the Index would have provided. Over time, the fund's portfolio composition will be altered (or "rebalanced") to reflect changes in the composition of the Index.

INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

"Fundamental Policies" may not be changed without approval of the holders of a majority of the fund's outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act). "Nonfundamental Policies" may be changed at any time, without

shareholder approval, by a vote of a majority of the board members and in compliance with applicable law and regulatory policy.

Fundamental Policies

Except as may be otherwise disclosed in the prospectus, each fund's investment objective is a Fundamental Policy. Additionally, as a matter of Fundamental Policy, each fund, as indicated, may not:

1. **Borrowing**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act (which currently limits borrowing to no more than 33-1/3% of the value of the fund's total assets). For purposes of this Fundamental Policy, the entry into options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices shall not constitute borrowing.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

2. **Commodities**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Invest in commodities, except that the fund may purchase and sell options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. The fund may not purchase, hold or deal in commodities or commodity contracts, in oil, gas, or other mineral exploration or development programs, or in real estate but this shall not prohibit the fund from investing, consistent with Nonfundamental Policy No. 3 below, in securities of companies engaged in oil, gas or mineral investments or activities. This limitation shall not prevent the fund from investing in securities issued by a REIT, provided that such trust is not permitted to invest in real estate or in interests other than mortgages or other security interests.

3. **Issuer Diversification**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Invest more than 5% of its assets in the obligations of any one issuer, except that up to 25% of the value of the fund's total assets may be invested, and securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities may be purchased, without regard to any such limitation.

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Purchase the securities of any issuer if such purchase would cause the fund to hold more than 10% of the voting securities of such issuer. This Fundamental Policy applies only with respect to 75% of the fund's total assets.

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

4. **Industry Concentration**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Invest more than 25% of the value of its total assets in the securities of issuers in any single industry, provided that there shall be no limitation on the purchase of obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities. For purposes of this Fundamental Policy with respect to Technology Growth Portfolio, the technology sector in general is not considered an industry.

Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio. Invest more than 25% of the value of its total assets in the securities of issuers in any single industry (except to the extent the Index is so concentrated), provided that there shall be no limitation on the purchase of obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Concentrate its investments in any particular industry or industries, except that the fund may invest up to 25% of the value of its total assets in a single industry.

5. **Loans**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Make loans to others, except through the purchase of debt obligations and the entry into repurchase agreements. However, the fund may lend its portfolio securities in an amount not to exceed 33-1/3% of the value of its total assets. Any loans of portfolio securities will be made according to guidelines established by the SEC and the board.

Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio. Lend any securities or make any other loans if, as a result, more than 33-1/3% of its total assets would be lent to others, except that this limitation does not apply to the purchase of debt obligations and the entry into repurchase agreements. Any loans of portfolio securities will be made according to guidelines established by the SEC and the board.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Lend any securities or make loans to others, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act (which currently limits such loans to no more than 33-1/3% of the value of the fund's total assets) or as otherwise permitted by the SEC. For purposes of this Fundamental Policy, the purchase of debt obligations (including acquisitions of loans, loan participations or other forms of debt instruments) and the entry into repurchase agreements shall not constitute loans by the fund. Any loans of portfolio securities will be made according to guidelines established by the SEC and the board.

6. **Margin and Short Sales**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Purchase securities on margin, but the fund may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Sell any security short.

7. **Real Estate**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Purchase, hold or deal in real estate, or oil, gas or other mineral leases or exploration or development programs, but the fund may purchase and sell securities that are secured by real estate or issued by companies that invest or deal in real estate or real estate investment trusts.

8. **Senior Securities**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Issue any senior security (as such term is defined in Section 18(f) of the 1940 Act), except to the extent the activities permitted in Fundamental Policy Nos. 1 and 2 and the fund's Nonfundamental Policy Nos. 2 and 5 may be deemed to give rise to a senior security.

Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio. Issue any senior security (as such term is defined in Section 18(f) of the 1940 Act), except to the extent the activities permitted in Fundamental Policy Nos. 1 and 2 and the fund's Nonfundamental Policy No. 2 may be deemed to give rise to a senior security.

9. **Underwriting**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Act as an underwriter of securities of other issuers, except to the extent the fund may be deemed an underwriter under the Securities Act by virtue of disposing of portfolio securities.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Act as an underwriter of securities of other issuers.

10. **Investing for Control**

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Invest in the securities of a company for the purpose of exercising management or control, but the fund will vote the securities it owns in its portfolio as a shareholder in accordance with its views.

11. **Puts and Calls**

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Engage in the purchase and sale of put, call, straddle, or spread options or combinations thereof, or in writing such options, except that the fund may write and sell covered call option contracts on securities owned by the fund up to, but not in excess of, 20% of the market value of its net assets at the time such option contracts are written. The fund may also purchase call options for the purpose of terminating its outstanding obligations with respect to securities upon which covered call option contracts have been written. In connection with the writing of covered call options, the fund may pledge assets to an extent not greater than 20% of the market value of its total net assets at the time such options are written.

12. **Companies with Limited Operations**

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Purchase securities of any company having less than three years' continuous operations (including operations of any predecessors) if such purchase would cause the value of the fund's investments in all such companies to exceed 5% of the value of its net assets.

13. **Limit Where Affiliated Persons Involved**

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Purchase or retain the securities of any issuer if officers or board members of the fund or of the Manager, who own beneficially more than 0.5% of the securities of such issuer, together own beneficially more than 5% of the securities of such issuer.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Purchase from or sell to any of its officers or board members, or firms of which any of them are members, any securities (other than capital stock of the fund), but such persons or firms may act as brokers for the fund for customary commissions.

14. **Warrants**

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Purchase warrants in excess of 2% of its net assets. Such warrants shall be valued at the lower of cost or market, except that warrants acquired by the fund in units or attached to securities shall be deemed to be without value, for purposes of this Fundamental Policy only.

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

Fundamental Policies regarding borrowing are not limited to time of investment and must be maintained on an ongoing basis.

The funds' Fundamental Policies will be interpreted broadly. For example, the policies will be interpreted to refer to the 1940 Act and the related rules as they are in effect from time to time, and to interpretations and modifications of or relating to the 1940 Act by the SEC and others as they are given from time to time. When a Fundamental Policy provides that an investment practice may be conducted as permitted by the 1940 Act, this will be interpreted to mean that the investment practice is either (1) expressly permitted by the 1940 Act or (2) not expressly prohibited by the 1940 Act.

Nonfundamental Policies

As a Nonfundamental Policy, which may be changed at any time, without shareholder approval, by a vote of a majority of the board members and in compliance with applicable law and regulatory policy, each fund, as indicated, may not:

1. **Investing for Control**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Invest in the securities of a company for the purpose of exercising management or control, but the fund will vote the securities it owns as a shareholder in accordance with its views.

2. **Pledging Assets**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Pledge, mortgage or hypothecate its assets, except to the extent necessary to secure permitted borrowings and to the extent related to the purchase of securities on a when-issued or forward commitment basis and the deposit of assets in escrow in connection with writing covered put and call options and collateral and initial or variation margin arrangements with respect to options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Pledge, mortgage or hypothecate its assets, except to the extent necessary to secure permitted borrowings and to the extent related to effecting short sales of securities, the purchase of securities on a when-issued, forward commitment or delayed-delivery basis and the deposit of assets in escrow in connection with the entry into options, forward contracts, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, swap agreements and other derivative instruments.

3. **Illiquid Investments**

All funds. Enter into repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice or purchase securities that are illiquid if, in the aggregate, more than 15% of the value of its net assets would be so invested.

4. **Securities of Other Investment Companies**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Technology Growth Portfolio and The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Purchase securities of other investment companies, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

5. **Puts/Calls**

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio. Purchase, sell or write puts, calls or combinations thereof, except as described in the prospectus and this SAI.

6. **Margin**

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. Purchase securities on margin, except for use of short-term credit necessary for clearance of purchases and sales of portfolio securities, but the fund may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in options, forward contracts, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, swap agreements and other derivative instruments, and except that effecting short sales will be deemed not to constitute a margin purchase for purposes of this Nonfundamental Policy.

In addition, each fund has adopted the following policies as Nonfundamental Policies: each fund intends (i) to comply with the diversification requirements prescribed in regulations under Section 817(h) of the Code, and (ii) to comply in all material respects with insurance laws and regulations that the fund has been advised are applicable to investments of separate accounts of Participating Insurance Companies. The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. has adopted a Nonfundamental Policy prohibiting the fund from operating as a fund-of-funds in reliance on Section 12(d)(1)(F) or Section 12(d)(1)(G) of the 1940 Act, as of May 1, 2017.

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

Fundamental and Nonfundamental Policies Related to Fund Investment Objectives, Diversification and Names

Investment Objective(s) and Diversification Classification. Each fund's investment objective(s) is disclosed in its prospectus. A fund's investment objective(s) may be either a Fundamental Policy (may not be changed without approval of the holders of a majority of the fund's outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act)) or a Nonfundamental Policy (may be changed at any time, without shareholder approval, by a vote of a majority of the board members and in compliance with applicable law and regulatory policy).

Each fund is classified as either "diversified" or "non-diversified" under the 1940 Act. A fund may not change from "diversified" to "non-diversified" without the approval of the holders of a majority of the fund's outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act).

The following chart indicates, for each fund, whether its investment objective(s) is a Fundamental Policy or Nonfundamental Policy and whether the fund is diversified or non-diversified.

Fund	Investment Objective(s) a Fundamental or Nonfundamental Policy	Classification as Diversified or Non-Diversified
Core Value Portfolio	Nonfundamental	Diversified
MidCap Stock Portfolio	Nonfundamental	Diversified
Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio	Nonfundamental	Diversified
Technology Growth Portfolio	Nonfundamental	Diversified
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.	Nonfundamental	Diversified

Names. Each of the following funds invests, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes (for funds that may borrow for investment purposes), in the instruments described below (or other instruments with similar economic characteristics). Each fund has either (1) adopted a policy to provide its shareholders with at least 60 days' prior notice of any change in its policy to so invest its assets ("80% Test") or (2) adopted the 80% Test as a Fundamental Policy, as indicated below.

Fund	80% Test	Fundamental Policy?
Core Value Portfolio	Stocks	No
MidCap Stock Portfolio	Stocks of mid-cap companies	No

Fund	80% Test	Fundamental Policy?
Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio	A representative sample of stocks included in the S&P SmallCap 600 Index and in futures whose performance is tied to the index	No
Technology Growth Portfolio	Stocks of growth companies of any size that the Adviser believes to be leading producers or beneficiaries of technological innovation	No
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.	Equity securities (or derivative instruments with similar economic characteristics) of U.S. companies that demonstrate attractive investment attributes and sustainable business practices and have no material unresolvable environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues	No

SHAREHOLDER SERVICES PLAN

(The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.—Initial shares only)

The fund has adopted a Shareholder Services Plan for its Initial shares pursuant to which the fund reimburses the Distributor an amount not to exceed an annual rate of 0.25% of the value of the fund's average daily net assets for certain allocated expenses with respect to servicing and/or maintaining shareholder accounts.

A quarterly report of the amounts expended under the fund's Shareholder Services Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the board for its review. In addition, the Shareholder Services Plan provides that material amendments of the Shareholder Services Plan must be approved by the board and by the board members who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the fund and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Shareholder Services Plan, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. The Shareholder Services Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the board members cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Shareholder Services Plan. The Shareholder Services Plan is terminable at any time by vote of a majority of the board members who are not "interested persons" of the fund and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Shareholder Services Plan.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDS' ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Each fund is an open-end management investment company and is "diversified" under the 1940 Act. References in this SAI to a "fund" generally refer to the series of Dreyfus Investment Portfolios and to The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.

Core Value Portfolio, MidCap Stock Portfolio, Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio and Technology Growth Portfolio are series of Dreyfus Investment Portfolios, and investments are made through, and shareholders invest in, the funds. Dreyfus Investment Portfolios was organized as a Massachusetts business trust on May 14, 1993. As a result of legal requirements relating to the formation of Massachusetts business trusts, there was a period of time between the dates of organization and commencement of operations for the fund, during which time no business or other activities were conducted.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. was organized as a Maryland corporation on July 20, 1992 and commenced operations on October 7, 1993. Effective May 1, 2017, the fund changed its investment strategy to

focus on sustainable and ESG investing, Dreyfus engaged Newton as a sub-adviser to the fund, and the fund adopted a "manager of managers" arrangement for the fund whereby Dreyfus, under certain circumstances, will be able to hire and replace one or more sub-advisers who are either unaffiliated with Dreyfus or are wholly-owned subsidiaries (as defined in the 1940 Act) of Dreyfus' ultimate parent company, BNY Mellon, without obtaining shareholder approval.

CERTAIN EXPENSE ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER DISCLOSURES

Expense Arrangements

Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio. All expenses incurred in the operation of Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio are borne by the Adviser, except management fees, Distribution Plan fees, taxes, interest, brokerage fees and commissions, if any, extraordinary expenses, and the fund's allocated portion of the fees and expenses of the Independent Board Members and the fees and expenses of independent counsel to Dreyfus Investment Portfolios and to the Independent Board Members.

The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. The Manager has agreed that if, in any fiscal year, the aggregate expenses of the fund, exclusive of taxes, brokerage fees, interest and (with the prior written consent of the necessary state securities commissions) extraordinary expenses, but including the management fee, exceed the expense limitation of any state having jurisdiction over the fund, the fund may deduct from the fees to be paid to the Manager, or the Manager will bear, the excess expense. Such deduction or payment, if any, will be estimated daily, reconciled and effected or paid, as the case may be, on a monthly basis and will be limited to the amount of fees otherwise payable to the Manager under the fund's Management Agreement.

Index Licensing Disclosures (Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio only)

The fund is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by S&P. S&P makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of the fund or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the fund particularly or the ability of the S&P SmallCap 600 Index to track general stock market performance. S&P's only relationship to Dreyfus Investment Portfolios is the licensing of certain trademarks and trade names of S&P and of the S&P SmallCap 600 Index which is determined, composed and calculated by S&P without regard to Dreyfus Investment Portfolios or the fund. S&P has no obligation to take the needs of Dreyfus Investment Portfolios or the owners of the fund into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the S&P SmallCap 600 Index. S&P is not responsible for and has not participated in the determination of the prices and amount of the fund or the timing of the issuance or sale of the fund or in the calculation of the equation by which the fund is to be converted into cash. S&P has no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio.

S&P DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE S&P SMALLCAP 600 INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN AND S&P SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR INTERRUPTIONS THEREIN. S&P MAKES NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE FUND, OWNERS OF THE PORTFOLIO, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE S&P SMALLCAP 600 INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. S&P MAKES NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE WITH RESPECT TO THE S&P SMALLCAP 600 INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, IN NO EVENT SHALL S&P HAVE ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, INDIRECT, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING LOST PROFITS), EVEN IF NOTIFIED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Proskauer Rose LLP, Eleven Times Square, New York, New York 10036, serves as counsel to the funds and to the Independent Board Members.

Ernst & Young LLP, 5 Times Square, New York, New York 10036, an independent registered public accounting firm, has been selected to serve as the independent registered public accounting firm for the funds.

HOW TO BUY SHARES

Initial shares and Service shares are identical, except as to the expenses borne by each class, which may affect performance. See "Distribution Plans (Service Shares Only)." Shares currently are offered only to separate accounts of Participating Insurance Companies. **Individuals may not place purchase orders directly with a fund.** See the prospectus of the separate account of the Participating Insurance Company for more information on the purchase of fund shares and with respect to the availability for investment in specific funds and specific classes of the funds. The funds do not issue share certificates.

Each fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order. No fund will establish an account for a "foreign financial institution," as that term is defined in Treasury rules implementing Section 312 of the USA PATRIOT Act. Foreign financial institutions include: foreign banks (including foreign branches of U.S. depository institutions); foreign offices of U.S. securities broker-dealers, futures commission merchants and mutual funds; non-U.S. entities that, if they were located in the United States, would be securities broker-dealers, futures commission merchants or mutual funds; and non-U.S. entities engaged in the business of currency dealer or exchanger or money transmitter.

As discussed under "Management Arrangements – Distributor," Participating Insurance Companies and other financial intermediaries may receive revenue sharing payments from the Manager or the Distributor. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for a Participating Insurance Company to recommend or sell fund shares instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. Please contact your Participating Insurance Company for details about any payments it may receive in connection with the sale of fund shares or the provision of services to a fund.

Purchase orders from separate accounts based on the amount of premium payments to be invested pursuant to the Policies and transaction requests received by the Participating Insurance Company on a given business day in accordance with procedures established by the Participating Insurance Company will be effected at the net asset value of the applicable fund determined on such business day if the orders are received by the Transfer Agent or other authorized entity in proper form and in accordance with applicable requirements on the next business day and Federal Funds in the net amount of such orders are received by the fund on the next business day in accordance with applicable requirements. It is each Participating Insurance Company's responsibility to properly transmit purchase orders and Federal Funds in accordance with applicable requirements. Policy owners should refer to the prospectus for their contracts or Policies in this regard.

Converting Shares

Under certain circumstances, shares of a fund with more than one class may be converted from one class of shares to another class of shares of the same fund. The aggregate dollar value of the shares of the class received upon any such conversion will equal the aggregate dollar value of the converted shares on the date of the conversion.

HOW TO REDEEM SHARES

Fund shares may be redeemed at any time by the separate accounts of the Participating Insurance Companies. **Individuals may not place redemption orders directly with a fund.** Redemption requests from separate accounts and transaction requests received by the Participating Insurance Company on a given business day in accordance with procedures established by the Participating Insurance Company will be effected at the net asset value of the applicable fund determined on such business day if the requests are received by the Transfer Agent or another authorized entity in proper form and in accordance with applicable requirements on the next business day. It is each Participating Insurance Company's responsibility to properly transmit redemption requests in accordance with applicable requirements. Policy owners should refer to the prospectus for their contracts or Policies in this regard. No charges are imposed by the funds when shares are redeemed.

The funds ordinarily will make payment for all shares redeemed within seven days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form, except as provided by the rules of the SEC.

Should any conflict between Policy owners arise which would require that a substantial amount of net assets be withdrawn, orderly portfolio management could be disrupted to the potential detriment of such Policy owners.

Redemption Commitment

Each fund has committed itself to pay in cash all redemption requests by any fund shareholder of record, limited in amount during any 90-day period to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the value of the fund's net assets at the beginning of such period. Such commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the SEC. In the case of requests for redemption from the fund in excess of such amount, the fund's board reserves the right to make payments in whole or in part in securities or other assets of the fund in case of an emergency or any time a cash distribution would impair the liquidity of the fund to the detriment of the existing shareholders. In such event, the securities would be valued in the same manner as the fund's portfolio is valued. If the recipient sells such securities, brokerage charges would be incurred.

Suspension of Redemptions

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed (a) during any period when the NYSE is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings), (b) when the SEC determines that trading in the markets a fund ordinarily utilizes is restricted, or when an emergency exists as determined by the SEC so that disposal of the fund's investments or determination of its NAV is not reasonably practicable or (c) for such other periods as the SEC by order may permit to protect fund shareholders.

Fund Liquidation (Government Money Market Portfolio only)

The fund also may permanently suspend redemptions and liquidate the fund if, among other reasons, the fund, at the end of a business day, (i) has less than 10% of its total assets invested in Weekly Liquid Assets, or the fund's price per share as computed for the purpose of distribution, redemption and repurchase, rounded to the nearest one percent, has deviated from \$1.00, or the board, including the Independent Board Members, determines that such a deviation is likely to occur, and (ii) the fund's board, including the Independent Board Members, irrevocably has approved the liquidation of the fund. In the event that the board approves liquidation of the fund, the sale of fund shares will be discontinued, and the redemption of shares will be suspended following notice to the SEC and upon the filing of a supplement to the fund's prospectus(es), summary prospectus(es) and SAI advising of the liquidation. The Manager will then commence the orderly liquidation of the fund's portfolio securities, following which the fund's net assets will be distributed to shareholders pursuant to a plan of liquidation adopted by the board. More information about the timing and other details of a fund's liquidation would be made available to fund shareholders following board approval.

EXCHANGE PRIVILEGE

Investors can exchange shares of a class for shares of the same class of any other fund managed by the Manager that is offered only to separate accounts established by Participating Insurance Companies to fund Policies, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the prospectus for the investors' contracts or Policies. The funds reserve the right to modify or discontinue the exchange privilege at any time upon 60 days' notice to the Participating Insurance Companies.

DISTRIBUTION PLANS

(Service shares only)

Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act provides, among other things, that an investment company may bear expenses of distributing its shares only pursuant to a plan adopted in accordance with the Rule. Pursuant to a Distribution Plan adopted with respect to Service shares, each fund pays the Distributor at an annual rate of 0.25% of the value of the average daily net assets of the fund's Service shares for distributing Service shares, for advertising and marketing related to Service shares and for servicing and/or maintaining accounts of Service class shareholders. Under the Distribution Plan, the Distributor may make payments to Participating Insurance Companies and the principal underwriters for their variable insurance products. The fees payable under the Distribution Plan are payable without regard to actual expenses incurred. The board believes that there is a reasonable likelihood that each Distribution Plan will benefit the relevant fund and the holders of the fund's Service shares.

A written quarterly report of the amounts expended under a fund's Distribution Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the board for its review. Each Distribution Plan provides that it may not be amended to increase materially the costs that holders of Service shares may bear pursuant to the Distribution Plan without the approval of the holders of Service shares; other material amendments of the Distribution Plan must be approved by the board and by the Independent Board Members of the fund who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Distribution Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Distribution Plan, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. Each Distribution Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the board members cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Distribution Plan. As to each fund, the Distribution Plan is terminable at any time by vote of a majority of the Independent Board Members of the fund who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Distribution Plan or in any agreements related to the Distribution Plan or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of such class.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES AND RISKS

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

The funds are intended to be funding vehicles for VA contracts and VLI policies to be offered by Participating Insurance Companies and will seek to be offered in as many jurisdictions as possible. Certain states have regulations concerning concentration of investments and certain investment techniques. If applied to a fund, the fund may be limited in its ability to engage in such techniques and to manage its portfolio with the flexibility provided herein. It is each fund's intention to operate in material compliance with current insurance laws and regulations, as applied, in each jurisdiction in which the fund is offered.

All Funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio

Equity Securities

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

Investing in equity securities poses risks specific to an issuer as well as to the particular type of company issuing the equity securities. For example, equity securities of small- or mid-capitalization companies tend to have more abrupt or erratic price swings than equity securities of larger, more established companies because, among other reasons, they trade less frequently and in lower volumes and their issuers typically are more subject to changes in earnings and prospects in that they are more susceptible to changes in economic conditions, may be more reliant on singular products or services and are more vulnerable to larger competitors. Equity securities of these types of companies may have a higher potential for gains, but also may be subject to greater risk of loss. If a fund, together with other investment companies and other clients advised by the Adviser and its affiliates, owns significant positions in portfolio companies, depending on market conditions, the fund's ability to dispose of some or all positions at a desirable time may be adversely affected. While common stockholders usually have voting rights on a number of significant matters, other types of equity securities, such as preferred stock, common limited partnership units and limited liability company interests, may not ordinarily have voting rights.

An investment in securities of companies that have no earnings or have experienced losses is generally based on a belief that actual or anticipated products or services will produce future earnings. If the anticipated event is delayed or does not occur, or if investor perception about the company changes, the company's stock price may decline sharply and its securities may become less liquid.

Investing in equity securities also poses risks specific to a particular industry, market or sector, such as technology, financial services, consumer goods or natural resources (e.g., oil and gas). To some extent, the prices of equity securities tend to move by industry, market or sector. When market conditions favorably affect, or are expected to

favorably affect, an industry, the share prices of the equity securities of companies in that industry tend to rise. Conversely, negative news or a poor outlook for a particular industry can cause the share prices of such securities of companies in that industry to decline quickly.

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

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

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

In some cases, certain preferred securities can include loss absorption provisions that make the securities more like equity. Contingent convertible capital securities (sometimes referred to as "CoCos") may have loss absorption characteristics or may provide for mandatory conversion into common shares of the issuer under certain circumstances. Loss absorption characteristics may include downward adjustment of the liquidation value of the security to below the original par value (even to zero) under certain circumstances. This may occur, for instance, in the event that business losses have eroded capital to a substantial extent. The write down of the par value would occur automatically and would not entitle the holders to seek bankruptcy of the company. The mandatory conversion might relate, for instance, to maintenance of a capital minimum, whereby falling below the minimum would trigger automatic conversion. Since the common stock of the issuer may not pay a dividend, investors in these instruments could experience a reduced income rate, potentially to zero, and conversion to common stock would deepen the subordination of the investor, hence worsening standing in a bankruptcy. CoCos typically sit above equity and below senior debt with respect to seniority and are described further below under "Convertible securities."

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

Convertible Securities. Convertible securities include bonds, debentures, notes, preferred stocks or other securities that may be converted or exchanged (by the holder or by the issuer) into shares of the underlying common stock (or cash or securities of equivalent value) at a stated exchange ratio or predetermined price (the conversion price). Convertible securities have characteristics similar to both equity and fixed-income securities. Convertible securities generally are subordinated to other similar but non-convertible securities of the same issuer, although convertible bonds, as corporate debt obligations, enjoy seniority in right of payment to all equity securities, and convertible preferred stock is senior to common stock of the same issuer. Because of the subordination feature, however, convertible securities typically have lower ratings than similar non-convertible securities.

Although to a lesser extent than with fixed-income securities, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, tends to increase as interest rates decline. In addition, because of the conversion feature, the market value of convertible securities tends to vary with fluctuations in the market value of the underlying common stock. A unique feature of convertible securities is that as the market price of the underlying common stock declines, convertible securities tend to trade increasingly on a yield basis, and so may not experience market value declines to the same extent as the underlying common stock. When the market price of the underlying common stock increases, the prices of the convertible securities tend to rise as a reflection of the value of the underlying common stock. While no securities investments are without risk, investments in convertible securities generally entail less risk than investments in common stock of the same issuer.

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

CoCos are slightly different than regular convertible bonds in that the likelihood of the bonds converting to equity is "contingent" on a specified event or trigger. CoCos are securities typically issued by a bank that are designed to absorb the bank's losses during a period of financial stress, thereby improving the bank's capital position. CoCos absorb losses by converting to equity or having their principal written down (either partially or in full) when a pre-specified trigger event occurs. Absent a trigger event, the securities are hybrid instruments with debt-like characteristics. CoCos may be structured with various types of trigger events.

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

Warrants and Stock Purchase Rights. Warrants or stock purchase rights ("rights") give the holder the right to subscribe to equity securities at a specific price for a specified period of time. Warrants and rights are subject to the same market risk as stocks, but may be more volatile in price. A fund's investment in warrants and rights will not entitle it to receive dividends or exercise voting rights, provide no rights with respect to the assets of the issuer and will become worthless if not profitably exercised before the expiration date. Warrants, rights or other non-income producing equity securities may be received in connection with a fund's investments in corporate debt securities (further described below), or restructuring of investments. Bonds with warrants attached to purchase equity securities have many characteristics of convertible bonds and their prices may, to some degree, reflect the performance of the underlying stock.

IPOs. An IPO is a corporation's first offering of stock to the public. Shares are given a market value reflecting expectations for the corporation's future growth. Special rules of FINRA apply to the distribution of IPOs. Corporations offering IPOs generally have limited operating histories and may involve greater investment risk than companies with longer operating histories. Special risks associated with IPOs may include a limited number of shares available for trading, unseasoned trading, lack of investor knowledge of the company, and limited operating history, all of which may contribute to price volatility. The limited number of shares available for trading in some IPOs may make it more difficult for a fund to buy or sell significant amounts of shares without an unfavorable impact on prevailing prices. In addition, some IPOs are involved in relatively new industries or lines of business, which may not be widely understood by investors. Some of the companies involved in new industries may be regarded as developmental stage companies, without revenues or operating income, or the near-term prospects of such. Foreign IPOs are subject to foreign political and currency risks. Many IPOs are issued by undercapitalized companies of small or microcap size. The prices of these companies' securities can be very volatile, rising and falling rapidly, sometimes based solely on investor perceptions rather than economic reasons.

Fixed-Income Securities

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

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

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

Average weighted maturity is the length of time, in days or years, until the securities held by a fund, on average, will mature or be redeemed by their issuers. The average maturity is weighted according to the dollar amounts invested in the various securities by the fund. In general, the longer a fund's average weighted maturity, the more its share price will fluctuate in response to changing interest rates. For purposes of calculating average effective portfolio maturity, a security that is subject to redemption at the option of the issuer on a particular date (the "call date") which is prior to the security's stated maturity may be deemed to mature on the call date rather than on its stated

maturity date. The call date of a security will be used to calculate average effective portfolio maturity when the Adviser reasonably anticipates, based upon information available to it, that the issuer will exercise its right to redeem the security. The Adviser may base its conclusion on such factors as the interest rate paid on the security compared to prevailing market rates, the amount of cash available to the issuer of the security, events affecting the issuer of the security, and other factors that may compel or make it advantageous for the issuer to redeem a security prior to its stated maturity.

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

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

TIPS are issued by Treasury and are designed to provide investors a long-term investment vehicle that is not vulnerable to inflation. The interest rate paid by TIPS is fixed, while the principal value rises or falls semi-annually based on changes in a published Consumer Price Index. Thus, if inflation occurs, the principal and interest payments on the TIPS are adjusted accordingly to protect investors from inflationary loss. During a deflationary period, the principal and interest payments decrease, although the TIPS' principal will not drop below its face value at maturity. In exchange for the inflation protection, TIPS generally pay lower interest rates than typical Treasury securities. Only if inflation occurs will TIPS offer a higher real yield than a conventional Treasury bond of the same maturity. The secondary market for TIPS may not be as active or liquid as the secondary market for conventional Treasury securities. See also "Inflation-Indexed Securities" below.

On August 5, 2011, S&P lowered its long-term sovereign credit rating for the United States of America to "AA+" from "AAA." The value of shares of a fund that may invest in U.S. Government obligations may be adversely affected by S&P's downgrade or any future downgrades of the U.S. Government's credit rating. While the long-term impact of the downgrade is uncertain, it could, for example, lead to increased volatility in the short-term.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Inflation-Indexed Securities. Inflation-indexed securities, such as TIPS, are fixed-income securities whose value is periodically adjusted according to the rate of inflation. Two structures are common. Treasury and some other

issuers utilize a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond. Most other issuers pay out the Consumer Price Index accruals as part of a semi-annual coupon.

Inflation-indexed securities issued by Treasury have varying maturities and pay interest on a semi-annual basis equal to a fixed percentage of the inflation-adjusted principal amount. If the periodic adjustment rate measuring inflation falls, the principal value of inflation-index bonds will be adjusted downward, and consequently the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. Repayment of the original bond principal upon maturity (as adjusted for inflation) is guaranteed in the case of Treasury inflation-indexed bonds, even during a period of deflation. However, the current market value of the bonds is not guaranteed and will fluctuate. Other inflation-related bonds may or may not provide a similar guarantee. If a guarantee of principal is not provided, the adjusted principal value of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal amount.

The periodic adjustment of U.S. inflation-indexed securities is tied to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers ("CPI-U"), which is calculated monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-U is a measurement of changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation and energy. Inflation-indexed securities issued by a foreign government are generally adjusted to reflect a comparable inflation index calculated by that government. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U or any foreign inflation index will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services. Moreover, there can be no assurance that the rate of inflation in a foreign country will be correlated to the rate of inflation in the United States.

The value of inflation-indexed securities is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates in turn are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. Therefore, if the rate of inflation rises at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates might decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed securities. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates might rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-index securities. While these securities are expected to be protected from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation (for example, due to changes in currency exchange rates), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the security's inflation measure.

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

Variable Rate Demand Notes. Variable rate demand notes include master demand notes, which are obligations that permit a fund to invest fluctuating amounts, at varying rates of interest, pursuant to direct arrangements between the fund, as lender, and the borrower. These obligations permit daily changes in the amounts borrowed. Because these obligations are direct lending arrangements between the lender and borrower, it is not contemplated that such instruments generally will be traded, and there generally is no established secondary market for these obligations, although they are redeemable on demand at face value, plus accrued interest. Accordingly, where these obligations are not secured by letters of credit or other credit support arrangements, the fund's right to redeem is dependent on the ability of the borrower to pay principal and interest on demand. Such obligations frequently are not rated by credit rating agencies. Changes in the credit quality of banks or other financial institutions providing any credit support or liquidity enhancements could cause losses to the fund.

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

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

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

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

A Borrower must comply with various restrictive covenants contained in a loan agreement or note purchase agreement between the Borrower and the holders of a loan (the "Loan Agreement"). In a typical loan, an agent (the "Agent Bank") administers the terms of the Loan Agreement. In such cases, the Agent Bank is normally responsible for the collection of principal and interest payments from the Borrower and the apportionment of these payments to the credit of all institutions that are parties to the Loan Agreement. A fund will generally rely upon the Agent Bank or an intermediate participant to receive and forward to the fund its portion of the principal and interest payments on the loan. Additionally, a fund normally will rely on the Agent Bank and the other loan investors to use appropriate credit remedies against the Borrower. The Agent Bank is typically responsible for monitoring compliance with covenants contained in the Loan Agreement based upon reports prepared by the Borrower. The Agent Bank may monitor the value of any collateral and, if the value of the collateral declines, may accelerate the loan, may give the Borrower an opportunity to provide additional collateral or may seek other protection for the benefit of the participants in the loan. The Agent Bank is compensated by the Borrower for providing these services under a Loan Agreement, and such compensation may include special fees paid upon structuring and funding the Senior Loan and other fees paid on a continuing basis. With respect to loans for which the Agent Bank does not perform such administrative and enforcement functions, the Adviser may perform such tasks on a fund's behalf, although a collateral bank will typically hold any collateral on behalf of the fund and the other loan investors pursuant to the applicable Loan Agreement.

In the process of buying, selling and holding loans, a fund may receive and/or pay certain fees. These fees are in addition to interest payments received and may include facility fees, commitment fees, amendment fees,

commissions and prepayment penalty fees. When a fund buys a loan it may receive a facility fee and when it sells a loan it may pay a facility fee. On an ongoing basis, a fund may receive a commitment fee based on the undrawn portion of the underlying line of credit portion of a loan. In certain circumstances, a fund may receive a prepayment penalty fee upon the prepayment of a loan by a Borrower. Other fees received by a fund may include covenant waiver fees, covenant modification fees or other amendment fees.

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

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

A fund may purchase and retain in its portfolio loans where the Borrower has experienced, or may be perceived to be likely to experience, credit problems, including involvement in or recent emergence from bankruptcy court proceedings or other forms of debt restructuring. Such investments may provide opportunities for enhanced income, although they also will be subject to greater risk of loss. At times, in connection with the restructuring of a loan either outside of bankruptcy court or in the context of bankruptcy court proceedings, a fund may determine or be required to accept equity securities or junior credit securities in exchange for all or a portion of a loan. A fund may from time to time participate on ad-hoc committees formed by creditors to negotiate with the management of financially troubled Borrowers and may incur legal fees as a result of such participation. In addition, such participation may restrict the fund's ability to trade in or acquire additional positions in a particular security when it might otherwise desire to do so. Participation by a fund also may expose the fund to potential liabilities under bankruptcy or other laws governing the rights of creditors and debtors.

Loans are usually rated below investment grade and may also be unrated. As a result, the risks associated with investing in loans are similar to the risks of fixed-income securities rated below investment grade, although Senior

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

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

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

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

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

A fund may purchase a participation interest in a portion of the rights of an Intermediate Participant, which would not establish any direct relationship between the fund and the Borrower. The fund would be required to rely on the Intermediate Participant that sold the participation interest not only for the enforcement of the fund's rights against the Borrower but also for the receipt and processing of payments due to the fund under the security. The fund would have the right to receive payments of principal, interest and any fees to which it is entitled only from the Intermediate Participant and only upon receipt of the payments from the Borrower. The fund generally will have no right to enforce compliance by the Borrower with the terms of the Loan Agreement nor any rights of set-off against the Borrower, and the fund may not directly benefit from any collateral supporting the obligation in which it has purchased the participation interest. Because it may be necessary to assert through an Intermediate Participant such rights as may exist against the Borrower, in the event the Borrower fails to pay principal and interest when due, the fund may be subject to delays, expenses and risks that are greater than those that would be involved if the fund would enforce its rights directly against the Borrower. Moreover, under the terms of a participation interest, a fund may be regarded as a creditor of the Intermediate Participant (rather than of the Borrower), so that the fund may also

be subject to the risk that the Intermediate Participant may become insolvent. In the event of the insolvency of the Intermediate Participant, the fund may be treated as a general creditor of the Intermediate Participant and may not benefit from any set-off between the Intermediate Participant and the Borrower. Certain participation interests may be structured in a manner designed to avoid purchasers being subject to the credit risk of the Intermediate Participant, but even under such a structure, in the event of the Intermediate Participant's insolvency, the Intermediate Participant's servicing of the participation interests may be delayed and the assignability of the participation interest impaired. Similar risks may arise with respect to the Agent Bank if, for example, assets held by the Agent Bank for the benefit of a fund were determined by the appropriate regulatory authority or court to be subject to the claims of the Agent Bank's creditors. In such case, the fund might incur certain costs and delays in realizing payment in connection with the participation interest or suffer a loss of principal and/or interest. Further, in the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of the Borrower, the obligation of the Borrower to repay the loan may be subject to certain defenses that can be asserted by such Borrower as a result of improper conduct by the Agent Bank or Intermediate Participant.

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

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

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

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

Mortgage-related securities generally are subject to credit risks associated with the performance of the underlying mortgage properties and to prepayment risk. In certain instances, the credit risk associated with mortgage-related securities can be reduced by third party guarantees or other forms of credit support. Improved credit risk does not reduce prepayment risk, which is unrelated to the rating assigned to the mortgage-related security. Prepayment risk may lead to pronounced fluctuations in value of the mortgage-related security. If a mortgage-related security is purchased at a premium, all or part of the premium may be lost if there is a decline in the market value of the security, whether resulting solely from changes in interest rates or from prepayments on the underlying mortgage collateral (the rates of which are highly dependent upon changes in interest rates, as discussed below). Mortgage

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

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

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

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

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

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

In September 2008, Treasury and the Federal Housing Finance Agency ("FHFA") announced that FNMA and FHLMC had been placed in conservatorship. Since that time, FNMA and FHLMC have received significant capital support through Treasury preferred stock purchases, as well as Treasury and Federal Reserve purchases of their mortgage-backed securities. The FHFA and Treasury (through its agreement to purchase FNMA and FHLMC preferred stock) have imposed strict limits on the size of their mortgage portfolios. While the mortgage-backed securities purchase programs ended in 2010, Treasury continued its support for the entities' capital as necessary to prevent a negative net worth through at least 2012. When a credit rating agency downgraded long-term U.S. Government debt in August 2011, the agency also downgraded FNMA and FHLMC's bond ratings, from AAA to AA+, based on their direct reliance on the U.S. Government (although that rating did not directly relate to their mortgage-backed securities). From the end of 2007 through the fourth quarter of 2017, FNMA and FHLMC required Treasury support of approximately \$187.5 billion through draws under the preferred stock purchase agreements. However, no payments will be made due to net losses incurred by each entity. FNMA and FHLMC have paid approximately \$278.8 billion in aggregate cash dividends to Treasury over the same period (although these payments do not constitute a repayment of their draws). Each entity's projected fourth quarter payment was ultimately decreased due to an agreement entered into with Treasury that modified the dividend provisions of the senior preferred stock. FNMA did not require any draws from Treasury from the fourth quarter of 2011 through the fourth quarter of 2017. Similarly, FHLMC did not require any draws from Treasury from the first quarter of 2012 through the fourth quarter of 2017. In the first quarter of 2018, FNMA and FHLMC each reported that the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in December 2017 had resulted in a decrease in the value of their deferred tax assets. As a result, FNMA and FHLMC each reported net losses during the fourth quarter of 2017 and indicated that they would request draws from Treasury in the amount of \$3.7 billion and \$0.3 billion, respectively. In its 2016 report to Congress, FHFA stated that FNMA and FHLMC had been stabilized. However, FHFA also conducted a stress test mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act, which suggested that in a "severely adverse scenario" additional Treasury support of between \$49.2 billion and \$125.8 billion (depending on the treatment of deferred tax assets) might be required. No assurance can be given that the Federal Reserve or Treasury will ensure that FNMA and FHLMC remain successful in meeting their obligations with respect to the debt and mortgage-backed securities that they issue.

In addition, the problems faced by FNMA and FHLMC, resulting in their being placed into federal conservatorship and receiving significant U.S. Government support, have sparked serious debate among federal policymakers regarding the continued role of the U.S. Government in providing liquidity for mortgage loans. In December 2011, Congress enacted the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 which, among other provisions, requires that FNMA and FHLMC increase their single-family guaranty fees by at least 10 basis points and remit this increase to Treasury with respect to all loans acquired by FNMA or FHLMC on or after April 1, 2012 and before January 1, 2022. Serious discussions among policymakers continue, however, as to whether FNMA and FHLMC should be nationalized, privatized, restructured or eliminated altogether. FNMA reported in the third quarter of 2016 that it expected "continued significant uncertainty" regarding its future and the housing finance system, including how long FNMA will continue to exist in its current form, the extent of its role in the market, how long it will be in conservatorship, what form it will have and what ownership interest, if any, current common and preferred stockholders will hold after the conservatorship is terminated, and whether FNMA will continue to exist following conservatorship. FHLMC faces similar uncertainty about its future role. FNMA and FHLMC also are the subject of several continuing legal actions and investigations over certain accounting, disclosure or corporate governance

matters, which (along with any resulting financial restatements) may continue to have an adverse effect on the guaranteeing entities.

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

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

Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs) and Multi-Class Pass-Through-Securities. CMOs are multiclass bonds backed by pools of mortgage pass-through certificates or mortgage loans. CMOs may be collateralized by: (1) Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac pass-through certificates; (2) unsecuritized mortgage loans insured by the FHA or guaranteed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs; (3) unsecuritized conventional mortgages; (4) other mortgage-related securities; or (5) any combination thereof.

Each class of CMOs, often referred to as a "tranche," is issued at a specific coupon rate and has a stated maturity or final distribution date. Principal prepayments on collateral underlying a CMO may cause it to be retired substantially earlier than the stated maturities or final distribution dates. The principal and interest on the underlying mortgages may be allocated among the several classes of a series of a CMO in many ways. One or more tranches of a CMO may have coupon rates which reset periodically at a specified increment over an index or market rate, such as LIBOR (or sometimes more than one index). These floating rate CMOs typically are issued with lifetime caps on the coupon rate thereon. Inverse floating rate CMOs constitute a tranche of a CMO with a coupon rate that moves in the reverse direction to an applicable index or market rate such as LIBOR. Accordingly, the coupon rate thereon will increase as interest rates decrease. Inverse floating rate CMOs are typically more volatile than fixed or floating rate tranches of CMOs.

Many inverse floating rate CMOs have coupons that move inversely to a multiple of the applicable indexes. The effect of the coupon varying inversely to a multiple of an applicable index creates a leverage factor. Inverse floating rate CMOs based on multiples of a stated index are designed to be highly sensitive to changes in interest rates and can subject the holders thereof to extreme reductions of yield and loss of principal. The markets for inverse floating rate CMOs with highly leveraged characteristics at times may be very thin. The ability of a fund to dispose of positions in such securities will depend on the degree of liquidity in the markets for such securities. It is impossible to predict the amount of trading interest that may exist in such securities, and therefore the future degree of liquidity.

It should be noted that inverse floaters based on multiples of a stated index are designed to be highly sensitive to changes in interest rates and can subject the holders thereof to extreme reductions of yield and loss of principal.

As CMOs have evolved, some classes of CMO bonds have become more prevalent. The planned amortization class ("PAC") and targeted amortization class ("TAC"), for example, were designed to reduce prepayment risk by establishing a sinking-fund structure. PAC and TAC bonds assure to varying degrees that investors will receive payments over a predetermined period under varying prepayment scenarios. Although PAC and TAC bonds are similar, PAC bonds are better able to provide stable cash flows under various prepayment scenarios than TAC bonds because of the order in which these tranches are paid.

Stripped Mortgage-Backed Securities. Stripped mortgage-backed securities are created by segregating the cash flows from underlying mortgage loans or mortgage securities to create two or more new securities, each with a specified percentage of the underlying security's principal or interest payments. Mortgage securities may be partially stripped so that each investor class receives some interest and some principal. When securities are completely stripped, however, all of the interest is distributed to holders of one type of security, known as an interest-only security ("IO") and all of the principal is distributed to holders of another type of security known as a principal-only security ("PO"). IOs and POs can be created in a pass-through structure or as tranches of a CMO. The yields to maturity on IOs and POs are very sensitive to the rate of principal payments (including prepayments) on the related underlying mortgage assets. If the underlying mortgage assets experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, a fund may not fully recoup its initial investment in IOs. Conversely, if the underlying mortgage assets experience less than anticipated prepayments of principal, the yield on POs could be materially and adversely affected.

Adjustable-Rate Mortgage Loans ("ARMs"). ARMs eligible for inclusion in a mortgage pool will generally provide for a fixed initial mortgage interest rate for a specified period of time, generally for either the first three, six, twelve, thirteen, thirty-six, or sixty scheduled monthly payments. Thereafter, the interest rates are subject to periodic adjustment based on changes in an index. ARMs typically have minimum and maximum rates beyond which the mortgage interest rate may not vary over the lifetime of the loans. Certain ARMs provide for additional limitations on the maximum amount by which the mortgage interest rate may adjust for any single adjustment period. Negatively amortizing ARMs may provide limitations on changes in the required monthly payment. Limitations on monthly payments can result in monthly payments that are greater or less than the amount necessary to amortize a negatively amortizing ARM by its maturity at the interest rate in effect during any particular month.

Private Entity Securities. Mortgage-related securities may be issued by commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, mortgage bankers, private mortgage insurance companies and other non-governmental issuers. Timely payment of principal and interest on mortgage-related securities backed by pools created by non-governmental issuers often is supported partially by various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance. The insurance and guarantees are issued by government entities, private insurers and the mortgage poolers. There can be no assurance that the private insurers or mortgage poolers can meet their obligations under the policies, so that if the issuers default on their obligations the holders of the security could sustain a loss. No insurance or guarantee covers a fund or the price of a fund's shares. Mortgage-related securities issued by non-governmental issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than government-agency and government-related securities because there are no direct or indirect government guarantees of payment.

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

Asset-Backed Securities. Asset-backed securities are a form of derivative instrument. Non-mortgage asset-backed securities are securities issued by special purpose entities whose primary assets consist of a pool of loans, receivables or other assets. Payment of principal and interest may depend largely on the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities and, in certain cases, supported by letters of credit, surety bonds or other forms of credit

or liquidity enhancements. The value of these asset-backed securities also may be affected by the creditworthiness of the servicing agent for the pool of assets, the originator of the loans or receivables or the financial institution providing the credit support.

The securitization techniques used for asset-backed securities are similar to those used for mortgage-related securities, including the issuance of securities in senior and subordinated classes (see "Mortgage-Related Securities—Commercial Mortgage-Related Securities" and "—Subordinated Securities" above). These securities include debt securities and securities with debt-like characteristics. The collateral for these securities has included home equity loans, automobile and credit card receivables, boat loans, computer leases, airplane leases, mobile home loans, recreational vehicle loans and hospital account receivables. Other types of asset-backed securities may be developed in the future. The purchase of non-mortgage asset-backed securities raises considerations particular to the financing of the instruments underlying such securities.

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

Municipal Securities.

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

A fund's investments in municipal securities may include investments in U.S. territories or possessions such as Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. A fund's investments in a territory or possession could be affected by economic, legislative, regulatory or political developments affecting issuers in the territory or possession. For example, Puerto Rico, like many other states and U.S. municipalities, experienced a significant downturn during the recent recession and continues to face significant fiscal challenges, including persistent government deficits, underfunded public pensions, sizable debt service obligations and a high unemployment rate. As a result, many Rating Agencies have downgraded Puerto Rico's various municipal issuers, including the Commonwealth itself and its general obligation debt, or placed them on "negative watch." If the economic situation in Puerto Rico persists or worsens, the volatility, credit quality and performance of a fund holding securities of issuers in Puerto Rico could be adversely affected.

Municipal securities bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest, which are determined in some instances by formulas under which the municipal security's interest rate will change directly or inversely to changes in interest rates or an index, or multiples thereof, in many cases subject to a maximum and minimum. Certain municipal

securities are subject to redemption at a date earlier than their stated maturity pursuant to call options, which may be separated from the related municipal security and purchased and sold separately. The purchase of call options on specific municipal securities may protect a fund from the issuer of the related municipal security redeeming, or other holder of the call option from calling away, the municipal security before maturity. The sale by a fund of a call option that it owns on a specific municipal security could result in the receipt of taxable income by the fund.

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

While, in general, municipal securities are tax exempt securities having relatively low yields as compared to taxable, non-municipal securities of similar quality, certain municipal securities are taxable obligations, offering yields comparable to, and in some cases greater than, the yields available on other permissible investments.

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

Municipal securities include certain private activity bonds (a type of revenue bond issued by or on behalf of public authorities to raise money to finance various privately operated or public facilities and for which the payment of principal and interest is dependent solely on the ability of the facility's user to meet its financial obligations and the pledge, if any, of real and personal property so financed as security for such payment), the income from which is subject to the federal alternative minimum tax. Taxable municipal securities also may include remarketed certificates of participation. Certain funds may invest in these municipal securities if the Adviser determines that their purchase is consistent with a fund's investment objective.

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

Certain provisions in the Code relating to the issuance of municipal securities may reduce the volume of municipal securities qualifying for federal tax exemption. One effect of these provisions could be to increase the cost of the municipal securities available for purchase by a fund and thus reduce available yield. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors concerning the effect of these provisions on an investment in such a fund. Proposals that may

restrict or eliminate the income tax exemption for interest on municipal securities may be introduced in the future. If any such proposal were enacted that would reduce the availability of municipal securities for investment by a fund so as to adversely affect fund shareholders, the fund would reevaluate its investment objective and policies and submit possible changes in the fund's structure to shareholders for their consideration.

Instruments Related to Municipal Securities. The following is a description of certain types of investments related to municipal securities.

- *Floating and Variable Rate Demand Notes and Bonds.* Floating and variable rate demand notes and bonds are tax exempt obligations ordinarily having stated maturities in excess of one year, but which permit the holder to demand payment of principal at any time, or at specified intervals. Variable rate demand notes include master demand notes. See "Fixed-Income Securities—Variable and Floating Rate Securities" above.
- *Municipal Lease Obligations.* Municipal lease obligations or installment purchase contract obligations (collectively, "lease obligations") have special risks not ordinarily associated with general obligation or revenue bonds. Leases and installment purchase or conditional sale contracts (which normally provide for title to the leased asset to pass eventually to the government issuer) have evolved as a means for governmental issuers to acquire property and equipment without meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements for the issuance of debt. Although lease obligations do not constitute general obligations of the municipality for which the municipality's taxing power is pledged, a lease obligation ordinarily is backed by the municipality's covenant to budget for, appropriate and make the payments due under the lease obligation. However, lease obligations in which a fund may invest may contain "non-appropriation" clauses which provide that the municipality has no obligation to make lease or installment purchase payments in future years unless money is appropriated for such purpose on a yearly basis. Although "non-appropriation" lease obligations are secured by the leased property, disposition of the property in the event of foreclosure might prove difficult. Certain lease obligations may be considered illiquid. Determination as to the liquidity of such securities is made in accordance with guidelines established by the board. Pursuant to such guidelines, the boards have directed the Adviser to monitor carefully a fund's investment in such securities with particular regard to: (1) the frequency of trades and quotes for the lease obligation; (2) the number of dealers willing to purchase or sell the lease obligation and the number of other potential buyers; (3) the willingness of dealers to undertake to make a market in the lease obligation; (4) the nature of the marketplace trades, including the time needed to dispose of the lease obligation, the method of soliciting offers and the mechanics of transfer; and (5) such other factors concerning the trading market for the lease obligation as the Adviser may deem relevant. In addition, in evaluating the liquidity and credit quality of a lease obligation that is unrated, the boards have directed the Adviser to consider: (1) whether the lease can be canceled; (2) what assurance there is that the assets represented by the lease can be sold; (3) the strength of the lessee's general credit (*e.g.*, its debt, administrative, economic and financial characteristics); (4) the likelihood that the municipality will discontinue appropriating funding for the leased property because the property is no longer deemed essential to the operations of the municipality (*e.g.*, the potential for an "event of non-appropriation"); (5) the legal recourse in the event of failure to appropriate; and (6) such other factors concerning credit quality as the Adviser may deem relevant.
- *Indexed and Inverse Floating Rate Municipal Securities.* Indexed rate municipal securities are securities that pay interest or whose principal amount payable upon maturity is based on the value of an index of interest rates. Interest and principal payable on certain securities also may be based on relative changes among particular indexes. So-called "inverse floating obligations" or "residual interest bonds" ("inverse floaters") are derivative instruments created by depositing municipal securities in a trust which divides the bond's income stream into two parts: (1) a short-term variable rate demand note; and (2) a residual interest bond (the inverse floater) which receives interest based on the remaining cash flow of the trust after payment of interest on the note and various trust expenses. The interest rate on the inverse floater varies inversely with a floating rate (which may be reset periodically by a "Dutch" auction, a remarketing agent or by reference a short-term tax-exempt interest rate index), usually moving in the opposite direction as the interest on the variable rate demand note.

A fund may either participate in structuring an inverse floater or purchase an inverse floater in the secondary market. When structuring an inverse floater, a fund will transfer to a trust fixed rate municipal securities held in the fund's portfolio. The trust then typically issues the inverse floaters and the variable

rate demand notes that are collateralized by the cash flows of the fixed rate municipal securities. In return for the transfer of the municipal securities to the trust, the fund receives the inverse floaters and cash associated with the sale of the notes from the trust. For accounting purposes, a fund treats these transfers as part of a secured borrowing or financing transaction (not a sale), and the interest payments and related expenses due on the notes issued by the trusts and sold to third parties as expenses and liabilities of the fund. Inverse floaters purchased in the secondary market are treated as the purchase of a security and not as a secured borrowing or financing transaction. Synthetically created inverse floating rate bonds evidenced by custodial or trust receipts are securities that have the effect of providing a degree of investment leverage, since they may increase or decrease in value in response to changes in market interest rates at a rate that is a multiple of the rate at which fixed rate securities increase or decrease in response to such changes.

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

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

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

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

Money Market Instruments

When the Adviser determines that adverse market conditions exist, a fund may adopt a temporary defensive position and invest up to 100% of its assets in money market instruments, including U.S. Government securities, bank obligations, repurchase agreements and commercial paper. During such periods, the fund may not achieve its investment objective(s). A fund also may purchase money market instruments when it has cash reserves or in anticipation of taking a market position.

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

Bank Obligations. See "Bank Obligations" below under "Government Money Market Portfolio."

Repurchase Agreements. See "Repurchase Agreements" below under "Government Money Market Portfolio."

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

Foreign Securities

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

Investing in the securities of foreign issuers, as well as instruments that provide investment exposure to foreign securities and markets, involves risks that are not typically associated with investing in U.S. dollar-denominated securities of domestic issuers. Investments in foreign issuers may be affected by changes in currency rates (*i.e.*, affecting the value of assets as measured in U.S. dollars), changes in foreign or U.S. laws or restrictions applicable to such investments and in exchange control regulations (*e.g.*, currency blockage). A decline in the exchange rate of the currency (*i.e.*, weakening of the currency against the U.S. dollar) in which a portfolio security is quoted or denominated relative to the U.S. dollar would reduce the value of the portfolio security. A change in the value of such foreign currency against the U.S. dollar also will result in a change in the amount of income available for distribution. If a portion of a fund's investment income may be received in foreign currencies, such fund will be required to compute its income in U.S. dollars for distribution to shareholders, and therefore the fund will absorb the cost of currency fluctuations. After the fund has distributed income, subsequent foreign currency losses may result in the fund having distributed more income in a particular fiscal period than was available from investment income, which could result in a return of capital to shareholders. In addition, if the exchange rate for the currency in which a fund receives interest payments declines against the U.S. dollar before such income is distributed as dividends to shareholders, the fund may have to sell portfolio securities to obtain sufficient cash to enable the fund to pay such dividends. Commissions on transactions in foreign securities may be higher than those for similar transactions on domestic stock markets, and foreign custodial costs are higher than domestic custodial costs. In addition, clearance and settlement procedures may be different in foreign countries and, in certain markets, such procedures have on occasion been unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, thus making it difficult to conduct such transactions.

Foreign securities markets generally are not as developed or efficient as those in the United States. Securities of some foreign issuers are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. Similarly, volume

and liquidity in most foreign securities markets are less than in the United States and, at times, volatility of price can be greater than in the United States.

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

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

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

Investing in Europe. Ongoing concerns regarding the economies of certain European countries and/or their sovereign debt, as well as the possibility that one or more countries might leave the European Union (the "EU"), create risks for investing in the EU. In June 2016, the United Kingdom (the "UK") held a referendum resulting in a vote in favor of the exit of the UK from the EU (known as "Brexit"). The current uncertainty and related future developments could have a negative impact on both the UK economy and the economies of other countries in Europe, as well as greater volatility in the global financial and currency markets.

A number of countries in Europe have experienced severe economic and financial difficulties. Many non-governmental issuers, and even certain governments, have defaulted on, or been forced to restructure, their debts. Many other issuers have faced difficulties obtaining credit or refinancing existing obligations. Financial institutions have in many cases required government or central bank support, have needed to raise capital, and/or have been impaired in their ability to extend credit, and financial markets in Europe and elsewhere have experienced significant volatility and declines in asset values and liquidity. These difficulties may continue, worsen or spread within and outside of Europe. Responses to the financial problems by European governments, central banks and others, including austerity measures and reforms, may not be effective, may result in social unrest and may limit future growth and economic recovery or have other unintended consequences. Further defaults or restructurings by governments and others of outstanding debt could have additional adverse effects on economies, financial markets and asset valuations around the world.

A process of negotiation will follow that will determine the future terms of the UK's relationship with the EU. In March 2017, the British Prime Minister invoked Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which gives the UK two years to negotiate an exit deal with the EU. It is unclear how and in what timeframe Brexit withdrawal negotiations will proceed and what the potential consequences may be. In November 2017, the EU presented the UK with a divorce bill which would require the UK to pay financial settlements to the EU as a result of its exit. The final amount of the required payments, which are estimated to be in the billions, and the timing of the payments are yet to be decided. As a result of the political divisions within the UK and between the UK and the EU that the referendum vote has highlighted and the uncertain consequences of a Brexit, the UK and European economies and the broader global economy could be significantly impacted, which may result in increased volatility and illiquidity, and potentially lower economic growth on markets in the UK, Europe and globally.

Depreciation of the British pound sterling and/or the Euro in relation to the U.S. dollar in anticipation of Brexit would adversely affect fund investments denominated in British pound sterling and/or the Euro that are not fully and effectively hedged, regardless of the performance of the investment.

Whether or not a fund invests in securities of issuers located in Europe or has significant exposure to European issuers or countries, these events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of the fund's investment.

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

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

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

Certain funds may invest in companies organized or with their principal place of business, or majority of assets or business, in pre-emerging markets, also known as frontier markets. The risks associated with investments in frontier market countries include all the risks described above for investments in foreign securities and emerging markets, although the risks are magnified for frontier market countries. Because frontier markets are among the smallest, least mature and least liquid of the emerging markets, investments in frontier markets generally are subject to a greater risk of loss than investments in developed markets or traditional emerging markets. Frontier market

countries have smaller economies, less developed capital markets, more political and economic instability, weaker legal, financial accounting and regulatory infrastructure, and more governmental limitations on foreign investments than typically found in more developed countries, and frontier markets typically have greater market volatility, lower trading volume, lower capital flow, less investor participation, fewer large global companies and greater risk of a market shutdown than more developed markets. Frontier markets are more prone to economic shocks associated with political and economic risks than are emerging markets generally. Many frontier market countries may be dependent on commodities, foreign trade or foreign aid.

Certain Asian Emerging Market Countries. Many Asian economies are characterized by over-extension of credit, frequent currency fluctuation, devaluations and restrictions, rising unemployment, rapid fluctuations in inflation, reliance on exports and less efficient markets. Currency devaluation in one Asian country can have a significant effect on the entire region. The legal systems in many Asian countries are still developing, making it more difficult to obtain and/or enforce judgments.

Furthermore, increased political and social unrest in some Asian countries could cause economic and market uncertainty throughout the region. The auditing and reporting standards in some Asian emerging market countries may not provide the same degree of shareholder protection or information to investors as those in developed countries. In particular, valuation of assets, depreciation, exchange differences, deferred taxation, contingent liability and consolidation may be treated differently than under the auditing and reporting standards of developed countries.

Certain Asian emerging market countries are undergoing a period of growth and change which may result in trading volatility and difficulties in the settlement and recording of securities transactions, and in interpreting and applying the relevant law and regulations. The securities industries in these countries are comparatively underdeveloped. Stockbrokers and other intermediaries in Asian emerging market countries may not perform as well as their counterparts in the United States and other more developed securities markets. Certain Asian emerging market countries may require substantial withholding on dividends paid on portfolio securities and on realized capital gains. There can be no assurance that repatriation of the fund's income, gains or initial capital from these countries can occur.

Investing in Russia and other Eastern European Countries. Many formerly communist, eastern European countries have experienced significant political and economic reform over the past decade. However, the democratization process is still relatively new in a number of the smaller states and political turmoil and popular uprisings remain threats. Investments in these countries are particularly subject to political, economic, legal, market and currency risks. The risks include uncertain political and economic policies and the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets, short-term market volatility, poor accounting standards, corruption and crime, an inadequate regulatory system, unpredictable taxation, the imposition of capital controls and/or foreign investment limitations by a country and the imposition of sanctions on an Eastern European country by other countries, such as the U.S. Adverse currency exchange rates are a risk, and there may be a lack of available currency hedging instruments.

These securities markets, as compared to U.S. markets, have significant price volatility, less liquidity, a smaller market capitalization and a smaller number of exchange-traded securities. A limited volume of trading may result in difficulty in obtaining accurate prices and trading. There is little publicly available information about issuers. Settlement, clearing and registration of securities transactions are subject to risks because of insufficient registration systems that may not be subject to effective government supervision. This may result in significant delays or problems in registering the transfer of shares. It is possible that a fund's ownership rights could be lost through fraud or negligence. While applicable regulations may impose liability on registrars for losses resulting from their errors, it may be difficult for a fund to enforce any rights it may have against the registrar or issuer of the securities in the event of loss of share registration.

Political risk in Russia remains high, and steps that Russia may take to assert its geopolitical influence may increase the tensions in the region and affect economic growth. Russia's economy is heavily dependent on exportation of natural resources, which may be particularly vulnerable to economic sanctions by other countries during times of political tension or crisis.

In response to recent political and military actions undertaken by Russia, the United States and certain other countries, as well as the European Union, have instituted economic sanctions against certain Russian individuals and companies. The political and economic situation in Russia, and the current and any future sanctions or other

government actions against Russia, may result in the decline in the value and liquidity of Russian securities, devaluation of Russian currency, a downgrade in Russia's credit rating, the inability to freely trade sanctioned companies (either due to the sanctions imposed or related operational issues) and/or other adverse consequences to the Russian economy, any of which could negatively impact a fund's investments in Russian securities. Sanctions could result in the immediate freeze of Russian securities, impairing the ability of a fund to buy, sell, receive or deliver those securities. Both the current and potential future sanctions or other government actions against Russia also could result in Russia taking counter measures or retaliatory actions, which may impair further the value or liquidity of Russian securities and negatively impact a fund. Any or all of these potential results could lead Russia's economy into a recession.

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

Depository receipts may be purchased through "sponsored" or "unsponsored" facilities. A sponsored facility is established jointly by the issuer of the underlying security and a depository. A depository may establish an unsponsored facility without participation by the issuer of the deposited security. Holders of unsponsored depository receipts generally bear all the costs of such facilities, and the depository of an unsponsored facility frequently is under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the issuer of the deposited security or to pass through voting rights to the holders of such receipts in respect of the deposited securities. Purchases or sales of certain ADRs may result, indirectly, in fees being paid to the Depository Receipts Division of The Bank of New York Mellon, an affiliate of the Manager, by brokers executing the purchases or sales.

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

Investment Companies

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

As a shareholder of another investment company, a fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of the other investment company's expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory fees and other expenses that the fund bears directly in connection with its own operations. A fund also may invest its uninvested cash reserves or cash it receives as collateral from borrowers of its portfolio securities in connection with the fund's securities lending program, in shares of one or more money market funds advised by the Manager. Such investments will not be subject to the limitations described above.

Private Investment Funds. As with investments in registered investment companies, if a fund invests in a private investment fund, such as a "hedge fund" or private equity fund, the fund will be charged its proportionate share of the advisory fees, including any incentive compensation and other operating expenses, of the private investment fund. These fees, which can be substantial, would be in addition to the advisory fees and other operating expenses incurred by the fund. In addition, private investment funds are not registered with the SEC and may not be registered

with any other regulatory authority. Accordingly, they are not subject to certain regulatory requirements and oversight to which registered issuers are subject. There may be very little public information available about their investments and performance. Moreover, because sales of shares of private investment funds are generally restricted to certain qualified purchasers, such shares may be illiquid and it could be difficult for the fund to sell its shares at an advantageous price and time. Finally, because shares of private investment funds are not publicly traded, a fair value for the fund's investment in these companies typically will have to be determined under policies approved by the board.

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

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

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

With respect to a fund's investments in ETFs, the fund may enter into an agreement with certain ETFs pursuant to SEC exemptive orders obtained by the ETFs, and on which the fund may rely, that permit the fund to invest in excess of the limits in the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder. These agreements and orders also may require the Manager to vote the fund's ETF shares in proportion to votes cast by other ETF stockholders and may subject the fund to other requirements in connection with investments in these ETFs.

Derivatives

Depending on the fund, derivatives may be used for a variety of reasons, including to (1) hedge to seek to mitigate certain market, interest rate or currency risks; (2) to manage the maturity or the interest rate sensitivity (sometimes called duration) of fixed-income securities; (3) to provide a substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities to reduce portfolio turnover, to seek to obtain a particular desired return at a lower cost to a fund than if the fund had invested directly in an instrument yielding the desired return, such as when a fund "equitizes" available cash balances by using a derivative instrument to gain exposure to relevant equity investments or markets consistent with its investment objective and policies, or for other reasons; or (4) to seek to increase potential returns. Generally, a derivative is a financial contract whose value depends upon, or is derived from, the value of an underlying asset, reference rate or index, and may relate to stocks, bonds, interest rates, currencies or currency exchange rates and related indexes. Derivatives may provide a cheaper, quicker or more specifically focused way to invest than "traditional" securities would. Examples of derivative instruments include futures contracts, options, swap agreements, contracts for difference, forward volatility agreements, credit linked securities, credit derivatives, structured securities and hybrid instruments, exchange-linked notes, participation notes, custodial receipts and currency forward contracts. Whether or not a fund may use some or all of these derivatives varies by fund. In addition, a fund's portfolio managers may decide not to employ some or all of these strategies, and there is no assurance that any derivatives strategy used by the fund will succeed.

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

It is possible that developments in the derivatives markets, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect the ability to terminate existing derivatives positions or to realize amounts to be received in such transactions.

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

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

Over-the-Counter Derivatives. Derivatives may be purchased on established exchanges or through privately negotiated transactions referred to as over-the-counter derivatives. Exchange-traded derivatives, primarily futures contracts and options, generally are guaranteed by the clearing agency that is the issuer or counterparty to such derivatives. This guarantee usually is supported by a variation margin payment system operated by the clearing agency in order to reduce overall credit risk. As a result, unless the clearing agency defaults, there is relatively little counterparty credit risk associated with derivatives purchased on an exchange. In contrast, no clearing agency guarantees over-the-counter derivatives. Therefore, each party to an over-the-counter derivative bears the risk that the counterparty will default. Accordingly, the Adviser will consider the creditworthiness of counterparties to over-the-counter derivatives in the same manner as it would review the credit quality of a security to be purchased by a fund. Over-the-counter derivatives are less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives since the other party to the transaction may be the only investor with sufficient understanding of the derivative to be interested in bidding for it. Derivatives that are considered illiquid will be subject to a fund's limit on illiquid investments.

Leverage. Some derivatives may involve leverage (e.g., an instrument linked to the value of a securities index may return income calculated as a multiple of the price movement of the underlying index). This economic leverage will increase the volatility of these instruments as they may increase or decrease in value more quickly than the underlying security, index, futures contract, currency or other economic variable. Pursuant to regulations and/or published positions of the SEC, a fund may be required to segregate permissible liquid assets, or engage in other measures approved by the SEC or its staff, to "cover" the fund's obligations relating to its transactions in derivatives. For example, in the case of futures contracts or forward contracts that are not contractually required to cash settle, a fund must set aside liquid assets equal to such contracts' full notional value (generally, the total numerical value of the asset underlying a future or forward contract at the time of valuation) while the positions are open. With respect to futures contracts or forward contracts that are contractually required to cash settle, however, a fund is permitted to set aside liquid assets in an amount equal to the fund's daily marked-to-market net obligation (i.e., the fund's daily net liability) under the contracts, if any, rather than such contracts' full notional value. By setting aside assets equal to only its net obligations under cash-settled derivatives, a fund may employ leverage to a greater extent than if the fund were required to segregate assets equal to the full notional value of such contracts. Requirements to maintain

cover might impair a fund's ability to sell a portfolio security, meet redemption requests or other current obligations, or make an investment at a time when it would otherwise be favorable to do so, or require that the fund sell a portfolio security at a disadvantageous time.

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

The funds have claimed exclusions from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" pursuant to Regulation 4.5 under the CEA and, therefore, are not subject to registration or regulation as a CPO under the CEA. Although the Manager has been registered as a "commodity trading advisor" and "commodity pool operator" with the National Futures Association since December 19, 2012 and January 1, 2013, respectively, the Manager relies on the exemption in Regulation 4.14(a)(8) to provide commodity interest trading advice to the funds that rely on Regulation 4.5 exclusion. The funds may be limited in their ability to use commodity futures or options thereon, engage in certain swap transactions or make certain other investments (collectively, "commodity interests") if the funds continue to claim the exclusion from the definition of CPO.

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

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

Specific Types of Derivatives.

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

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

Engaging in these transactions involves risk of loss to a fund which could adversely affect the value of the fund's net assets. No assurance can be given that a liquid market will exist for any particular contract at any particular time. Many futures exchanges and boards of trade limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular contract, no trades may be made that day at a price beyond that limit or trading may be suspended for specified periods during the trading day. Futures contract prices could move to the limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of futures positions and potentially leading to substantial losses.

A fund may engage in futures transactions in foreign markets to the extent consistent with applicable law and the fund's ability to invest in foreign securities. Foreign futures markets may offer advantages such as trading opportunities or arbitrage possibilities not available in the United States. Foreign markets, however, may have greater risk potential than domestic markets. For example, some foreign exchanges are principal markets so that no common clearing facility exists and an investor may look only to the broker for performance of the contract. In addition, any profits that a fund might realize in trading could be eliminated by adverse changes in the currency exchange rate, or the fund could incur losses as a result of those changes.

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

- *Security Futures Contract.* A security future obligates a fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific security at a future date at a specific price.
- *Index Futures Contract.* An index future obligates a fund to pay or receive an amount of cash based upon the change in value of the index based on the prices of the securities that comprise the index.
- *Interest Rate Futures Contract.* An interest rate future obligates a fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific debt security at a future date at a specific price (or, in some cases, to settle an equivalent amount in cash).

- *Foreign Currency Futures Contract.* A foreign currency future obligates a fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific currency at a future date at a specific price.
- *Eurodollar Contracts.* A Eurodollar contract is a U.S. dollar-denominated futures contract or option thereon which is linked to the LIBOR, although foreign currency-denominated instruments are available from time to time. Eurodollar futures contracts enable purchasers to obtain a fixed rate for the lending of funds and sellers to obtain a fixed rate for borrowings. Certain funds might use Eurodollar futures contracts and options thereon to hedge against changes in LIBOR, to which many interest rate swaps and fixed-income instruments are linked.

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

A covered call option written by a fund is a call option with respect to which the fund owns the underlying security or otherwise covers the transaction such as by segregating permissible liquid assets. The principal reason for writing covered call options is to realize, through the receipt of premiums, a greater return than would be realized on the underlying securities alone.

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

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

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

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

the effectiveness of purchasing or writing index options will depend upon price movements in the level of the index rather than the price of a particular security.

- *Foreign Currency Options.* Call and put options on foreign currency convey the right to buy or sell the underlying currency at a price which is expected to be lower or higher than the spot price of the currency at the time the option is exercised or expires.

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

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

Most swap agreements entered into are cash settled and calculate the obligations of the parties to the agreement on a "net basis." Thus, a fund's current obligations (or rights) under a swap agreement generally will be equal only to the net amount to be paid or received under the agreement based on the relative values of the positions held by each party to the agreement (the "net amount"). A fund's current obligations under a swap agreement will be accrued daily (offset against any amounts owed to the fund) and any accrued but unpaid net amounts owed to a swap counterparty will be covered by the segregation of permissible liquid assets of the fund. A fund will enter into swap agreements only with counterparties that meet certain standards of creditworthiness (generally, such counterparties would have to be eligible counterparties under the terms of the Manager's repurchase agreement guidelines).

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

The swaps market has been an evolving and largely unregulated market. It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including new regulatory requirements, could limit or prevent a fund's ability to utilize swap agreements or options on swaps as part of its investment strategy, terminate existing swap agreements or realize amounts to be received under such agreements, which could negatively affect the fund. As discussed above, some swaps currently are, and more in the future will be, centrally cleared, which affects how swaps are transacted. In particular, the Dodd-Frank Act, has resulted in new clearing and exchange-trading requirements for swaps and other over-the-counter derivatives. The Dodd-Frank Act also requires the CFTC and/or the SEC, in consultation with banking regulators, to establish capital requirements for swap dealers and major swap participants as well as requirements for margin on uncleared derivatives, including swaps, in certain circumstances that will be clarified by rules proposed by the CFTC and/or the SEC. In addition, the CFTC and the SEC are reviewing the current

regulatory requirements applicable to derivatives, including swaps, and it is not certain at this time how the regulators may change these requirements. For example, some legislative and regulatory proposals would impose limits on the maximum position that could be held by a single trader in certain contracts and would subject certain derivatives transactions to new forms of regulation that could create barriers to certain types of investment activity. Other provisions would expand entity registration requirements; impose business conduct, reporting and disclosure requirements on dealers, recordkeeping on counterparties such as the funds; and require banks to move some derivatives trading units to a non-guaranteed (but capitalized) affiliate separate from the deposit-taking bank or divest them altogether. While some provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act have either already been implemented through rulemaking by the CFTC and/or the SEC or must be implemented through future rulemaking by those and other federal agencies, and any regulatory or legislative activity may not necessarily have a direct, immediate effect upon the funds, it is possible that, when compliance with these rules is required, they could potentially limit or completely restrict the ability of a fund to use certain derivatives as a part of its investment strategy, increase the cost of entering into derivatives transactions or require more assets of the fund to be used for collateral in support of those derivatives than is currently the case. Limits or restrictions applicable to the counterparties with which a fund engages in derivative transactions also could prevent the funds from using derivatives or affect the pricing or other factors relating to these transactions, or may change the availability of certain derivatives.

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

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

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

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

- *Credit Default Swap Transactions.* Credit default swap agreements and similar agreements may have as reference obligations debt securities that are or are not currently held by a fund. The protection "buyer" in a credit default contract may be obligated to pay the protection "seller" an up front payment or a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract provided generally that no credit event on a reference obligation has occurred. If a credit event occurs, the seller generally must pay the buyer the "par value" (full notional value) of the swap in exchange for an equal face amount of deliverable obligations of the reference entity described in the swap, or the seller may be required to deliver the related net cash amount,

if the swap is cash settled. If a fund enters into a credit default swap agreement as a seller of credit protection, it will segregate liquid assets equal to the full notional value of the swap.

- *Inflation Swap Transactions.* An inflation swap agreement involves the exchange of cash flows based on interest and inflation rate specifications and a specified principal amount, usually a fixed payment, such as the yield difference between Treasury securities and TIPS of the same maturity, for a floating payment that is linked to the consumer price index (the "CPI"). The following is an example. The swap buyer pays a predetermined fixed rate to the swap seller (or counterparty) based on the yield difference between Treasuries and TIPS of the same maturity. (This yield spread represents the market's current expected inflation for the time period covered by the maturity date.) In exchange for this fixed rate, the counterparty pays the buyer an inflation-linked payment, usually the CPI rate for the maturity period (which represents the actual change in inflation).
- *Total Return Swap Transactions.* In a total return swap agreement one party makes payments based on a set rate, either fixed or variable, while the other party makes payments based on the return of an underlying asset, which includes both the income it generates and any capital gains, and recovers any capital losses from the first party. The underlying reference asset of a total return swap may include an equity index, loans or bonds.

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

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

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

Unlike credit default swaps, credit-linked notes are funded balance sheet assets that offer synthetic credit exposure to a reference entity in a structure designed to resemble a synthetic corporate bond or loan. Credit-linked notes are frequently issued by special purpose vehicles that would hold some form of collateral securities financed through the issuance of notes or certificates to a fund. The fund receives a coupon and par redemption, provided there has been no credit event of the reference entity. The vehicle enters into a credit swap with a third party in which it sells default protection in return for a premium that subsidizes the coupon to compensate the fund for the reference entity default risk. A fund will enter into credit derivative transactions only with counterparties that meet certain standards of creditworthiness (generally, such counterparties would have to be eligible counterparties under the terms of the Manager's repurchase agreement guidelines).

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

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

Foreign Currency Transactions

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

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

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

The cost of engaging in foreign currency exchange contracts for the purchase or sale of a specified currency at a specified future date ("forward contracts") varies with factors such as the currency involved, the length of the contract period and the market conditions then prevailing. Because forward contracts are usually entered into on a

principal basis, no fees or commissions are involved. Generally, secondary markets do not exist for forward contracts, with the result that closing transactions can be made for forward contracts only by negotiating directly with the counterparty to the contract. As with other over-the-counter derivatives transactions, forward contracts are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty.

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

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

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

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

Short-Selling

A fund may make short sales as part of its investment strategy, to hedge positions (such as to limit exposure to a possible market decline in the value of portfolio securities), for duration and risk management, to maintain portfolio flexibility or to seek to enhance returns. A short sale involves the sale of a security that a fund does not own in the expectation of purchasing the same security (or a security exchangeable therefor) at a later date and at a lower price. To complete a short sale transaction and make delivery to the buyer, the fund must borrow the security. The fund is obligated to replace the borrowed security to the lender, which is accomplished by a later purchase of the security by the fund. Until the security is replaced, the fund is required to pay the lender any dividends or interest accruing during the period of the loan. To borrow the security, the fund also may have to pay a fee to the lender, which would increase the cost to the fund of the security it sold short. The fund will incur a loss as a result of a short sale if the price of the security increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the fund replaces the borrowed security. The fund will realize a gain if the security declines in price between those two dates. In certain cases, purchasing a security to cover a short position can itself cause the price of the security to rise, thereby exacerbating any loss, especially in an environment where others are taking the same actions. Short positions in stocks involve more risk than long positions in stocks because the maximum sustainable loss on a stock purchased is limited to the amount paid for the stock plus the transaction costs, whereas there is no maximum attainable price on the shorted stock. In theory, stocks sold short have unlimited risk. The amount of any gain will be decreased and the amount of any loss will be increased by any interest, premium and transaction charges or other costs a fund may be required to pay in connection with the short sale. A fund may not always be able to borrow a security the fund seeks to sell short at a particular time or at an acceptable price.

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

When a fund makes a short sale, it must leave the proceeds thereof with the broker and deposit with, or pledge to, the broker an amount of cash or liquid securities sufficient under current margin regulations to collateralize its

obligation to replace the borrowed securities that have been sold. Until a fund closes its short position or replaces the borrowed security, the fund will: (1) segregate permissible liquid assets in an amount that, together with the amount provided as collateral, is at least equal to the current value of the security sold short; or (2) otherwise cover its short position through offsetting positions. Short-selling is considered "leverage" and may involve substantial risk.

Lending Portfolio Securities

Fund portfolio securities may be lent to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. In connection with such loans, a fund would remain the owner of the loaned securities and continue to be entitled to payments in amounts equal to the interest, dividends or other distributions payable on the loaned securities. A fund also has the right to terminate a loan at any time. Subject to a fund's own more restrictive limitations, if applicable, an investment company is limited in the amount of portfolio securities it may loan to 33-1/3% of its total assets (including the value of all assets received as collateral for the loan). Except as may be otherwise described in "Investments, Investment Techniques and Risks" in Part II of this SAI, a fund will receive collateral consisting of cash, cash equivalents, U.S. Government securities or irrevocable letters of credit, which will be maintained at all times in an amount equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned securities. If the collateral consists of a letter of credit or securities, the borrower will pay the fund a loan premium fee. If the collateral consists of cash, the fund will reinvest the cash and pay the borrower a pre-negotiated fee or "rebate" from any return earned on the investment. A fund may participate in a securities lending program operated by the Lending Agent. The Lending Agent will receive a percentage of the total earnings of the fund derived from lending its portfolio securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral. Loans are made only to borrowers that are deemed by the Adviser to be of good financial standing. In a loan transaction, a fund will also bear the risk of any decline in value of securities acquired with cash collateral. A fund will minimize this risk by limiting the investment of cash collateral to money market funds advised by the Manager, repurchase agreements or other high quality instruments with short maturities, in each case to the extent it is a permissible investment for the fund.

Borrowing Money

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

Borrowing Money for Leverage. Leveraging (buying securities using borrowed money) exaggerates the effect on NAV of any increase or decrease in the market value of a fund's investments. These borrowings will be subject to interest costs which may or may not be recovered by appreciation of the securities purchased; in certain cases, interest costs may exceed the return received on the securities purchased. For borrowings for investment purposes, the 1940 Act requires a fund to maintain continuous asset coverage (total assets including borrowings, less liabilities exclusive of borrowings) of 300% of the amount borrowed. If the required coverage should decline as a result of market fluctuations or other reasons, the fund may be required to sell some of its portfolio securities within three days to reduce the amount of its borrowings and restore the 300% asset coverage, even though it may be disadvantageous from an investment standpoint to sell securities at that time. A fund also may be required to maintain minimum average balances in connection with such borrowing or pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit; either of these requirements would increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate.

Reverse Repurchase Agreements. Reverse repurchase agreements may be entered into with banks, broker/dealers or other financial institutions. This form of borrowing involves the transfer by a fund of an underlying debt instrument in return for cash proceeds based on a percentage of the value of the security. The fund retains the right to receive interest and principal payments on the security. At an agreed upon future date, the fund repurchases the security at principal plus accrued interest. As a result of these transactions, the fund is exposed to greater potential fluctuations in the value of its assets and its NAV per share. These borrowings will be subject to interest costs which may or may not be recovered by appreciation of the securities purchased; in certain cases, interest costs may exceed the

return received on the securities purchased. To the extent a fund enters into a reverse repurchase agreement, the fund will segregate permissible liquid assets at least equal to the aggregate amount of its reverse repurchase obligations, plus accrued interest, in certain cases, in accordance with SEC guidance. The SEC views reverse repurchase transactions as collateralized borrowings by a fund.

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

Debt securities purchased on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed-delivery basis are subject to changes in value based upon the perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and changes, real or anticipated, in the level of interest rates (*i.e.*, appreciating when interest rates decline and depreciating when interest rates rise). Securities purchased on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed-delivery basis may expose a fund to risks because they may experience declines in value prior to their actual delivery. A fund will make commitments to purchase such securities only with the intention of actually acquiring the securities, but the fund may sell these securities or dispose of the commitment before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable as a matter of investment strategy. A fund would engage in forward commitments to increase its portfolio's financial exposure to the types of securities in which it invests. If the fund is fully or almost fully invested when forward commitment purchases are outstanding, such purchases may result in a form of leverage. Leveraging the portfolio in this manner will increase the fund's exposure to changes in interest rates and may result in greater potential fluctuation in the value of the fund's net assets and its NAV per share. A fund will segregate permissible liquid assets at least equal at all times to the amount of the fund's purchase commitments.

Illiquid Securities

Illiquid Securities Generally. The 1940 Act, subject to a fund's own more restrictive limitations, if applicable, limits funds other than money market funds to 15% of net assets in illiquid securities. Illiquid securities, which are securities that cannot be sold or disposed of in the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the value ascribed to them by a fund, may include securities that are not readily marketable, such as securities that are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale that do not have readily available market quotations, repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice and certain privately negotiated derivatives transactions and securities used to cover such derivatives transactions. As to these securities, there is a risk that, should a fund desire to sell them, a ready buyer will not be available at a price the fund deems representative of their value, which could adversely affect the value of a fund's net assets.

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

fund's board or by the Adviser pursuant to guidelines established by the board. The fund's board or the Adviser will consider availability of reliable price information and other relevant information in making such determinations.

Non-Diversified Status

A fund's classification as a "non-diversified" investment company means that the proportion of the fund's assets that may be invested in the securities of a single issuer is not limited by the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act generally requires a "diversified" investment company, with respect to 75% of its total assets, to invest not more than 5% of such assets in securities of a single issuer. Since a relatively high percentage of a fund's assets may be invested in the securities of a limited number of issuers or industries, the fund may be more sensitive to changes in the market value of a single issuer or industry. However, to meet federal tax requirements, at the close of each quarter a fund may not have more than 25% of its total assets invested in any one issuer and, with respect to 50% of its total assets, not more than 5% of its total assets invested in any one issuer. These limitations do not apply to U.S. Government securities or investments in certain other investment companies.

Cybersecurity Risk

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

Investments in the Technology Sector

The technology sector has been among the most volatile sectors of the stock market. Many technology companies involve greater risks because their revenues and earnings tend to be less predictable (and some companies may be experiencing significant losses) and their share prices tend to be more volatile. Certain technology companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or may depend on a limited management group. In addition, these companies are strongly affected by worldwide technological developments, and their products and services may not be economically successful or may quickly become outdated. Investor perception may play a greater role in determining the day-to-day value of technology stocks than it does in other sectors. Investments made in anticipation of future products and services may decline dramatically in value if the anticipated products or services are delayed or cancelled.

Government Money Market Portfolio

The Government Money Market Portfolio attempts to increase yields by trading to take advantage of short-term market variations. This policy is expected to result in high portfolio turnover but should not adversely affect the fund since the fund usually does not pay brokerage commissions when purchasing short-term obligations. The value of the portfolio securities held by the fund will vary inversely to changes in prevailing interest rates and, therefore, are subject to the risk of market price fluctuations. Thus, if interest rates have increased from the time a security was purchased, such security, if sold, might be sold at a price less than its cost. Similarly, if interest rates have

declined from the time a security was purchased, such security, if sold, might be sold at a price greater than its purchase cost. In any event, if a security was purchased at face value and held to maturity and was paid in full, no gain or loss would be realized. The values of fixed-income securities also may be affected by changes in the credit rating or financial condition of the issuing entities. Decreases in the value of the fund's portfolio securities may affect the fund's ability to maintain a stable NAV.

Ratings of Securities

If, subsequent to its purchase by the fund, (a) a portfolio security ceases to be rated in the highest rating category by at least two rating organizations (or one rating organization if the instrument was rated by only one such organization) or the board determines that it is no longer of comparable quality or (b) the Manager becomes aware that any portfolio security not so highly rated or any unrated security has been given a rating by any rating organization below the rating organization's second highest rating category, the board will reassess promptly whether such security continues to present minimal credit risks and will cause the fund to take such action as it determines is in the best interest of the fund and its shareholders; provided that the reassessments required by clauses (a) and (b) are not required if the portfolio security is disposed of or matures within five business days of the specified event and, in the case of events specified in clause (b), the board is subsequently notified of the Manager's actions. To the extent the ratings given by a Rating Agency for securities change as a result of changes in such organizations or their rating systems, the fund will attempt to use comparable ratings as standards for its investments in accordance with the investment policies described in such fund's prospectus and this SAI. The ratings of the Rating Agencies represent their opinions as to the quality of the securities which they undertake to rate. It should be emphasized, however, that ratings are relative and subjective and are not absolute standards of quality. Although these ratings may be an initial criterion for selection of portfolio investments, the Manager also will evaluate these securities and the creditworthiness of the issuers of such securities based upon financial and other available information.

Treasury Securities

Treasury securities include Treasury bills, Treasury notes and Treasury bonds that differ in their interest rates, maturities and times of issuance. Treasury bills have initial maturities of one year or less; Treasury notes have initial maturities of one to ten years; and Treasury bonds generally have initial maturities of greater than ten years.

U.S. Government Securities

U.S. Government securities are issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities. Some obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies and instrumentalities are supported by the full faith and credit of Treasury; others by the right of the issuer to borrow from Treasury; others by discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase certain obligations of the agency or instrumentality; and others only by the credit of the agency or instrumentality. These securities bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. Interest rates may fluctuate based on generally recognized reference rates or the relationship of rates. While the U.S. Government currently provides financial support to such U.S. Government-sponsored agencies or instrumentalities, no assurance can be given that it will always do so, since it is not so obligated by law. A security backed by Treasury or the full faith and credit of the United States is guaranteed only as to timely payment of interest and principal when held to maturity. Neither the market value nor the fund's share price is guaranteed.

Repurchase Agreements

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

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

Bank Obligations

Bank obligations include certificates of deposit ("CDs"), time deposits ("TDs"), bankers' acceptances and other short-term obligations issued by domestic or foreign banks or thrifts or their subsidiaries or branches and other banking institutions. CDs are negotiable certificates evidencing the obligation of a bank to repay funds deposited with it for a specified period of time. TDs are non-negotiable deposits maintained in a banking institution for a specified period of time (in no event longer than seven days) at a stated interest rate. Bankers' acceptances are credit instruments evidencing the obligation of a bank to pay a draft drawn on it by a customer. These instruments reflect the obligation both of the bank and the drawer to pay the face amount of the instrument upon maturity. The other short-term obligations may include uninsured, direct obligations bearing fixed, floating or variable interest rates. TDs and CDs may be issued by domestic or foreign banks or their subsidiaries or branches. The fund may purchase CDs issued by banks, savings and loan associations and similar institutions with less than \$1 billion in assets, the deposits of which are insured by the FDIC, provided the fund purchases any such CD in a principal amount of no more than an amount that would be fully insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund administered by the FDIC. Interest payments on such a CD are not insured by the FDIC. The fund would not own more than one such CD per such issuer.

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

Obligations of foreign subsidiaries or branches of domestic banks may be general obligations of the parent banks in addition to the issuing subsidiary or branch, or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation and governmental regulation. Such obligations and obligations of foreign banks or their subsidiaries or branches are subject to different risks than are those of domestic banks. These risks include foreign economic and political

developments, foreign governmental restrictions that may adversely affect payment of principal and interest on the obligations, foreign exchange controls, seizure of assets, declaration of a moratorium and foreign withholding and other taxes on interest income. Foreign subsidiaries and branches of domestic banks and foreign banks are not necessarily subject to the same or similar regulatory requirements that apply to domestic banks, such as mandatory reserve requirements, loan limitations, and accounting, auditing and financial recordkeeping requirements. In addition, less information may be publicly available about a foreign subsidiary or branch of a domestic bank or about a foreign bank than about a domestic bank.

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

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

Bank Securities

To the extent the fund's investments are concentrated in the banking industry, the fund will have correspondingly greater exposure to the risk factors which are characteristic of such investments. Sustained increases in interest rates can adversely affect the availability or liquidity and cost of capital funds for a bank's lending activities, and a deterioration in general economic conditions could increase the exposure to credit losses. In addition, the value of and the investment return on the fund's shares could be affected by economic or regulatory developments in or related to the banking industry, which industry also is subject to the effects of competition within the banking industry as well as with other types of financial institutions. The fund, however, will seek to minimize its exposure to such risks by investing only in debt securities which are determined to be of the highest quality.

Floating and Variable Rate Obligations

Floating and variable rate demand notes and bonds are obligations ordinarily having stated maturities in excess of 397 days but which permit the holder to demand payment of principal at any time, or at specified intervals not exceeding 397 days, in each case upon not more than 30 days' notice. Frequently these obligations are secured by letters of credit or other credit support arrangements secured by banks. Variable rate demand notes include master demand notes (see "Fixed-Income Securities—Variable and Floating Rate Securities " above under "All Funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio").

Participation Interests

A participation interest purchased from a financial institution gives the fund an undivided interest in a security in the proportion that the fund's participation interest bears to the total principal amount of the security. If the participation interest is unrated, or has been given a rating below that which is permissible for purchase by the fund, the participation interest will be backed by an irrevocable letter of credit or guarantee of a bank, or the payment obligation otherwise will be collateralized by U.S. Government securities, or, in the case of unrated participation interests, the Manager must have determined that the instrument is of comparable quality to those instruments in which the fund may invest. See "Fixed-Income Securities—Loans—Participation Interests and Assignments" above under "All Funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio."

Asset-Backed Securities

The fund may purchase asset-backed securities, which are securities issued by special purpose entities whose primary assets consist of a pool of mortgages, loans, receivables or other assets. Payment of principal and interest may depend largely on the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities and, in certain cases, supported by letters of credit, surety bonds or other forms of credit or liquidity enhancements. The value of these asset-backed securities also may be affected by the creditworthiness of the servicing agent for the pool of assets, the originator of the loans or receivables or the financial institution providing the credit support.

Commercial Paper

Commercial paper represents short-term, unsecured promissory notes issued to finance short-term credit needs. The commercial paper purchased by the fund will consist only of direct obligations issued by domestic and foreign entities. The other corporate obligations in which the fund may invest consist of high quality, U.S. dollar-denominated short-term bonds and notes (which may include variable rate master demand notes).

Investment Companies

See "Investment Companies" above under "All Funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio."

Foreign Securities

Foreign securities may include U.S. dollar-denominated securities issued by foreign subsidiaries or foreign branches of domestic banks, domestic and foreign branches of foreign banks, foreign government obligations and commercial paper issued by foreign issuers. Foreign government obligations may include securities issued or guaranteed by foreign governments or any of their political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities and debt obligations of supranational entities. Supranational entities include organizations designated or supported by governmental entities to promote economic reconstruction or development and international banking institutions and related government agencies. Examples include the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank), the European Coal and Steel Community, the Asian Development Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank.

The fund's investments in foreign securities, including foreign government obligations, may be subject to additional investment risks with respect to these securities or obligations that are different in some respects from those incurred by a money market fund which invests only in debt obligations of U.S. domestic issuers. See, as applicable, "Foreign Securities" above under "All Funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio."

Illiquid Securities

The 1940 Act limits money market funds to 5% of total assets in illiquid securities. Illiquid securities, which are securities that cannot be sold or disposed of in the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the value ascribed to them by the fund, may include securities that are not readily marketable, such as securities that are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale that do not have readily available market quotations, and repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice. As to these securities, there is a risk that, should the fund desire to sell them, a ready buyer will not be available at a price the fund deems representative of their value, which could adversely affect the value of the fund's net assets. See "Illiquid Securities—Section 4(2) Paper and Rule 144A Securities" above under "All Funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio."

Borrowing Money

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

Reverse Repurchase Agreements. See "Borrowing Money—Reverse Repurchase Agreements" above under "All Funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio."

Forward Commitments. The purchase of portfolio securities on a forward commitment (including "TBA" (to be announced)), when-issued or delayed-delivery basis means that delivery and payment take place in the future after the date of the commitment to purchase. See "Borrowing Money—Forward Commitments" above under "All Funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio."

Interfund Borrowing and Lending Program. Pursuant to an exemptive order issued by the SEC, the fund may lend money to, and/or borrow money from, certain other funds advised by the Manager or its affiliates. All interfund loans and borrowings must comply with the conditions set forth in the exemptive order, which are designed to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all participating funds. The fund's participation in the Interfund Borrowing and Lending Program must be consistent with its investment policies and limitations. The fund will borrow through the Interfund Borrowing and Lending Program only when the costs are equal to or lower than the costs of bank loans, and will lend through the Program only when the returns are higher than those available from an investment in repurchase agreements. Interfund loans and borrowings are normally expected to extend overnight, but can have a maximum duration of seven days. Loans may be called on one day's notice. Any delay in repayment to a lending fund could result in a lost investment opportunity or additional borrowing costs.

Lending Portfolio Securities

The fund has no intention currently or for the foreseeable future to lend portfolio securities. To the extent the fund would seek to lend portfolio securities (see "Lending Portfolio Securities" above under "All Funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio"), the fund's shareholders would be notified within a reasonable time prior to such activity occurring.

RATING CATEGORIES

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

S&P

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

Issue credit ratings can be either long-term or short-term. Short-term ratings are generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market. In the U.S., for example, that means obligations with an original maturity of no more than 365 days—including commercial paper. Short-term ratings also are used to indicate the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to put features on long-term obligations. The result is a dual rating, in which the short-term rating addresses the put feature, in addition to the usual long-term rating. Medium-term notes are assigned long-term ratings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An "NR" indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note rating symbols are as follows:

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

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

SP-3 Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

Moody's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Obligations rated "**B**" are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Demand Obligation Ratings. In the case of variable rate demand obligations ("VRDOs"), a two-component rating is assigned: a long- or short-term debt rating and a demand obligation rating. The first element represents Moody's evaluation of risk associated with scheduled principal and interest payments. The second element represents

Moody's evaluation of the degree of risk associated with the ability to receive purchase price upon demand ("demand feature"). The second element uses a rating from a variation of the MIG scale called the Variable Municipal Investment Grade ("VMIG") scale.

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

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

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

Fitch

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

The relationship between issuer scale and obligation scale assumes a generic historical average recovery. As a result, individual obligations of entities, such as corporations, are assigned ratings higher, lower or the same as that entity's issuer rating.

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

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

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

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

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

Highly speculative: "**B**" ratings indicate that material credit risk is present.

Substantial credit risk: "**CCC**" ratings indicate that substantial credit risk is present.

Very high levels of credit risk: "**CC**" ratings indicate very high levels of credit risk.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Very high levels of credit risk: "**CC**" indicates that default of some kind appears probable.

Exceptionally high levels of credit risk: "**C**" indicates that default appears imminent or inevitable.

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

Short-Term Ratings Assigned to Issuers and Obligations. A short-term issuer or obligation rating is based in all cases on the short-term vulnerability to default of the rated entity and relates to the capacity to meet financial obligations in accordance with the documentation governing the relevant obligation. Short-term ratings are assigned

to obligations whose initial maturity is viewed as "short-term" based on market convention. Typically, this means up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign and structured obligations, and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DBRS

Long Term Obligations. The DBRS long-term rating scale provides an opinion on the risk of default. That is, the risk that an issuer will fail to satisfy its financial obligations in accordance with the terms under which an obligation has been issued. Ratings are based on quantitative and qualitative considerations relevant to the issuer, and the relative ranking of claims. All ratings categories other than AAA and D also contain subcategories "(high)" and "(low)." The absence of either a "(high)" or "(low)" designation indicates the rating is in the middle of the category.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Short-term debt rated "**R-5**" is considered to be of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet short-term financial obligations as they fall due.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARDS

Boards' Oversight Role in Management

The boards' role in management of the funds is oversight. As is the case with virtually all investment companies (as distinguished from operating companies), service providers to the funds, primarily the Manager and its affiliates, have responsibility for the day-to-day management of the funds, which includes responsibility for risk management (including management of investment risk, valuation risk, issuer and counterparty credit risk, compliance risk and operational risk). As part of their oversight, the boards, acting at their scheduled meetings, or the Chairman, acting between board meetings, regularly interacts with and receives reports from senior personnel of the Manager and its

affiliates, service providers, including the Manager's Director of Investment Oversight (or a senior representative of his office), the funds' and the Manager's Chief Compliance Officer and portfolio management personnel. The boards' audit committee (which consists of all Independent Board Members) meets during its regularly scheduled and special meetings, and between meetings the audit committee chair is available to the funds' independent registered public accounting firm and the funds' Chief Financial Officer. The boards also receive periodic presentations from senior personnel of Dreyfus and its affiliates regarding risk management generally, as well as periodic presentations regarding specific operational, compliance or investment areas, such as cybersecurity, anti-money laundering, personal trading, valuation, investment research and securities lending. As warranted, the boards also receive informational reports from the boards' independent legal counsel regarding regulatory compliance and governance matters. The boards have adopted policies and procedures designed to address certain risks to the funds. In addition, the Manager and other service providers to the funds have adopted a variety of policies, procedures and controls designed to address particular risks to the funds. Different processes, procedures and controls are employed with respect to different types of risks. However, it is not possible to eliminate all of the risks applicable to the funds, and the boards' risk management oversight is subject to inherent limitations.

Board Composition and Leadership Structure

The 1940 Act requires that at least 40% of the board members be Independent Board Members and as such are not affiliated with the Manager. To rely on certain exemptive rules under the 1940 Act, a majority of the funds' board members must be Independent Board Members, and for certain important matters, such as the approval of investment advisory agreements or transactions with affiliates, the 1940 Act or the rules thereunder require the approval of a majority of the Independent Board Members. Currently, except as noted in Part I of this SAI, all of the funds' board members, including the Chairman of the Boards, are Independent Board Members. The boards have determined that their leadership structure, in which the Chairman of the Boards is not affiliated with the Manager, is appropriate in light of the specific characteristics and circumstances of the funds, including, but not limited to: (i) the services that the Manager and its affiliates provide to the funds and potential conflicts of interest that could arise from these relationships; (ii) the extent to which the day-to-day operations of the funds are conducted by fund officers and employees of the Manager and its affiliates; and (iii) the boards' oversight role in management of the funds.

Additional Information About the Boards and their Committees

Board members are elected to serve for an indefinite term. The boards have standing audit, nominating, compensation, litigation and pricing committees.

The functions of the audit committees are (i) to oversee the funds' accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the funds' financial statements and (ii) to assist in the boards' oversight of the integrity of the funds' financial statements, the funds' compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and the independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications, independence and performance.

The nominating committees are responsible for selecting and nominating persons as members of the boards for election or appointment by the boards and for election by shareholders. In evaluating potential nominees, including any nominees recommended by shareholders, a committee takes into consideration various factors listed in the nominating committee charter. The nominating committees will consider recommendations for nominees from shareholders submitted to the Secretary of the Dreyfus Family of Funds, c/o The Dreyfus Corporation Legal Department, 200 Park Avenue, 7th Floor East, New York, New York 10166, which include information regarding the recommended nominee as specified in the nominating committee charter.

The function of the compensation committees is to establish appropriate compensation for serving on the boards.

The litigation committee seeks to address any potential conflicts of interest between the funds and the Manager in connection with any potential or existing litigation or other legal proceeding relating to securities held by a fund and held or otherwise deemed to have a beneficial interest held by the Manager or its affiliate.

The boards also have standing pricing committees comprised of any one board member; the function of the pricing committee is to assist in valuing fund investments.

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Manager

The Manager is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNY Mellon. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, a global financial services company focused on helping clients manage and service their financial assets, operating in 36 countries and serving more than 100 markets. BNY Mellon is a leading investment management and investment services company, uniquely focused to help clients manage and move their financial assets in the rapidly changing global marketplace. BNY Mellon Investment Management is one of the world's leading investment management organizations, and one of the top U.S. wealth managers, encompassing BNY Mellon's affiliated investment management firms, wealth management services and global distribution companies. Additional information is available at www.bnymellon.com.

Pursuant to a management or advisory agreement applicable to each fund, the Manager generally maintains office facilities on behalf of the funds, and furnishes statistical and research data, clerical help, data processing, bookkeeping and internal auditing and certain other required services to the funds (including, when a fund does not have a separate administration agreement, accounting and administration services).

As further described below under "Distributor," Dreyfus may pay the Distributor or financial intermediaries for shareholder or other services from Dreyfus' own assets, including past profits but not including the management fee paid by the funds. The Distributor may use part or all of such payments to pay Participating Insurance Companies. Dreyfus also may make such advertising and promotional expenditures, using its own resources, as it from time to time deems appropriate.

Sub-Advisers

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

For funds with a Sub-Adviser, the Manager or the fund has entered into a Sub-Advisory Agreement with the Sub-Adviser. The Sub-Adviser provides day-to-day investment management of a fund's portfolio, and certain related services.

The following is a list of persons (to the extent known by the fund) who are deemed to control each Sub-Adviser by virtue of ownership of stock or other interests of the Sub-Adviser. Companies listed are in the asset management or other financial services business. For Newton, which is a subsidiary of BNY Mellon, see "The Manager" above for ownership information.

Sarofim & Co.: Fayez S. Sarofim and The Sarofim Group, Inc.

TS&W: Horace P. Whitworth, Frank H. Reichel, John L. Reifsnider, Lori N. Anderson, Jennifer Souza, TS&W Investment Holdings LP and BrightSphere Investment Group plc

Index Manager

BNY Mellon AMNA, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNY Mellon, provides investment advisory assistance and day-to-day management of the Dreyfus Stock Index Fund's investments pursuant to an Index Management Agreement between BNY Mellon AMNA and the Manager.

Portfolio Managers and Portfolio Manager Compensation

See the prospectus to determine which portions of the information provided below apply to your fund.

For funds other than money market funds, an Affiliated Entity or the Sub-Adviser, as applicable, provide the funds with portfolio managers who are authorized by the board to execute purchases and sales of securities. Portfolio managers are compensated by the company that employs them, and are not compensated by the funds. Each fund's portfolio managers are listed in Part I of this SAI.

The following provides information about the compensation policies for portfolio managers.

BNY Mellon AMNA.

Former Mellon Capital Employees. The firm's rewards program is designed to be market-competitive and align our compensation with the goals of our clients. This alignment is achieved through an emphasis on deferred awards, which incentivizes our investment personnel to focus on long-term alpha generation.

Our incentive model is designed to compensate for quantitative and qualitative objectives achieved during the performance year. An individual's final annual incentive award is tied to the firm's overall performance, the team's investment performance, as well as individual performance.

Awards are paid in cash on an annual basis; however, some portfolio managers may receive a portion of their annual incentive award in deferred vehicles. Annual incentive as a percentage of fixed pay varies with the profitability of the firm and the product team.

The following factors encompass our investment professional rewards program.

- Base salary
- Annual cash bonus
- Long-Term Incentive Plan
 - Deferred investment
 - BNY Mellon restricted stock and/or
 - BNY Mellon AMNA equity

Awards for selected senior portfolio managers are based on a two-stage model: an opportunity range based on the current level of business and an assessment of long-term business value. A significant portion of the opportunity awarded is structured and based upon the performance of the portfolio manager's accounts relative to the performance of appropriate peers, with longer-term performance more heavily weighted.

Former Standish Employees. The portfolio managers' compensation is comprised primarily of a market-based salary and an incentive compensation plan (annual and long-term). Funding for the Standish Incentive Plan is through a pre-determined fixed percentage of overall company profitability. Therefore, all bonus awards are based initially on Standish's overall performance as opposed to the performance of a single product or group. All investment professionals are eligible to receive incentive awards. Cash awards are payable in the February month end pay of the following year. Most of the awards granted have some portion deferred for three years in the form of deferred cash, BNY Mellon equity, interests in investment vehicles (consisting of investments in a range of Standish products), or a combination of the above. Individual awards for portfolio managers are discretionary, based on both individual and multi-sector product risk adjusted performance relative to both benchmarks and peer comparisons over one year, three year and five year periods. Also considered in determining individual awards are team participation and general contributions to Standish. Individual objectives and goals are also established at the beginning of each calendar year and are taken into account. Portfolio managers whose compensation exceeds certain levels may elect to defer portions of their base salaries and/or incentive compensation pursuant to BNY Mellon's Elective Deferred Compensation Plan.

Former TBCAM Employees. TBCAM's rewards program was designed to be market competitive and align its compensation with the goals of its clients. This alignment is achieved through an emphasis on deferred awards which incentivizes its investment personnel to focus on long-term alpha generation. The following factors encompass its investment professional awards program: base salary, annual cash bonus, long-term incentive plan, deferred cash, BNY Mellon restricted stock, TBCAM restricted shares and a franchise dividend pool (*i.e.*, if a team meets a pre-established contribution margin, any excess contribution is shared by the team and TBCAM and is paid out in both cash and long-term incentives).

Incentive compensation awards are generally subject to management discretion and pool funding availability. Funding for TBCAM annual and long-term incentive plans is through a pre-determined fixed percentage of overall TBCAM profitability. Awards are paid in cash on an annual basis; however, some portfolio managers may receive a portion of their annual incentive award in deferred vehicles.

Awards for select senior portfolio managers are based on a two-stage model: an opportunity range based on the current level of business and an assessment of long-term business value. A significant portion of the opportunity awarded is structured and based upon the one-, three- and five-year (three-year and five-year weighted more heavily) pre-tax performance of the portfolio manager's accounts relative to the performance of the appropriate peer groups.

Newton. Portfolio manager compensation is primarily comprised of a market-based salary, annual cash bonus and participation in the Newton Long Term Incentive Plan. The level of variable compensation (annual cash bonus and Newton Long Term Incentive Plan) ranges from 0% of base salary to in excess of 200% of base salary, depending upon corporate profits, team performance and individual performance. The annual cash bonus is discretionary. Portfolio manager awards are heavily weighted towards their investment performance relative to both benchmarks and peer comparisons and individual qualitative performance. Awards also are reviewed against market data from industry compensation consultants such as McLagan Partners to ensure comparability with competitors. The portfolio managers also are eligible to participate, at the discretion of management, in the Newton Long Term Incentive Plan. This plan provides for an annual cash award that vests after four years. The value of the award may change during the vesting period based upon changes in Newton's operating income. Portfolio managers also are eligible to join the BNY Mellon Group Personal Pension Plan. Employer contributions are invested in individual member accounts. The value of the fund is not guaranteed and fluctuates based on market factors.

Sarofim & Co. The portfolio managers are compensated through (i) payment of a fixed annual salary and discretionary annual bonus that may be based on a number of factors, including fund performance, the performance of other accounts and the overall performance of Sarofim & Co. over various time frames, including one-year, two-year and three-year periods, and (ii) the possible issuance of stock options. The fixed annual salary amounts and the discretionary annual bonus amounts constitute the largest component of the portfolio managers' compensation, and these amounts are determined annually through a comprehensive review process pursuant to which executive officers and the members of Sarofim & Co.'s board of directors review and consider the accomplishments and development of each portfolio manager, especially with respect to those client accounts involving the portfolio manager. A lesser component of the portfolio managers' compensation results from the possible issuance of stock options. Portfolio managers are sometimes granted stock options and incentive stock options to acquire shares of the capital stock of The Sarofim Group, Inc., the ultimate corporate parent of Sarofim & Co. The decisions as to whether to issue such options and to whom the options are to be issued are made in conjunction with the annual salary and bonus review process, and the options are issued pursuant to a stock option plan adopted by The Sarofim Group, Inc. The options are not based on the particular performance or asset value of any particular client account or of all client accounts as a group, but rather the performance and accomplishments of the individual to whom the option is to be granted. There are various aspects of the review process that are designed to provide objectivity, but, in the final analysis, the evaluation is a subjective one that is based upon a collective overall assessment. There are, however, no specified formulas or benchmarks tied to the particular performance or asset value of any particular client account or of all client accounts as a group.

Certain Conflicts of Interest with Other Accounts

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

Potential conflicts of interest may arise because of an Adviser's or portfolio manager's management of a fund and Other Accounts. For example, conflicts of interest may arise with both the aggregation and allocation of securities transactions and allocation of limited investment opportunities, as an Adviser may be perceived as causing accounts it manages to participate in an offering to increase the Adviser's overall allocation of securities in that offering, or to

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

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

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

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

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

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

Distributor

The Distributor, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, serves as each fund's distributor on a best efforts basis pursuant to an agreement, renewable annually, with the fund or the corporation or trust of which it is a part. The Distributor also serves as distributor for the other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds and BNY Mellon Funds Trust.

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

Transfer and Dividend Disbursing Agent and Custodian

The Transfer Agent, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, is each fund's transfer and dividend disbursing agent. Pursuant to a transfer agency agreement with the funds, the Transfer Agent arranges for the maintenance of shareholder account records for the funds, the handling of certain communications between shareholders and the funds and the payment of dividends and distributions payable by the funds. For these services, the Transfer Agent receives a monthly fee computed on the basis of the number of shareholder accounts it maintains for each fund during the month, and is reimbursed for certain out-of-pocket expenses. The funds, other than the Index Funds, also may make payments to certain financial intermediaries, including affiliates, who provide sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services to beneficial owners of fund shares.

The Custodian, an affiliate of the Manager, located at 225 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10286, serves as custodian for the investments of the funds. The Custodian has no part in determining the investment policies of the funds or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the funds. Pursuant to a custody agreement applicable to each fund, the Custodian holds each fund's securities and keeps all necessary accounts and records. For its custody

services, the Custodian receives a monthly fee based on the market value of each fund's assets held in custody and receives certain securities transaction charges.

Annual Anti-Money Laundering Program Review

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

Funds' Compliance Policies and Procedures

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

DETERMINATION OF NAV

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

Valuation of Portfolio Securities (funds other than the Government Money Market Portfolio)

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

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

Market quotations of foreign securities in foreign currencies and any fund assets or liabilities initially expressed in terms of foreign currency are translated into U.S. dollars at the spot rate, and foreign currency forward contracts generally are valued using the forward rate obtained from a Service. If a fund has to obtain prices as of the close of trading on various exchanges throughout the world, the calculation of the fund's NAV may not take place contemporaneously with the determination of prices of certain of the fund's portfolio securities. Fair value of foreign equity securities may be determined with the assistance of a pricing service using correlations between the movement of prices of foreign securities and indexes of domestic securities and other appropriate indicators, such as closing market prices of relevant ADRs and futures contracts. The valuation of a security based on this fair value process may differ from the security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their NAVs. Foreign securities held by a fund may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors will not be able to purchase or sell (redeem) fund shares.

Generally, over-the-counter option contracts and interest rate, credit default, total return and equity swap agreements, and options thereon, will be valued by the Service. Equity-linked instruments, such as contracts for difference, generally will be valued by the Service based on the value of the underlying reference asset(s). Futures contracts will be valued at the most recent settlement price. Restricted securities, as well as securities or other assets for which recent market quotations or official closing prices are not readily available or are determined not to reflect accurately fair value (such as when the value of a security has been materially affected by events occurring after the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded (for example, a foreign exchange or market) but before the fund calculates its NAV), or which are not valued by the Service, are valued at fair value as determined in good faith based on procedures approved by the board. Fair value of investments may be determined by the board or its pricing committee or the fund's valuation committee using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. The factors that may be considered when fair valuing a security include fundamental analytical data, the nature and duration of restrictions on disposition, an evaluation of the forces that influence the market in which the securities are purchased and sold, and public trading in similar securities of the issuer or comparable issuers. Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values.

Valuation of Portfolio Securities (Government Money Market Portfolio only)

The valuation of the fund's portfolio securities is based upon their amortized cost which does not take into account unrealized gains or losses. This involves valuing an instrument at its cost and thereafter assuming a constant amortization to maturity of any discount or premium, regardless of the impact of fluctuating interest rates on the market value of the instrument. While this method provides certainty in valuation, it may result in periods during which value, as determined by amortized cost, is higher or lower than the price the fund would receive if it sold the instrument. Boards overseeing these money market funds have established, as a particular responsibility within the overall duty of care owed to fund investors, procedures reasonably designed to stabilize the funds' price per share as computed for the purpose of purchases and redemptions at \$1.00. Such procedures include review of the funds' portfolio holdings by the boards, at such intervals as it may deem appropriate, to determine whether the funds' NAV calculated by using available market quotations or market equivalents (including valuations obtained from a Service) deviates from \$1.00 per share based on amortized cost. Other investments and assets will be valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the boards.

Calculation of NAV

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

Fund expenses and fees, including management fees and fees pursuant to a Distribution Plan (reduced by the fund's expense limitation, if any), are accrued daily and taken into account for the purpose of determining the NAV of a fund's shares. For funds with more than one class of shares, because of the differences in operating expenses incurred by each class of shares of a fund, the per share NAV of each class of shares of the fund will differ. The NAV of each class of a fund with more than one class of shares is computed by dividing the value of the fund's net assets represented by such class (i.e., the value of its assets less liabilities) by the total number of shares of such class outstanding.

Expense Allocations

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

with more than one class bears any class specific expenses allocated to such class, such as expenses related to the distribution and/or shareholder servicing of such class.

NYSE Closings

The holidays (as observed) on which the NYSE is closed currently are: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Dividends automatically are reinvested in additional shares of the fund from which they were paid at NAV. Dividends and distributions among share classes in the same fund may vary due to the different expenses of such share classes. All expenses are accrued daily and deducted before declaration of dividends to shareholders.

Government Money Market Portfolio

Dividends accrue beginning on the business day following the date of purchase and through the day a redemption is effective. A fund's earnings for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are declared as dividends on the following business day. Dividends usually are paid on the last calendar day of each month. All expenses are accrued daily and deducted before declaration of dividends to shareholders.

CERTAIN MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

See the prospectus and "Investment Policies and Restrictions" in Part II of this SAI to determine which sections of the discussion below apply to your funds.

The following discussion is a general summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to a fund, including each fund's qualification and taxation as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. This discussion is based upon the Code, its legislative history, Treasury regulations (including temporary and proposed regulations), published rulings and court decisions, each as of the date of this SAI and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, which could affect the continuing accuracy of this discussion. No fund has sought and no fund will seek any ruling from the IRS regarding the offering pursuant to its prospectus or this SAI, including, without limitation, such fund's status as a RIC.

This discussion does not purport to be a complete description of all of the tax considerations applicable to a fund. The tax consequences described herein may be affected (possibly with retroactive effect) by various legislative bills and proposals that may be initiated in Congress.

Since the shareholders of each fund are the Participating Insurance Companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the Participating Insurance Company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal income tax consequences to such shareholders or to the relevant Policy owners. For information regarding the taxation of Policy owners, Policy owners should consult the applicable prospectus of the separate account of the Participating Insurance Company. The discussion below assumes that the shares of each fund will be respected as owned by the insurance company separate accounts. If this is not true, the person or persons determined to own the shares of a fund will be currently taxed on fund distributions and upon any redemption of fund shares, pursuant to generally applicable rules of the Code and Treasury regulations.

Taxation of the Funds

RIC Qualification Requirements. Each fund has elected to be treated as, and intends to continue to qualify in each taxable year as, a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code, and the remainder of this discussion so assumes. A fund that qualifies as a RIC and that satisfies certain annual distribution requirements, described below, generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the portion of such fund's investment company taxable income and net capital gain (generally, net long-term capital gain in excess of net short-term capital loss) that it timely distributes (or is deemed to distribute) to holders of a fund's shares. A fund that qualifies as a RIC will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the regular corporate rates on any income or capital gain not distributed (or deemed

distributed) to holders of the fund's shares.

A fund that qualifies as a RIC will be subject to a 4% nondeductible U.S. federal excise tax on certain undistributed income unless the fund distributes in a timely manner an amount at least equal to the sum of: (1) 98% of the fund's ordinary income for each calendar year; (2) 98.2% of the fund's capital gain net income for the one year period ending October 31st in that calendar year; and (3) any income recognized, but not distributed, in preceding years. This excise tax, however, does not apply to a fund whose only shareholders are separate accounts of life insurance companies supporting VA contracts and/or VLI policies, and certain other prescribed permissible shareholders. Therefore, none of the funds are expected to be subject to the excise tax.

To qualify as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a fund generally must, among other things, meet the following tests:

"90% Income Test"—derive in each taxable year at least 90% of the fund's gross income from (a) dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, gains from the sale of stock, other securities, foreign currencies or other income derived with respect to the fund's business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies, or (b) net income derived from the fund's interest in a "qualified publicly traded partnership," or "QPTP" (generally, a publicly traded partnership that is eligible to be treated as a partnership under the Code, other than a publicly traded partnership that derives 90% of its income from the sources described in clause (a) of the 90% Income Test);

"Diversification Test"—diversify the fund's holdings so that at the end of each quarter of the taxable year:

- at least 50% of the value of the fund's assets consists of cash, cash equivalents, U.S. Government securities, securities of other RICs and other securities that, with respect to any issuer, do not represent more than 5% of the value of the fund's assets or more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of that issuer; and
- no more than 25% of the value of the fund's assets is invested in the securities, other than U.S. Government securities or securities of other RICs, of (i) one issuer; (ii) two or more issuers that are controlled, as determined under applicable tax rules, by such fund and that are engaged in the same or similar or related trades or businesses; or (iii) securities of one or more QPTPs.

"Annual Distribution Test"—distribute with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of the fund's investment company taxable income (determined without regard to the dividends paid deduction) and net tax exempt interest income, if any, for such year.

In general, for purposes of the 90% Income Test described above, income derived from a partnership will be treated as qualifying income only to the extent such income is attributable to items of income of the partnership that would be qualifying income if realized by a RIC. However, as noted above, 100% of the net income derived from an interest in a QPTP is qualifying income for purposes of the 90% Income Test. Although income from a QPTP is qualifying income for purposes of the 90% Income Test, investment in QPTPs cannot exceed 25% of a fund's assets.

A fund's investment in a partnership may qualify as an investment in (1) a QPTP; (2) a "regular" partnership; (3) a "passive foreign investment company" (a "PFIC"); or (4) a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The treatment of a particular partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes will affect the extent to which a fund can invest in such partnership. Some amounts received by a fund with respect to certain investments in a partnership will likely be treated as a return of capital because of accelerated deductions available with respect to the activities of such partnership. On the disposition of an investment in a partnership, the fund will likely realize taxable income in excess of economic gain with respect to that asset (or, if the fund does not dispose of the partnership, the fund likely will realize taxable income in excess of cash flow with respect to the partnership in a later period), and the fund must take such income into account in determining whether the fund has satisfied its distribution requirements. The fund may have to borrow or liquidate securities to satisfy its distribution requirements and to meet its redemption requests, even though investment considerations might otherwise make it undesirable for the fund to sell securities or borrow money at such time. For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, sellers shall generally be required to withhold 10% of the amount realized on the sale or exchange of an interest in a partnership that is engaged in a U.S. trade or business unless (i) the transferor certifies that it is not a nonresident alien individual or a

foreign corporation, or (ii) certain other limited circumstances apply. In general, the fund should be able to provide the required certification to avoid withholding, but Treasury has not yet issued or implemented regulations for this provision.

Gains or losses attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the time the fund accrues income, expenses or other liabilities denominated in a currency other than the U.S. dollar and the time such fund actually collects such income or pays such expenses or liabilities may be treated as ordinary income or loss. Similarly, gains or losses on foreign currency forward contracts, the disposition of debt denominated in a foreign currency and other financial transactions denominated in foreign currency, to the extent attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the acquisition and disposition dates, may also be treated as ordinary income or loss by a fund.

If a fund, otherwise qualifying as a RIC, fails to satisfy the 90% Income Test or the Diversification Test in any taxable year, such fund may be eligible for relief provisions if the failures are due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect and if a penalty tax is paid with respect to each failure to satisfy the applicable requirements. Additionally, relief is provided for certain *de minimis* failures of the Diversification Test if the fund corrects the failure within a specified period. If the applicable relief provisions are not available or cannot be met, all of the fund's income would be subject to corporate level income tax. No fund can provide assurance that it will qualify for any such relief should it fail either the 90% Income Test or the Diversification Test.

If a fund fails to satisfy the Annual Distribution Test or otherwise fails to qualify as a RIC in any taxable year, and is not eligible for relief as described above, the fund will be subject to tax in that year on all of its taxable income, regardless of whether a fund makes any distributions to the fund's shareholders. In that case, all of the fund's income will be subject to corporate level income tax, reducing the amount available to be distributed to the fund's shareholders (or, potentially, Policy owners).

Diversification Requirements of Section 817(h)

Each fund intends to comply with the diversification requirements of Section 817(h) of the Code and the regulations thereunder. Section 817(h) imposes certain diversification requirements on the assets of insurance company separate accounts used to fund VA contracts and/or VLI policies. Under a special "look-through" provision, if the separate account is a shareholder of a fund that satisfies the Section 817(h) diversification requirements, the separate account will be treated as owning its pro rata portion of each of the assets of the fund for purposes of determining the account's satisfaction of the Section 817(h) diversification requirements. Accordingly, if a separate account's sole investment is shares of such a fund, and that fund satisfies the diversification requirements of Section 817(h), the separate account will be treated as having satisfied the diversification requirements of Section 817(h).

The diversification requirements of Section 817(h) are in addition to the diversification requirements imposed on a fund by the 1940 Act and Subchapter M of the Code. Under Section 817(h), a separate account (or underlying fund) will be considered adequately diversified if, as of the end of each calendar quarter or within 30 days thereafter, (i) no more than 55% of the total assets of the separate account (or underlying fund) are represented by any one investment, (ii) no more than 70% of the total assets of the separate account (or underlying fund) are represented by any two investments, (iii) no more than 80% of the total assets of the separate account (or underlying fund) are represented by any three investments, and (iv) no more than 90% of the total assets of the separate account (or underlying fund) are represented by any four investments. Section 817(h) provides, as a safe harbor, that a separate account (or underlying fund) will be treated as being adequately diversified if the asset diversification test under Subchapter M of the Code (discussed above at "Taxation of the Funds") is satisfied and no more than 55% of the value of the separate account's (or underlying fund's) total assets are cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, and securities of other RICs.

For purposes of the diversification requirements of Section 817(h), all securities of the same issuer, all interests in the same real property project, and all interests in the same commodity are treated as a single investment. In addition, each U.S. Government agency or instrumentality is treated as a separate issuer.

Failure by a fund to qualify as a RIC or satisfy the requirements of Section 817(h) could cause the VA contracts and the VLI policies to lose their favorable tax status and require a Policy owner to include in income any income accrued under the Policies for the current and all prior taxable years, thereby losing the benefit of tax deferral. Under certain circumstances described in applicable Treasury regulations and guidance, an inadvertent failure to

satisfy the applicable diversification requirements of Section 817(h) may be corrected, but such a correction would require a payment to the IRS. Any such failure may also result in adverse tax consequences for the Participating Insurance Company issuing the Policies.

Investments in PFICs. A fund may purchase shares in a PFIC, and as such a fund may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a portion of any "excess distribution" or gain from the disposition of such shares, even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by the fund to its shareholders. Additional charges in the nature of interest may be imposed on the fund in respect of deferred taxes arising from such distributions or gains. If a fund invests in a PFIC and elects to treat the PFIC as a "qualified electing fund" under the Code (a "QEF"), in lieu of the foregoing requirements, the fund will be required to include in income each year a portion of the ordinary earnings and net capital gain of the QEF, even if such income is not distributed to the fund. Alternatively, a fund may elect to mark to market at the end of each taxable year the fund's shares in such PFIC; in this case, the fund will recognize as ordinary income any increase in the value of such shares, and as ordinary loss any decrease in such value to the extent it does not exceed prior increases included in income. A fund's ability to make either election will depend on factors beyond its control, and the funds are subject to limitations which may limit the availability or benefit of these elections. Under either election, a fund may be required to recognize in any year income in excess of its distributions from PFICs and its proceeds from dispositions of PFIC shares during that year, and generally such income will nevertheless be subject to the Annual Distribution Test, and generally will not be treated as qualifying income for the 90% Income Test.

Other Fund Investments and Activities.

Derivatives. A fund's investments in options, futures contracts, forward contracts, swaps and derivatives, as well as any of its other hedging, short sale or similar transactions, may be subject to one or more special tax rules (including notional principal contract, constructive sale, straddle, wash sale, short sale and other rules), the effect of which may be to accelerate income to the fund (including, potentially, without a corresponding receipt of cash with which to make required distributions), defer fund losses, cause adjustments in the holding periods of fund securities, convert capital gains into ordinary income, convert long-term capital gains into short-term capital gains and convert short-term capital losses into long-term capital losses. These rules could therefore affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders of a fund. In addition, because the tax rules applicable to derivative financial instruments are in some cases uncertain under current law, an adverse determination or future guidance by the IRS with respect to these rules (which determination or guidance could be retroactive) may affect whether a fund has made sufficient distributions, and otherwise satisfied the applicable requirements, to maintain its qualification as a RIC and avoid fund-level taxation.

Debt Obligations. A fund's investments, if any, in securities issued or purchased at a discount, as well as certain other securities (including zero coupon obligations and certain redeemable preferred stock), may require the fund to accrue and distribute income not yet received. Similarly, a fund's investment in payment-in-kind securities will give rise to income which is required to be distributed even though the fund receives no payment in cash on the security during the year. In order to generate sufficient cash to make its requisite distributions, a fund may be required to borrow money or sell securities in its portfolio that it otherwise would have continued to hold.

The taxation of inflation-indexed Treasury securities is similar to the taxation of conventional bonds. Both interest payments and the difference between original principal and the inflation-adjusted principal generally will be treated as interest or original issue discount income subject to taxation. Interest payments generally are taxable when received or accrued. The inflation adjustment to the principal generally is subject to tax in the year the adjustment is made, not at maturity of the security when the cash from the repayment of principal is received. Accordingly, as in the case of securities issued or purchased at a discount and zero coupon obligations, a fund's investments in inflation-indexed Treasury securities may require the fund to accrue and distribute income not yet received.

Investments in Entities Which Invest in or Finance Mortgage Debt. Special tax rules may apply to the investments by a fund in entities which invest in or finance mortgage debt. Such investments include residual interests in REMICs and interests in a REIT which qualifies as a taxable mortgage pool under the Code or has a qualified REIT subsidiary that is a taxable mortgage pool under the Code. Although it is the practice of each fund not to make such investments, there is no guarantee that a fund will be able to avoid an inadvertent investment in REMIC residual interests or a taxable mortgage pool.

Such investments may result in a fund receiving excess inclusion income ("EII") in which case a portion of its distributions will be characterized as EII. Among other potential adverse tax consequences, this can result in the fund being required to pay tax on the portion of its EII that is allocated to disqualified organizations, including certain cooperatives, agencies or instrumentalities of a government or international organization, and tax-exempt organizations that are not subject to tax on unrelated business taxable income.

Fund Investments in Non-U.S. Securities. Investment income that may be received by a fund from sources within foreign countries may be subject to foreign withholding and other taxes. Tax treaties between the United States and certain countries may reduce or eliminate such taxes.

Investor Tax Matters

The rules regarding the taxation of the separate accounts of Participating Insurance Companies that utilize the funds as investment vehicles for VA contracts and VLI policies are complex. The foregoing is only a summary of certain material United States federal income tax consequences affecting the funds. Participating Insurance Companies and Policy owners should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of an investment in the funds.

PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

The Manager assumes general supervision over the placement of securities purchase and sale orders on behalf of the funds. The funds, except for the Government Money Market Portfolio, are managed by dual employees of the Manager and an Affiliated Entity or employ a Sub-Adviser. Those funds use the research facilities, and are subject to the internal policies and procedures, of the applicable Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser and execute portfolio transactions through the trading desk of the Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser, as applicable (collectively with Dreyfus' trading desk (for the money market funds only), the "Trading Desk"). All portfolio transactions of the Government Money Market Portfolio are placed on behalf of the Government Money Market Portfolio by the Manager.

Trading the Funds' Portfolio Securities

In managing the Government Money Market Portfolio, the Manager will draw upon BNY Mellon Cash Investment Strategies ("CIS"). CIS is a division of the Manager that provides investment and credit risk management services and approves all money market fund eligible securities for the fund and for other investment companies and accounts managed by the Manager or its affiliates that invest primarily in money market instruments. CIS, through a team of professionals who contribute a combination of industry analysis and fund-specific expertise, monitors all issuers approved for investment by such investment companies and other accounts by analyzing third party inputs, such as financial statements and media sources, ratings releases and company meetings, as well as internal research. CIS investment and credit professionals also utilize inputs and guidance from BNY Mellon's central Risk Management Department (the "Risk Department") as part of the investment process. These inputs and guidance focus primarily on concentration levels and market and credit risks and are based upon independent analysis done by the Risk Department relating to fundamental characteristics such as the sector, sovereign, tenor and rating of investments or potential investment. The Risk Department also may perform stress and scenario testing on various money market type portfolios advised by CIS or BNY Mellon and its other affiliates, and provides various periodic and ad-hoc reporting to the investment and credit professionals at CIS. In the event a security is removed from the "approved" credit list after being purchased by the fund, the fund is not required to sell that security.

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

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

Trading Desk evaluates the ability of the broker or dealer to execute the transaction at the best combination of price and quality of execution.

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

Investment decisions for one fund or account are made independently from those for other funds or accounts managed by the portfolio managers. Under the Trading Desk's procedures, portfolio managers and their corresponding Trading Desks may, but are not required to, seek to aggregate (or "bunch") orders that are placed or received concurrently for more than one fund or account, and available investments or opportunities for sales will be allocated equitably to each. In some cases, this policy may adversely affect the size of the position obtained or sold or the price paid or received by a fund. When transactions are aggregated, but it is not possible to receive the same price or execution on the entire volume of securities purchased or sold, the various prices may be averaged, and the fund will be charged or credited with the average price.

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

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

The Manager, an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser may buy for a fund securities of issuers in which other funds or accounts advised by the Manager, the Affiliated Entity or the Sub-Adviser may have, or are making, an investment in the same issuer that are subordinate or senior to the securities purchased for the fund. For example, a fund may invest in debt securities of an issuer at the same time that other funds or accounts are investing, or currently have an investment, in equity securities of the same issuer. To the extent that the issuer experiences financial or operational challenges which may impact the price of its securities and its ability to meet its obligations, decisions by the

Manager, an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser relating to what actions are to be taken may raise conflicts of interests, and the Manager, the Affiliated Entity or the Sub-Adviser, as applicable, may take actions for certain funds or accounts that have negative impacts on other funds or accounts.

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

To the extent that a fund invests in foreign securities, certain of such fund's transactions in those securities may not benefit from the negotiated commission rates available to funds for transactions in securities of domestic issuers. For funds that permit foreign exchange transactions, such transactions are made with banks or institutions in the interbank market at prices reflecting a mark-up or mark-down and/or commission.

The Manager (and, where applicable, an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser) may utilize the services of an affiliate to effect certain client transactions when it determines that the use of such affiliate is consistent with its fiduciary obligations, including its obligation to obtain best execution, and the transactions are in the best interests of its clients. Procedures have been adopted in conformity with Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act to provide that all brokerage commissions paid by the funds to the Manager (or, where applicable, an Affiliated Entity or a Sub-Adviser) are reasonable and fair.

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

Soft Dollars

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

Subject to the policy of seeking best execution, the funds may execute transactions with brokerage firms that provide research services and products, as defined in Section 28(e). Any and all research products and services received in connection with brokerage commissions will be used to assist the applicable Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser in its investment decision-making responsibilities, as contemplated under Section 28(e). Under certain conditions, higher brokerage commissions may be paid in connection with certain transactions in return for research products and services.

The products and services provided under these arrangements permit the Trading Desk to supplement its own research and analysis activities, and provide it with information from individuals and research staff of many securities firms. Such services and products may include, but are not limited to, the following: fundamental research reports (which may discuss, among other things, the value of securities, or the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities, or the availability of securities or the purchasers or sellers of securities, or issuers, industries, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy and performance); current market data and news; statistical data; technical and portfolio analyses; economic forecasting and interest rate projections; and historical information on securities and companies. The Trading Desk also may use client brokerage commission

arrangements to defray the costs of certain services and communication systems that facilitate trade execution (such as on-line quotation systems, direct data feeds from stock exchanges and on-line trading systems) or functions related thereto (such as clearance and settlement). Some of the research products or services received by the Trading Desk may have both a research function and a non-research or administrative function (a "mixed use"). If the Trading Desk determines that any research product or service has a mixed use, the Trading Desk will allocate in good faith the cost of such service or product accordingly. The portion of the product or service that the Trading Desk determines will assist it in the investment decision-making process may be paid for in soft dollars. The non-research portion is paid for by the Trading Desk in hard dollars.

The Trading Desk generally considers the amount and nature of research, execution and other services provided by brokerage firms, as well as the extent to which such services are relied on, and attempts to allocate a portion of the brokerage business of its clients on the basis of that consideration. Neither the services nor the amount of brokerage given to a particular brokerage firm are made pursuant to any agreement or commitment with any of the selected firms that would bind the Trading Desk to compensate the selected brokerage firm for research provided. The Trading Desk endeavors, but is not legally obligated, to direct sufficient commissions to broker/dealers that have provided it with research and other services to ensure continued receipt of research the Trading Desk believes is useful. Actual commissions received by a brokerage firm may be more or less than the suggested allocations.

There may be no correlation between the amount of brokerage commissions generated by a particular fund or account and the indirect benefits received by that fund or client. The Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser may receive a benefit from the research services and products that is not passed on to a fund in the form of a direct monetary benefit. Further, research services and products may be useful to the Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser in providing investment advice to any of the funds or other accounts it advises. Information made available to the Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser from brokerage firms effecting securities transactions for another fund or account may be utilized on behalf of a fund. Thus, there may be no correlation between the amount of brokerage commissions generated by a particular fund and the indirect benefits received by that fund. Information so received is in addition to, and not in lieu of, services required to be performed by the Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser and fees are not reduced as a consequence of the receipt of such supplemental information. Although the receipt of such research services does not reduce the normal independent research activities of the Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser, it enables it to avoid the additional expenses that might otherwise be incurred if it were to attempt to develop comparable information through its own staff.

IPO Allocations

Certain funds may participate in IPOs. In deciding whether to purchase an IPO, a fund's portfolio manager(s) generally consider the capitalization characteristics of the security, as well as other characteristics of the security, and identifies funds and accounts with investment objectives and strategies consistent with such a purchase. Generally, as more IPOs involve small- and mid-cap companies, the funds and accounts with a small- and mid-cap focus may participate in more IPOs than funds and accounts with a large-cap focus. The Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser (as applicable), when consistent with the fund's and/or account's investment guidelines, generally will allocate shares of an IPO on a pro rata basis. In the case of "hot" IPOs, where the Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser only receives a partial allocation of the total amount requested, those shares will be distributed fairly and equitably among participating funds or accounts managed by the Affiliated Entity or Sub-Adviser. "Hot" IPOs raise special allocation concerns because opportunities to invest in such issues are limited as they are often oversubscribed. The distribution of the partial allocation among funds and/or accounts will be based on relative NAVs. Shares will be allocated on a pro rata basis to all appropriate funds and accounts, subject to a minimum allocation based on trading, custody and other associated costs. International hot IPOs may not be allocated on a pro rata basis due to transaction costs, market liquidity and other factors unique to international markets.

DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

Policy

The funds have adopted policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of fund portfolio holdings. It is the policy of each fund to protect the confidentiality of material, non-public information about the fund's portfolio holdings and prevent the selective disclosure of non-public information about such holdings. Subject to the exceptions provided below, non-public information about a fund's portfolio holdings will not be distributed, including to employees of the Manager or its affiliates or a fund's Sub-Adviser, unless there is a legitimate business purpose for doing so and disclosure is made in accordance with the funds' policy. No fund or affiliated person (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the fund may receive compensation or consideration of any type in connection with the disclosure of information about a fund's portfolio holdings.

Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings. Each fund, or its duly authorized service providers, will publicly disclose the fund's portfolio holdings in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements, such as periodic portfolio holdings disclosure in Form N-CSR and Form N-Q filings with the SEC. Generally, each fund except the Government Money Market Portfolio will disclose: (1) complete portfolio holdings monthly with a one month lag and as of each calendar quarter end with a 15-day lag; (2) top 10 holdings monthly with a 10-day lag; and (3) from time to time, certain security-specific performance attribution data as of a month end, with a 10-day lag. The Government Money Market Portfolio shall disclose its complete schedule of holdings daily, and each such posting will remain on the website for five months. A fund's portfolio holdings and any security-specific performance attribution data will remain on the website, www.dreyfus.com, under "Products and Performance," for varying periods up to six months, provided that complete portfolio holdings will remain at least until the fund files its Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the dates of the posted holdings.

Disclosure of Portfolio Characteristics. From time to time a fund may make available certain portfolio characteristics (aggregated, statistical-type information that does not identify, directly or indirectly, specific portfolio holdings or subsets of holdings and therefore are not considered "portfolio holdings" as described in this section), such as allocations, performance- and risk-related statistics, portfolio-level statistics and non-security specific attribution analyses, on request, provided that the distribution of such information is otherwise in accordance with the general principles of the funds' disclosure policy. Such information, if provided, will be made available to any person upon request. Other information with respect to a fund may be deemed not to be portfolio holdings information, and may be disclosed without restriction, if, in the reasonable belief of the funds' CCO, the release of such information would not present risks of dilution, arbitrage, market timing, insider trading or other inappropriate trading with respect to the fund.

Distribution of Portfolio Holdings. Non-public information about a fund's portfolio holdings may be disclosed on a regular basis to the funds' board and its counsel, outside legal counsel for the fund and service providers who generally need access to such information in the performance of their contractual duties and responsibilities to the fund where each such person is subject to duties of confidentiality, including a duty not to share such information with an unauthorized person or trade on such information.

Funds or their service providers may distribute portfolio holdings to mutual fund evaluation services and due diligence departments of broker-dealers and wirehouses that regularly analyze the portfolio holdings of mutual funds in order to monitor and report on certain attributes, provided that: (a) the recipient does not distribute some or all of the portfolio holdings to persons who are likely to use the information for purposes of purchasing or selling fund shares or fund portfolio holdings before the portfolio holdings become public information; and (b) the recipient signs a written confidentiality agreement. The confidentiality agreement must be in form and substance approved by the funds' CCO. Subject to such modifications as the funds' CCO believes reasonable and consistent with reasonably protecting the confidentiality of a fund's portfolio holdings information, such confidentiality agreement generally shall provide, among other things, that:

- (1) portfolio holdings information is the confidential property of the fund and may not be shared or used, directly or indirectly, for any purpose except as expressly provided in the confidentiality agreement;

and

- (2) the recipient of portfolio holdings information agrees to limit access to such information to its employees (and agents) who, on a need to know basis, are (i) authorized to have access to the portfolio holdings and (ii) subject to confidentiality obligations, including duties not to trade on non-public information, no less restrictive than the confidentiality obligations contained in the confidentiality agreement.

The trading desks of a fund's Adviser(s), including any investment advisory affiliate of Dreyfus that is the primary employer of the fund's portfolio manager(s) under a dual employee arrangement with Dreyfus, as the case may be, periodically may distribute to counterparties and others involved in trade transactions (*i.e.*, brokers and custodians) lists of applicable investments held by their clients (including the funds) for the purpose of facilitating efficient trading of such investments and receipt of relevant research. In addition, such trading desks may distribute to third parties a list of the issuers and securities which are covered by their respective research departments as of a particular date, which may include securities that are held by a fund as of that date and/or securities that a fund may purchase or sell in the future; however, in no case will the list specifically identify that a particular issuer or security is currently held by a fund or that a fund may purchase or sell an issuer or security in the future.

Service providers and other parties to whom portfolio holdings are provided currently include the funds' Adviser(s), administrator, Custodian, Transfer Agent, auditors, legal counsel, pricing vendors, proxy voting services, financial printers and each of their respective affiliates and advisors, as well as FactSet, Barra LLC, RiskMetrics Group, Inc. and Style Research. Such parties receive holdings information at a frequency appropriate to their services, which may be as frequently as daily.

A fund may also disclose non-public information concerning a fund's portfolio holdings to persons employed by the fund, the Manager, the Distributor, investment advisory affiliates of Dreyfus that provide services to a fund, or to attorneys in the Dreyfus legal department, for legitimate business purposes, which is subject to the prior written approval of a member of Dreyfus senior management that is delivered in advance to the funds' CCO. All such recipients of portfolio holdings information shall be subject to a code of ethics and a code of conduct that prohibit disclosing, and trading on, material, non-public information.

CCO Approvals; Board Reporting

The CCO may approve other instances where portfolio holdings can be provided to a third party where there is a legitimate business purpose and the conditions (a) and (b) under "Distribution of Portfolio Holdings" are met. At least annually, the funds' CCO will provide a list of all new instances of making available portfolio holdings to the funds' board for review, except for service providers, which includes, but is not limited to, the Adviser(s), the Custodian and the Transfer Agent, as well as administrators, auditors, proxy voting service providers, rating and ranking organizations, financial printers, pricing service vendors, and third parties that provide analytical, statistical, or consulting services. The approval of the funds' CCO must be obtained before entering into any new ongoing arrangement or materially altering any existing arrangement to make available portfolio holdings.

Disclosure of portfolio holdings may be authorized only by the CCO for the fund, and any exceptions to this policy are reported quarterly to the board. Each violation of the funds' disclosure policy must be reported to the funds' CCO. If the CCO, in the exercise of the CCO's duties, deems that such violation constitutes a "material compliance matter" within the meaning of Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act, the CCO will report the violation to the board, as required by Rule 38a-1.

SUMMARY OF THE PROXY VOTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES OF THE DREYFUS FAMILY OF FUNDS

The boards have delegated to Dreyfus the authority to vote proxies of companies held in a fund's portfolio, except that (i) the boards have delegated to Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS") the sole authority to vote proxies of Designated BHCs (defined below) for certain funds as described below and (ii) the board of The Dreyfus

Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc. (the "Sustainable Equity Portfolio") has delegated the sole authority to vote proxies of the fund to its Sub-Adviser, Newton, as described below.

Information regarding how a fund's proxies were voted during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30th is available on Dreyfus' website, by the following August 31st, at <http://www.dreyfus.com> and on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> on a fund's Form N-PX.

Proxy Voting By Dreyfus

Dreyfus, through its participation in BNY Mellon's Proxy Voting and Governance Committee (the "Proxy Voting Committee"), applies detailed, pre-determined, written proxy voting guidelines for specific types of proposals and matters commonly submitted to shareholders (the "BNY Mellon Voting Guidelines," described below). There are separate guidelines for securities of non-U.S. companies, with respect to which the Proxy Voting Committee seeks to vote proxies through application of the ISS Global Voting Principles and Regional Policies/Principles (the "ISS Guidelines" and, collectively with the BNY Mellon Voting Guidelines and the Newton Guidelines (as defined below), each as in effect from time-to time, the "Voting Guidelines").

Securities of Non-U.S. Companies and Securities Out on Loan. It is Dreyfus' policy to seek to vote all proxies for securities held in the funds' portfolios for which Dreyfus has voting authority. However, situations may arise in which the Proxy Voting Committee cannot, or has adopted a policy not to, vote certain proxies, such as refraining from voting certain non-U.S. securities or securities out on loan in instances in which the costs are believed to outweigh the benefits, such as when share blocking (discussed below) is required, the matters presented are not likely to have a material impact on shareholder value or clients' voting will not impact the outcome of the vote.

Securities of Non-U.S. Companies. With regard to voting proxies with respect to shares of non-U.S. companies, Dreyfus weighs the cost of voting, and potential inability to sell, the shares against the benefit of voting the shares to determine whether or not to vote. However, corporate governance practices, disclosure requirements and voting operations vary significantly among the markets in which the funds may invest. In these markets, the Proxy Voting Committee seeks to submit proxy votes in a manner consistent with the ISS Voting Guidelines, while taking into account the different legal and regulatory requirements. For example, proxy voting in certain countries requires "share blocking" pursuant to which a fund must deposit before the meeting date its holdings of securities with a designated depository in order to vote proxies with respect to such securities. During this time, the shares cannot be sold until the meeting has taken place and the shares are returned to the fund's custodian bank. Dreyfus generally believes that the benefit of exercising the vote in these countries is outweighed by the cost of voting (*i.e.*, the funds' portfolio managers not being able to sell the funds' shares of such securities while the shares are blocked). Therefore, if share blocking is required, the Proxy Voting Committee typically elects not to vote the shares. Voting proxies of issuers in non-U.S. markets also raises administrative issues that may prevent voting such proxies. For example, meeting notices may be received with insufficient time to fully consider the proposal(s) or after the deadline for voting has passed. Other markets require the provision of local agents with a power of attorney before acting on the voting instructions. In some cases the power of attorney may be unavailable prior to the meeting date or rejected by the local agent on a technical basis. Additionally, the costs of voting in certain non-U.S. markets may be substantially higher than in the United States.

Securities Out on Loan. For securities that a fund has loaned to another party, any voting rights that accompany the loaned securities generally pass to the borrower of the securities, but the fund retains the right to recall a security and may then exercise the security's voting rights. In order to vote the proxies of securities out on loan, the securities must be recalled prior to the established record date. A fund may recall the loan to vote proxies if a material issue affecting the fund's investment is to be voted upon.

Material Conflicts of Interest. Dreyfus seeks to avoid material conflicts of interest between a fund and fund shareholders, on the one hand, and Dreyfus, the Distributor, or any affiliated person of the fund, Dreyfus or the Distributor, on the other, through its participation in the Proxy Voting Committee. The Proxy Voting Policy of the Proxy Voting Committee (the "Voting Policy") states that the Proxy Voting Committee seeks to avoid material conflicts of interest through the establishment of the committee structure, which applies detailed, pre-determined proxy voting guidelines (the applicable Voting Guidelines) in an objective and consistent manner across client accounts, based on, as applicable internal and external research and recommendations provided by third party proxy

advisory services (including ISS and Glass Lewis & Co., LLC (together with ISS, the "Proxy Advisers")) and without consideration of any client relationship factors. In addition, the Voting Policy states that the Proxy Voting Committee engages a third party as an independent fiduciary to vote all proxies for securities of BNY Mellon or any fund, and may engage an independent fiduciary to vote proxies of other issuers at the Proxy Voting Committee's discretion.

Voting Proxies of Designated BHCs

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

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

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

ISS votes proxies delegated by the boards in accordance with the ISS Guidelines, described below.

Material Conflicts of Interest. ISS has policies and procedures in place to manage potential conflicts of interest that may arise as a result of work that ISS's subsidiary performs for a corporate governance client and any voting of proxies relating to such client's securities that ISS performs on behalf of the funds. Such policies and procedures include separate staffs for the work performed for corporate governance clients and ISS's proxy voting services; a firewall that includes legal, physical and technological separations of the two businesses; and the employment of a blackout period on work performed with a corporate governance client during the pendency of a live voting issue in respect of securities of such client.

Proxy Voting by Newton

Newton's responsible investment team votes proxies in respect of securities held by the Sustainable Equity Portfolio in accordance with Newton's Responsible Investment Policies and Principles (the "Newton Guidelines"). Newton supports key codes and principles of various recognized regional and international organizations which provide a framework for best practice when considering environmental, social and governance issues, but avoids a prescriptive or "box ticking" approach by applying these to each company's circumstances and Newton's underlying investment case for the security. In addition, these codes and principles change and develop to reflect changing market views. Newton employs the services of Proxy Advisers to inform its voting intentions.

Material Conflicts of Interest. When a potential conflict of interest exists between Newton, the company with respect to which a proxy is to be voted, the Sustainable Equity Portfolio and/or another Newton client, the recommendations of a Proxy Adviser will take precedence.

Operation of Newton's Policies and Procedures. Newton's voting policy and procedures have been formulated and approved by Newton's Responsible and Ethical Investment Oversight Group, which reports to the Investment Oversight Committee and oversees Newton's strategic approach to responsible investment. Implementation of the policies and procedures involves Newton's head of corporate governance, head of responsible investment and responsible investment analysts in collaboration with the global sector analysts and portfolio managers.

Newton's responsible investment team reviews all resolutions for contentious issues, aided by advice from Proxy Advisers. Contentious issues may be referred to the appropriate global sector analyst or portfolio manager for comment. Where an issue remains contentious, Newton may decide to confer with the company or other interested parties for further clarification. Newton believes that voting against a resolution proposed by company management is the ultimate sanction of the shareholder or agent, short of selling the company's securities.

Securities of Non-U.S. Companies. With regard to voting proxies with respect to shares of non-U.S. companies, Newton weighs the cost of voting, and potential inability to sell, the shares against the benefit of voting the shares to determine whether or not to vote the shares. However, corporate governance practices, disclosure requirements and voting operations vary significantly among the markets in which the Sustainable Equity Portfolio may invest. In these markets, Newton seeks to submit proxy votes in a manner consistent with the Newton Guidelines, while taking into account the different legal and regulatory requirements. For example, proxy voting in certain countries requires "share blocking" pursuant to which the Sustainable Equity Portfolio must deposit before the meeting date its holdings of securities with a designated depository in order to vote proxies with respect to such securities. During this time, the shares cannot be sold freely until the meeting has taken place and the shares are returned to the Sustainable Equity Portfolio's custodian bank. Newton generally believes that the benefit of exercising the vote in these countries is outweighed by the cost of voting (i.e., Sustainable Equity Portfolio's portfolio managers not being able to sell the Sustainable Equity Portfolio's shares of such securities while the shares are blocked). Therefore, if share blocking is required, Newton typically elects not to vote the shares. Voting proxies of issuers in non-U.S. markets also raises further potential administrative issues that may prevent voting such proxies. For example, meeting notices may be received with insufficient time to fully consider the proposal(s) or after the deadline for voting has passed. Other markets require the provision of local agents with a power of attorney before acting on the voting instructions. In some cases the power of attorney may be unavailable prior to the meeting date or rejected by the local agent on a technical basis. Additionally, the costs of voting in certain non-U.S. markets may be substantially higher than in the United States.

Voting Shares of Certain Registered Investment Companies

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

SUMMARIES OF THE VOTING GUIDELINES

Summary of the BNY Mellon Voting Guidelines

The Proxy Voting Committee consists of representatives from certain investment advisory, banking, trust company and other fiduciary business units (each, a "Member Firm") affiliated with BNY Mellon. The Proxy Voting Committee recognizes that the responsibility for the daily management of a company's operations and strategic planning is entrusted to the company's management team, subject to oversight by the company's board of directors. As a general matter, Member Firms invest in companies believed to be led by competent management and the Proxy Voting Committee customarily votes in support of management proposals and consistent with management's recommendations. However, the Proxy Voting Committee believes that Member Firms, in their role as fiduciaries, must express their view on the performance of the directors and officers of the companies in which clients are

invested and how these clients' interests as shareholders are being represented. Accordingly, the Proxy Voting Committee will vote against those proposals that it believes would negatively impact the economic value of clients' investments – even if those proposals are supported or recommended by company management.

The Proxy Voting Committee seeks to make proxy voting decisions that are in the best interest of the clients of its Member Firms. For this purpose, the Proxy Voting Committee has established the BNY Mellon Voting Guidelines. Viewed broadly, the BNY Mellon Voting Guidelines seek to maximize shareholder value by promoting sound corporate governance policies through the support of proposals that are consistent with four key objectives:

- The alignment of the interests of a company's management and board of directors with those of the company's shareholders;
- To promote the accountability of a company's management to its board of directors, as well as the accountability of the board of directors to the company's shareholders;
- To uphold the rights of a company's shareholders to affect change by voting on those matters submitted to shareholders for approval; and
- To promote adequate disclosure about a company's business operations and financial performance in a timely manner.

The following are summaries of how the Proxy Voting Committee generally views certain matters that are brought before the Proxy Voting Committee in connection with the voting of proxies by those Member Firms who exercise voting discretion as a fiduciary for their clients. These summaries and the views reflected below by their nature are not intended to be complete and are not detailed explanations of all the guidelines and rule sets that the Proxy Voting Committee uses to assist with the proxy voting process. The summaries below are published by the Proxy Voting Committee to provide public company issuers and investors with a broad view of how the Proxy Voting Committee approaches certain topics and proposals in the context of voting proxies for its Member Firms' fiduciary clients; and such summaries are not intended to limit in any way the Proxy Voting Committee's or any Member Firm's actions with respect to its activities regarding the voting of proxies of any particular proposal or on shareholder voting matters generally.

1. Boards and Directors

A. Election of Directors

The Proxy Voting Committee believes that a majority of a company's board members should be independent of management.

i) Incumbent / Nominee Directors

The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** incumbent and nominee directors. However, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes to **WITHHOLD** support in cases when individual directors (or the board, as applicable): (1) adopt, amend or renew a poison pill without shareholder approval or commitment to obtain shareholder approval within 12 months (applied to incumbent directors up for re-election at annual or special meeting which follows such action), (2) attend less than 75% of meetings for two consecutive years, (3) serve on more than six boards, (4) are CEOs of a public company and serve on more than 3 boards, or (5) fail to respond to approved shareholder proposals.

ii) Compensation Committee Members

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** incumbent members of the compensation committee. However, the Proxy Voting Committee will generally consider the proposal on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis in situations where: (1) there are excise tax gross-ups, excise tax indemnification

or "make whole" provisions in recent change-in-control or severance agreements, (2) the company's stock performance is poor relative to peers and its compensation arrangements or pay practices is deemed excessive relative to peers, or (3) there appears to be an imbalance in a company's long term incentive compensation plans between the performance-based and time-based awards for the executive officers.

iii) Audit Committee

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** independent incumbent members of an audit committee. However, the Proxy Voting Committee will generally vote **AGAINST** proposals when audit fees are either undisclosed or insufficiently disclosed such that the amount paid to the auditor for non-audit services cannot be determined and will generally consider the proposal on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis in situations where: (1) a material weakness is disclosed and not remediated timely, or (2) non-audit fees exceed the sum of audit, audit-related and tax compliance/preparation fees.

iv) Management Nominees

The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** management nominees for board or committee membership unless they are the current CFO, COO, CIO, CHRO, CAO, CTO, CSO or PDIV, in which case the Proxy Voting Committee will generally **WITHHOLD** its support (unless such person has equity ownership of 5% or above, in which case the Proxy Voting Committee will consider the proposal on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis). In exceptional cases, such as severe governance concerns or when a Proxy Adviser recommends to withhold, the Proxy Voting Committee will generally consider the proposal on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis. If a nominee received less than majority support at the prior election and the board has not addressed the cause of that low support, the Proxy Voting Committee will generally **WITHHOLD** its support. The Proxy Voting Committee also considers on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis any other members of the management team, except the CEO or Executive Chair.

B. Board Governance

i) Classified Board

The Proxy Voting Committee believes shareholders should annually vote for all members on a company's board of directors. The Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** requests to declassify the board and will generally vote **AGAINST** proposals to adopt or continue a classified board structure.

ii) Board Independence

The Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** management proposals for the election of independent directors that meet listing standards and generally favors an independent chairperson. Conversely, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **AGAINST** shareholder proposals that are more or less restrictive than listing standards with respect to director "independence."

iii) Board Size

The Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** management requests to configure the size of the board of directors with appropriate rationale, absent evidence of entrenchment or a disadvantage to shareholders. However, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **AGAINST** proposals that remove the shareholders' right to vote on board configuration matters, or that would give the board sole discretion to set the number of members.

iv) Vote Majority and Removal

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee supports the practice of one share, one vote. As such, we vote **FOR** proposals to elect director nominees by the affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast at the annual or special meeting. The same practice is applied to proposals mandating the removal of a director upon a simple majority vote, such that the Proxy Voting Committee votes **AGAINST** management proposals that require a supermajority vote for removal.

v) Separate Chairman and CEO

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** management proposals that propose to separate the positions of Chairman and CEO. However, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **AGAINST** shareholder proposals to separate the Chairman and CEO positions if a lead or presiding director with appropriate authority is appointed, but is likely to vote **FOR** such a proposal if a lead or presiding director with appropriate authority has not been appointed. When considering the sufficiency of a lead or presiding director's authority, the Proxy Voting Committee will consider: whether the director: (1) presides at all meetings of the board (and executive sessions of the independent directors) at which the Chairman is not present, (2) serves as a liaison between the Chairman and the independent directors, (3) approves board meeting agendas, (4) has the authority to call meetings of the independent directors, and (5) if requested by major shareholders, ensures that s/he is available for consultation and direct communication.

2. Accounting and Audit

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** the ratification of the board's selection of an auditor for the company. The Proxy Voting Committee will vote **AGAINST** the ratification of the auditors if there are concerns of negligence due to issuance of an inaccurate audit opinion. The Proxy Voting Committee typically votes **AGAINST** shareholder proposals for auditor rotation arrangements that are more restrictive than regulatory requirements.

3. Anti-Takeover Measures

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee opposes proposals that seem designed to insulate management unnecessarily from the wishes of a majority of the shareholders and that would lead to a determination of a company's future by a minority of its shareholders. However, the Proxy Voting Committee generally supports proposals that seem to have as their primary purpose providing management with temporary or short-term insulation from outside influences so as to enable management to bargain effectively with potential suitors and otherwise achieve identified long-term goals to the extent such proposals are discrete and not bundled with other proposals.

A. Shareholder Rights Plan or "Poison Pill"

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** proposals to rescind a "poison pill" or proposals that require shareholder approval to implement a "pill." Further, the Proxy Voting Committee will consider on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis the election of directors following the adoption or renewal of a poison pill without shareholder approval, unless the fund was not a holder when the original or amended poison pill was enacted.

B. Non-Net Operating Loss Shareholder Rights Plan

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** non-net operating loss shareholder rights plans if all the following are in place: (1) a plan trigger that is 20% or greater, (2) a term not exceeding 3 years, (3) the plan terminates if not ratified by shareholder majority, (4) there are no "dead hand" or "modified dead hand" provisions, and (5) the plan has a qualified offer clause. The Proxy Voting Committee generally reviews these plans on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis outside of these prescribed requirements.

C. Special Meetings and Majority Vote

The Proxy Voting Committee believes the rights to call a special meeting and to approve an action with a simple majority vote are powerful tools for shareholders. As such, we generally support proposals that uphold these rights. More specifically, with respect to calling a special meeting, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** proposals that would allow shareholders to call a special meeting if a reasonably high proportion of shareholders (typically of at least 10-15%, depending on the company's market capitalization, but no more than 25%, of the company's outstanding stock) are required to agree before such a meeting is called.

For companies that currently permit shareholders of 25% or less of outstanding stock to call a special meeting (or no such right exists), the Proxy Voting Committee may vote **AGAINST** proposals that would effectively lower (or initially establish) the minimum ownership threshold to less than 10% (for large cap companies) or 15% (for small cap companies). However, for companies that currently permit shareholders of greater than 25% of outstanding stock to call a special meeting (or no such right exists), the Proxy Voting Committee is likely to consider on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis those proposals that would effectively lower (or initially establish) the minimum ownership threshold to less than 10% (for large cap companies) or 15% (for small cap companies).

D. Written Consent

The Proxy Voting Committee will generally vote **FOR** proposals to permit shareholders to act by written consent if the company does not currently permit shareholders to call for a special meeting or to act by written consent. The Proxy Voting Committee will generally vote **AGAINST** proposals on written consent if the company permits shareholders the right to call for a special meeting.

4. Capital Structure, Mergers, Sales and Transactions

A. Mergers

The Proxy Voting Committee is likely to consider on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis those proposals to merge, reincorporate or to affect some other type of corporate reorganization. In making these decisions, the Proxy Voting Committee's primary concern is the long-term economic interests of shareholders, and it will consider Member Firm opinions, the fairness opinion, and the vote recommendations of two independent proxy advisors retained by the Proxy Voting Committee to provide comprehensive research, analysis and voting recommendations (the "Proxy Advisors") when determining a vote decision on these or similar proposals.

B. Capital Structure

In assessing asset sales, reorganizations, bankruptcy or other capital structure changes, the Proxy Voting Committee looks to the economic and strategic rationale behind the transaction and supports those proposals that reasonably can be expected to uphold or enhance the shareholders' long-term economic interest.

- i) The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** stock split proposals if the purpose is to: (1) increase liquidity and/or (2) adjust for a significant increase in stock price.
- ii) The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** reverse stock split proposals if the purpose is to avoid stock exchange de-listing. The Proxy Voting Committee also generally votes **FOR** proposals to decrease the number of common stock shares outstanding following reverse stock splits and proposals to eliminate unissued blank check preferred stock or a class of common stock with voting rights greater than the class held in client accounts.

C. Authorized Stock Increases

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** proposals for the authorization to issue additional shares of common or preferred stock if it determines that the increase is: (1) not excessive relative to the industry's average rate or otherwise harmful to the long-term economic interests of shareholders, or (2) necessary to avoid bankruptcy or to comply with regulatory requirements or other legally binding matters. The Proxy Voting Committee will generally vote **AGAINST** such proposals that would exceed the industry's average rate and/or the business purpose is not articulated sufficiently.

D. Preferred Stock Authorization

Where the voting power of the new issuance is specified as equal to or less than existing common stock shares, and the Proxy Advisors and the fairness opinion agree, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** proposals to issue preferred stock. When the voting power of the new issuance is either unspecified or exceeds that of the existing shares of common stock, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **AGAINST** proposals to issue preferred stock.

5. Corporate Governance

A. Cumulative Voting

The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **AGAINST** proposals to continue or to adopt cumulative voting.

B. Amend Bylaw, Charter or Certificate

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** management proposals when the focus is administrative in nature or compliance driven and there is no evidence of negative impact to shareholder rights. If evidence suggests that proposals would result in a reduction of shareholder rights or lead to entrenchment, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **AGAINST** such proposals.

C. Indemnity Liability Protection

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** proposals to limit directors' liability or expand indemnification on behalf of their service to the company. However, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **AGAINST** proposals that support indemnification for director actions conducted in bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of duties.

D. Adjourn Meeting

In cases where the Proxy Voting Committee is supportive of the underlying transaction or proposal and the purpose of the adjournment is to obtain additional votes, the Proxy Voting Committee will vote **FOR** the adjournment.

6. Proxy Contests

In the case of proxy contests, the Proxy Voting Committee will endeavor to provide both parties an opportunity to present their case and arguments before determining a course of action.

The Proxy Voting Committee's general policy is to consider: (1) the long-term economic impact of the decision, (2) the company's record and management's ability to achieve our reasonable expectations for shareholder return, (3) overall compensation for officers and directors and share price performance relative to industry peers, (4) whether the offer fully realizes the future prospects of the company in question with the likelihood of the challenger achieving their stated goals, and (5) the relevant experience of all board nominees.

7. Social, Ethical and Environmental

The Proxy Voting Committee reviews all management sponsored social, ethical and environmental responsibility proposals on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis. Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee considers various factors in voting decisions, including: (1) the long-term economic impact including implementation cost-to-benefit considerations, (2) the company's current legal and regulatory compliance status, (3) the binding or advisory nature of the request, and (4) whether the proposal's underlying objective is within the scope of the company's influence and control.

The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** shareholder sponsored proposals when the proposal reasonably can be expected to enhance long-term shareholder value and when management fails to respond meaningfully to the proposal. The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **AGAINST** shareholder proposals when management has responded meaningfully and there is no evidence of: (1) shareholder value creation, (2) regulatory non-compliance, (3) failed oversight from the board and management for the subject activity, (4) the company is operating outside of industry standard practice, or (5) the proposal request is vague or overly restrictive and unlikely to achieve the underlying intent.

8. Compensation and Benefits

A. Equity Compensation

The Proxy Voting Committee employs a shareholder value transfer model and a burn rate model to measure the value transfer from shareholders to employees and directors when considering equity compensation proposals.

The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** proposals relating to equity compensation plans that: (1) pass the Proxy Voting Committee's shareholder value transfer model, (2) seek 162(m) approval only or (3) require an issuance of stock or options as equal payment in lieu of cash to directors.

The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **AGAINST** compensation plans that: (1) fail the Proxy Voting Committee's shareholder value transfer model, (2) allow for repricing or cash buyout without shareholder approval, (3) include an evergreen provision, or (4) include a "look-back" feature.

The Proxy Voting Committee reviews on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis those proposals that (1) are 162(m) plans and are administered by directors who are non-independent by listing standards, (2) fail the Proxy Voting Committee's shareholder value transfer model but are required for completion of a merger or acquisition supported by or referred to the Proxy Voting Committee, (3) fail the Proxy Voting Committee's shareholder value transfer model, but have extenuating or unique circumstances, or (4) permit accelerated vesting without consummation of a change-in-control transaction.

B. Say on Pay

If the ballot seeks an advisory vote on the frequency of say-on-pay proposals, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** proposals that call for say-on-pay on an **ANNUAL** basis.

The Proxy Voting Committee will generally vote **FOR** management proposals on say-on-pay. However, the Proxy Voting Committee will generally consider the proposal on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis in situations where: (1) there are excise tax gross-ups, excise tax indemnification or "make whole" provisions in recent change-in-control or severance agreements, (2) the company's stock performance is poor relative to peers and its compensation arrangements or pay practices is deemed excessive relative to peers, (3) the company fails to address compensation issues identified in prior meetings when adequate opportunity to address has passed, or (4) there appears to be an imbalance in a company's long term incentive compensation plans between the performance-based and time-based awards for the executive officers.

C. Option Re-pricing or Exchange

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee believes that stock compensation aligns managements' and shareholders' interests based on fair-market value grants.

In cases where management is proposing to address a compensation misalignment, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** such proposals that: (1) seek exchanges that are value-for-value, (2) exclude executives, directors and consultants, (3) do not recycle exercised options, and/or (4) involve current options that are significantly under water and the new exercise price is reasonable. The Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** proposals that require stock option exchange and re-pricing programs to be put to shareholder vote.

In cases of proposals where the exchange and/or re-pricing requests do not meet these criteria, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **AGAINST** the management proposal.

D. Golden Parachute Plans

In reviewing management compensation agreements, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** those that: (1) involve payments that do not exceed three times the executive's total compensation (salary plus bonus), (2) have a double trigger, and (3) do not provide for a tax gross-up in the contract. Conversely, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **AGAINST** compensation agreements that do not adhere to these requirements. As a facet of a capital structure change, the Proxy Voting Committee will consider these compensation agreements on a **CASE-BY-CASE** basis.

In reviewing shareholder proposals, we generally support those that require the company to submit compensation agreements to a vote.

E. Clawbacks

When determining the effectiveness of a company's clawback/recoupment policy, the Proxy Voting Committee will consider: (1) the amount of information the company provides in its proxy statement on the circumstances under which the company recoups incentive or equity compensation, (2) whether the company's policy extends to named executive officers and other senior executive officers (and not simply the CEO and chief financial officer), (3) if the policy requires recoupment of incentive and equity compensation received and subsequently determined to have been "unearned" during the prior 3-year period, and (4) if the policy considers performance-based compensation to be "unearned" if the corresponding performance target(s) are later determined to have not been achieved for any reason (rather than first requiring evidence of "misconduct" or fraudulent activity and/or a formal restatement of financial results).

F. Other Compensation Requests

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** stock purchase plans that allow a broad group of employees to purchase shares and limit the discount to 15% or less. Conversely, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **AGAINST** proposals that are limited to senior executives and/or provides for a discount that is greater than 15%.

Generally, the Proxy Voting Committee votes **FOR** proposals that seek management and director retention of stock awards for no more than one year post-employment and/or 50% of stock awarded. Conversely, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **AGAINST** proposals that seek retention of stock awards for greater than one year post-employment and 75% of stock awarded.

9. Mutual Fund Shares

With regard to voting proxies with respect to mutual fund shares, the Proxy Voting Committee generally follows the guidelines described above for operating companies. For proposals that are specific to mutual funds, the Proxy Voting Committee generally votes **FOR** proposals, with certain exceptions, including a making a mutual fund's

fundamental investment policy nonfundamental or eliminating it when an outside proxy advisor recommends against (referred to Proxy Voting Committee); making a change to a mutual fund's fundamental policy on lending that an outside proxy advisor recommends against (referred to Proxy Voting Committee); proposals to eliminate a mutual fund's fundamental or nonfundamental investment restriction on margin (referred to Proxy Voting Committee); proposals to grant a proxy for "other business" (vote AGAINST); and fee increases (referred to Proxy Voting Committee).

10. Other Matters

For those proposals for which the BNY Mellon Voting Guidelines do not provide determinative guidance (*e.g.*, new proposals arising from emerging economic or regulatory issues), they are referred to the Proxy Voting Committee for discussion and vote. In these instances, the Proxy Voting Committee votes based upon its principle of maximizing shareholder value.

Summary of the ISS Guidelines (excerpted from ISS materials)

ISS Global Voting Principles

ISS' Principles provide for four key tenets on accountability, stewardship, independence and transparency, which underlie our approach to developing recommendations on management and shareholder proposals at publicly traded companies. The principles guide our work to assist institutional investors in meeting their fiduciary requirements, with respect to voting, by promoting long-term shareholder value creation and risk mitigation at their portfolio firms through support of responsible global corporate governance practices.

Accountability. Boards should be accountable to shareholders, the owners of the companies, by holding regular board elections, by providing sufficient information for shareholders to be able to assess directors and board composition, and by providing shareholders with the ability to remove directors.

Directors should respond to investor input such as that expressed through vote results on management and shareholder proposals and other shareholder communications.

Shareholders should have meaningful rights on structural provisions, such as approval of or amendments to the corporate governing documents and a vote on takeover defenses. In addition, shareholders' voting rights should be proportional to their economic interest in the company; each share should have one vote. In general, a simple majority vote should be required to change a company's governance provisions or to approve transactions.

Stewardship. A company's governance, social, and environmental practices should meet or exceed the standards of its market regulations and general practices and should take into account relevant factors that may impact significantly the company's long-term value creation. Issuers and investors should recognize constructive engagement as both a right and responsibility.

Independence. Boards should be sufficiently independent so as to ensure that they are able and motivated to effectively supervise management's performance and remuneration, for the benefit of all shareholders. Boards should include an effective independent leadership position and sufficiently independent committees that focus on key governance concerns such as audit, compensation, and the selection and evaluation of directors.

Transparency. Companies should provide sufficient and timely information that enables shareholders to understand key issues, make informed vote decisions and effectively engage with companies on substantive matters that impact shareholders' long-term interests in the company.

Regional Policy and Principles – Americas

Principles that apply generally for the region (U.S., Canada and Latin America) are as follows:

Board

Boards should be substantially independent, fully accountable, and open to appropriate diversity in the backgrounds and expertise of members.

U.S. and Canada. Key voting policy guidelines address the following:

1. **The establishment of key board committees** (as required by regulation and/or, in Canada, by a combination of regulation and best practice recommendations outlined in the *National Policy 58-201 Corporate Governance Guidelines*): Audit, Compensation, and Nominating.
2. **The independence** of the board as a whole (which should exceed 50 percent) and of the key committees (which should be 100 percent independent). Shareholder proposals seeking the independence of the chairman and his or her separation from the CEO role are key evaluations in the U.S. and Canadian markets, where ISS generally supports independent board leadership. Directors should not sit on more than five public company boards or, if they are the CEO of a public company, sit on the board of more than two public companies besides their own. (ISS has developed specific standards to determine the independence of each director; these generally align with listing exchange independence standards but are more stringent in some respects.)
3. **The accountability** of individual directors, relevant committees and/or the board as a whole for problematic issues related to financial reporting/auditing, risk, executive compensation, board composition, directors' meeting attendance and over-boarding, and/or any other actions or circumstances determined to be egregious from a shareholder value perspective.
4. **The responsiveness** of the board to shareholder input through majority voting support for a shareholder proposal or substantial opposition to a management proposal.

Americas Regional and Brazil. ISS' vote recommendations for board elections in Latin America primarily address disclosure of director nominees. As a result of regulation enacted in late 2009, Brazil is currently the only market in the region in which timely disclosure of director nominees represents market practice. As a result, ISS policy for Brazil takes board independence into account, in accordance to each issuer's stock market listing segment. Majority-independent boards remain very rare across the region; however, Argentinian, Chilean, Colombian, Mexican and Peruvian companies must abide by market legal requirements for minimum board independence, or have at least one independent board member, whichever is higher.

Although Brazilian law requires disclosure of management nominees prior to the meeting, minority shareholders are able to present the names of their nominees up to the time of the meeting. While these rules were designed to minimize restrictions on minority shareholders, they end up having a negative impact on international institutional investors, who must often submit voting instructions in the absence of complete nominee information. ISS recommends an abstain vote on the election of directors and fiscal council members nominated by non-controlling shareholders presented as a separate voting item if the nominee names are not disclosed in a timely manner prior to the meeting.

Most Latin American markets (except Brazil and Peru) require issuers to establish audit committees, with varying independence requirements. The idea that specific oversight functions should be assigned to specific board subcommittees is still foreign to most Brazilian issuers, and even those companies that are listed in the NYSE will often not have an audit committee. This is because the SEC grants exemptions to foreign issuers and considers the Brazilian fiscal council, a corporate body lying outside of the board of directors, to be a valid substitute for an audit committee for the purposes of requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

For foreign private issuers ("FPIs"), ISS takes into account the level of disclosure and board independence (which should be a majority) as well as the independence of key board committees. Also, slate ballots or bundled director elections are generally not deemed to be in shareholders' best interests.

Compensation

The U.S. and Canada. Key voting policy guidelines address the following:

1. **Clarity and completeness of disclosures**, both for actual payments and awards to named executive officers and with respect to the nature and rationale for the programs and awards. Incomplete or unclear disclosure may result in negative recommendations if an analyst cannot conclude that the programs are operating in shareholders' interests.
2. **Reasonable alignment of pay and performance** among top executives. U.S. and Canadian compensation policies rely on both quantitative screens to measure CEO pay-for-performance alignment on both an absolute (pay relative to total shareholder return) and relative (pay and

performance relative to peers) basis over periods that include one, three, and five years for different tests. Companies identified as outliers receive a further in-depth qualitative review to identify likely reasons for the perceived disconnect, or mitigating factors that either explain and/or justify it in a particular circumstance or time period. The qualitative review investigates factors such as the proportion of pay tied to performance conditions (strength of those conditions), a company's pay benchmarking practices, the existence of measures that discourage excessive risk taking, the extent and appropriateness of non-performance-based pay elements (*e.g.*, severance packages), and the compensation committee's responsiveness to shareholder input on pay issues.

3. **Equity-based compensation proposals are evaluated with respect to several factors**, including cost (measured by Shareholder Value Transfer ("SVT") as calculated by ISS' proprietary model) and historical (average) grant, or "burn," rate, and the presence of problematic plan provisions such as ability to reprice stock options without specific shareholder approval.

An "equity plan scorecard" is used that analyzes a broad range of plan features and grant practices that reflect shareholders' embrace of performance-conditioned awards, risk-mitigated mechanisms, and reasonable plan duration. While some highly egregious features will result in negative recommendations regardless of other factors (*e.g.*, authority to reprice options without seeking shareholder approval), recommendations will largely be based on a combination of factors related to (1) cost, (2) plan feature, and (3) grant practices. ISS will generally vote against the plan proposal if the combination of the above factors indicates that the plan is not, overall, in the shareholders' interests.

Americas Regional and Brazil. In most Latin American countries, shareholders are traditionally able to vote on the compensation of board and audit committee members, which generally represent non-contentious proposals. In Brazil, however, shareholders are granted a binding vote on executive and board compensation.

While there have been some improvements in the disclosure of Brazilian remuneration figures over past few proxy seasons, inconsistencies remain, particularly regarding long-term equity pay. The debate surrounding the disclosure of individualized compensation remains unresolved since the Brazilian Institute of Finance Executives filed an injunction in 2010 allowing companies to withhold this information. Currently, more than 20 percent of Brazilian issuers use this injunction as a way to circumvent the Brazilian Securities Regulator's requirement that companies disclose the total compensation of their highest-paid executive. Some companies also continue to pay their executives through subsidiaries, a practice that tends to obscure compensation disclosure.

For FPI/tax haven companies, oppose stock incentive plans or amended plans if the maximum number of shares to be issued is not disclosed and/or the company has not disclosed any information regarding the key terms of the proposed plan. If sufficient information is disclosed, the plan proposal will be evaluated similarly to plan at U.S. companies.

Audit

U.S. and Canada. U.S. companies are required to report comprehensive and accurate financial information according to General Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"). Canadian issuers report under International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). In the U.S., companies have discretion to include a non-binding auditor ratification proposal on annual general meeting ballots. In Canada, issuers are required to provide shareholders with the ability to appoint one or more auditors to hold office until the next annual meeting.

In both markets, external auditors are expected to be both fully qualified and independent – *i.e.*, should not have any financial interests, including excessive fees from the company for non-audit services – that could compromise their independence. ISS categorizes four types of fees reported by all companies for their external auditors: Audit Fees, Audit-Related Fees, Tax Fees and All Other Fees. Specific ratios that would trigger negative recommendations on an auditor ratification proposal are detailed in respective policies.

Americas Regional and Brazil. Most Latin American markets have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, IFRS.

While shareholders in all Latin American countries must approve annual financial statements, only a few markets grant shareholders the ability to ratify auditors. Brazilian companies that install a permanent audit committee may now extend the term for the mandatory rotation of their independent auditors to 10 years.

Shareholder Rights/Takeover Defenses

ISS policy is aimed at protecting the ability of shareholders to (1) consider and approve legitimate bids for the company, and (2) effect change on the board, when appropriate. Protection of minority shareholder rights is also considered when dual class capital structures with multiple-voting share instruments give voting control to a minority equity ownership position—approximately 10 percent of Russell 3000 index companies and approximately 14 percent of issuers on the S&P/TSX Composite Index have some form of unequal voting structure.

U.S. Shareholder rights and takeover defenses in the U.S. are driven largely by state law. Within that framework, ISS policy is designed to ensure the ability of shareholders to:

- Evaluate and approve shareholder rights plans ("poison pills") that may discourage takeover bids;
- Evaluate and approve amendments to the company's governing documents, as well as proposed mergers, by a simple majority vote;
- Call special meetings and act by written consent, within reasonable parameters;
- Amend the bylaws of the company (e.g., ISS will vote against restrictions on the submission of binding shareholder proposals or share ownership or time holding requirements in excess of SEC Rule 14a-8).

Canada. Shareholder rights and takeover defenses in Canada are generally determined by regulation and exchange rules. In this context, ISS policy undertakes to:

- Evaluate and approve shareholder rights plans ("poison pills"), taking into account whether it conforms to "new generation" rights plan best practices guidelines and if the scope of the plan is limited to: i) providing the board with more time to find an alternative value enhancing transaction; and ii) to ensuring the equal treatment of all shareholders;
- Review "advance notice requirements" or other policies and recommend on a case-by-case to adopt or amend an advance notice bylaw or board policy, taking into consideration any feature or provision that may negatively impact shareholders' interests and that goes beyond the stated purpose of advance notice requirements, including but not limited to certain identified problematic features;
- Evaluate proposed amendments to the company's governing documents to ensure that shareholders' rights are effectively protected with respect to adequate and independent representation at shareholders' and directors' meetings;
- Determine that shareholder rights, including remedies, powers, and duties will not be negatively impacted by reincorporation proposals.

Americas Regional and Brazil. The voting rights of international institutional investors are often limited in Latin America. Mexican companies may divide their capital into several classes of shares with special rights for each of the shares, and voting rights for certain classes are restricted to Mexican nationals. With the exception of companies listed in the Novo Mercado, which are required to maintain a single class of shares, most Brazilian companies divide their share capital between common and preferred shares. Typically, common shares confer voting rights and preferred shares do not, although preferred shareholders have the right to vote on specific matters and under certain conditions.

A number of Brazilian issuers have adopted mandatory bid provisions, with ownership triggers ranging from 15-35 percent. The Sao Paulo Stock Exchange has recommended that companies in the Novo Mercado listing segment adopt provisions with a 30-percent ownership trigger.

Environmental & Social Issue Shareholder Proposals

While governance related shareholder proposals are generally evaluated in the context of ISS policies related to management sponsored proposals on those issues, in some markets shareholder proposals seek changes with respect to social and/or environmental issues.

U.S. In the U.S., approximately 200 environmental and social shareholder proposals come to a vote each year, primarily at large cap companies. Many request increased disclosure on certain issues or company policies, such as corporate political contributions or lobbying expenditures, board diversity, human rights, animal welfare or animal welfare-related risks, and numerous environmental and "sustainability" topics. ISS evaluates most environmental and social proposals on a case-by-case basis, considering the extent to which the request would or may have an

impact on shareholder value (positive or negative), and how that relates to the perceived cost to the company of implementing the proposal.

Canada. In Canada, very few environmental and social proposals are filed, and the majority of these are withdrawn prior to shareholders' vote, usually after discussions between the proponent and the company. The most prevalent proposals in recent years relate to gender diversity on boards and in senior management in Canada.

Latin America. In Latin America, shareholders have yet to file any environmental and social proposals and such proposals are rarely filed at companies that are subject only to tax haven market regulations.

ISS voting guidelines for environmental and social shareholder proposals consider the following:

- Whether the proposal would enhance or protect shareholder value, especially from a long-term value perspective;
- To what extent the company's current practices and policies align in an appropriate and sufficient manner to the issue(s) raised in the proposal;
- Whether the issues raised in the proposal are more appropriately or effectively dealt with through legislation or regulation;
- Whether the proposal's request is unduly burdensome in scope, timeframe, or cost, or is overly prescriptive;
- How the company's current practices and policies compare with any industry-wide standards; practices for addressing the related issue(s); and
- If the proposal requests increased disclosure or greater transparency, the extent that reasonable and sufficient information is currently available to investors, and whether or not implementation would reveal proprietary or confidential information that could place the company at a competitive disadvantage.

Merger & Acquisition & Capital Related Proposals

U.S. and Canada. ISS generally supports company proposals to repurchase shares or to undertake other actions deemed not to arbitrarily diminish or dilute shareholder value or voting interests. Other pure economic proposals, including capital changes and mergers, are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, weighing the merits and drawbacks of the proposal from the perspective of a long-term shareowner and balancing various and sometimes countervailing factors.

Unlike in some jurisdictions (*e.g.*, the U.K.), in the U.S. and Canada, shareholders only have preemptive rights if they are accorded in a company's governing documents, which is rare. Share issuances that represent less than 20 percent of outstanding capital do not require shareholder approval.

Americas Regional and Brazil. Shareholders of Latin American companies are often asked to vote on share issuances, mergers and non-contentious administrative items such as the absorption of subsidiaries. Merger proposals in Brazil are subject to a higher quorum requirement (50 percent of shares entitled to vote). ISS generally supports share issuances requests in Latin America up to 100 percent over currently issued capital with preemptive rights and up to 20 percent without preemptive rights.

Regional Policy and Principles – Europe, Middle East and Africa

ISS European Policy

- Covers most of continental Europe. Coverage is broadly in line with European Union membership, but including Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein and excluding the U.K. and Ireland.
- Most markets covered by ISS European Policy are developed markets with reasonably high governance standards and expectations, often driven by European Union regulation. However, even European Union legislation can vary widely in its implementation across member states.
- The approach taken by ISS European Policy is to apply the principles of the Policy to all markets covered, but to take relevant market-specific factors into account. Therefore European Policy has a number of areas that are specific to particular markets (for example, taking into account when assessing board independence, legal requirements in Germany for employee representatives on supervisory boards).
- Governance standards and best practices are often (but not always) on a comply-or-explain basis, with best practice recommendations set by different local corporate governance codes or guidelines. Where relevant, ISS takes into account in its analysis the explanations given by companies for any non-compliance.

U.K. and Ireland - NAPF Corporate Governance Policy and Voting Guidelines

- Covers the U.K., Ireland and a number of associated markets (such as the U.K. Channel Islands).
- Uniquely for the U.K., ISS uses the policy and voting guidelines of the National Association of Pension Funds ("NAPF"), the voice of workplace pensions in the U.K., and representing the views of pension funds, other asset owners and their asset managers. It is based on the U.K. Corporate Governance Code and on internationally accepted best practice principles of corporate governance, and is developed by the NAPF and its members specifically for the U.K. market.
- The corporate governance regime in the U.K. largely operates on a comply-or-explain basis rather than being wholly founded in corporate law. This approach underlies both the U.K. Corporate Governance Code, which is widely accepted by companies as well as supported by investors.

ISS South Africa Policy:

- Covers South Africa only
- Based on EMEA Regional Policy (described below), with additional approaches for voting items and issues that are specific to the South African market.

ISS Russia and Kazakhstan Policy:

- Covers Russia and Kazakhstan only.
- Based on EMEA Regional Policy with additional approaches for voting items and issues that are specific to these two markets.

ISS EMEA Regional Policy:

- Covers all countries in the EMEA region that are not covered by a specific policy. Includes many markets in the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe.
- The countries currently covered include, but are not limited to, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Georgia, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malawi, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Serbia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- Poor disclosure is common in many of these markets and can be particularly problematic for issues related to director elections, approval of related-party transactions, remuneration, ratification of charitable donations, and capital issuances.
- For countries currently covered by the ISS EMEA Regional Policy, opportunities for developing standalone market-specific ISS policies are regularly reviewed and specific policies are developed as opportunities to do so are identified from any significant developments in local governance practices, company disclosure practices and relevant legislation.

Regional Policy and Principles – Asia-Pacific

While ISS global principles apply to markets in Asia-Pacific (notably Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, China, Taiwan, India and Australia), because of diversity in laws, customs and best practice codes of each market, ISS' voting policies in each market take into account such factors to promote sustainable shareholder value creation through support of responsible corporate practices.

Board

Boards should be substantially independent, fully accountable, and open to appropriate diversity in the backgrounds and expertise of members.

Japan. In Japan, there was no obligation to appoint outsiders to the board of directors at the 98 percent of Japanese companies that retain Japan's traditional board system (featuring two tiers, with a statutory auditor board). However, beginning in 2016 companies with a statutory auditor structure are required to have at least two outside directors. A nominee who is voted down may not be replaced, and the board may end up losing one outsider.

However, ISS recommends a vote against a company's top executive if the board after the shareholder meeting will have no outside directors or if the top executive has failed to achieve an average return on equity of at least 5 percent over the previous five years, subject to certain exceptions. ISS also recommends voting against amendments to articles of incorporation to create new advisory positions such as "sodanyaku" or "komon" unless the advisors will serve on the board of directors and thus be accountable to shareholders. For meetings on or after February 1, 2019, ISS will recommend voting against top executives in a U.S.-type three committee structure or audit committee structure if, after the shareholder meeting, at least one-third of the board does not consist of outside directors.

Hong Kong. ISS recommends voting against executive directors who hold positions on a company's key board committees, namely audit, remuneration, and nomination committees, if such committee is not majority independent. In addition, ISS recommends against directors who have attended less than 75 percent of board meetings in the most recent fiscal year. Furthermore, ISS recommends against all non-independent directors (other than a CEO/managing director, executive chairman, or company founder who is deemed integral to the company) where independent directors represent less than one-third of the board. ISS also generally recommends against an independent director nominee who fails to meet the ISS criteria for independence. In making any of the above recommendations on the election of directors, ISS generally will not recommend against the election of a CEO, managing director, executive chairman, or founder whose removal from the board would be expected to have a material negative impact on shareholder value.

Korea. Most Korean companies present proposals to elect directors as a bundled resolution, requiring shareholders to vote for or against the entire slate of nominees, instead of allowing shareholders to vote on each individual nominee. Accordingly, where there are reasons to recommend a vote against one or more nominees, ISS considers recommending votes against all nominees included in such resolution.

Under Korean law, large company boards must have a majority of outside directors and small companies are required to have a board on which one-fourth of directors are outsiders. Where independent non-executive directors (per ISS' classification of directors) represent less than a majority of the board at large companies, ISS recommends against inside/executive directors who are neither CEO nor a member of the founding family, and/or the most recently appointed non-independent non-executive director (per ISS' classification of directors) who represents a substantial shareholder, where the percentage of board seats held by representatives of the substantial shareholder are disproportionate to its holdings in the company.

Singapore. ISS recommends voting against executive directors who hold positions on a company's key board committees, namely audit, remuneration and nomination committees, specifically if the nominee is a member of the nomination committee and the board does not have a lead/senior independent director and/or the board is not at least one-half independent. In addition, ISS recommends voting against directors who have attended less than 75 percent of board meetings in the most recent fiscal year or who sit on more than six public company boards. Furthermore, ISS recommends against all non-independent directors (other than a CEO/managing director, executive chairman, or company founder who is deemed integral to the company) where independent directors represent less than one-third of the board. In making any of the above recommendations on the election of directors, ISS generally will not recommend against the election of a CEO, managing director, executive chairman or founder whose removal from the board would be expected to have a material negative impact on shareholder value.

China. Peoples' Republic of China Company Law requires a company's board to have five to 19 directors, whilst a 2001 China Securities Regulatory Commission ("CSRC") guidance document requires that independent directors should represent at least one-third of the board, of which at least one independent director must be an accounting professional. When the board meets the one-third independence requirement, ISS generally supports the election of the candidates unless any independent director candidate fails to meet the ISS criteria for independence.

Taiwan. The nomination system is mandatory only for the election of independent directors in Taiwan. Many companies are using a "non-nomination" system for the election of non-independent directors, which means that shareholders can vote for any person of legal age and companies are not obliged to provide a roster of candidates and their profiles before the meeting. The non-nomination system poses great challenges for making an informed voting decision, particularly for overseas investors who must cast their votes well in advance of the meeting. This system acts to disenfranchise minority shareholders, who have limited visibility into the nominees chosen by the controlling shareholder and/or incumbent management team. ISS recommends voting AGAINST all nominees for elections via the "non-nomination" system. These negative recommendations are intended to protest the poor disclosure and disenfranchisement, and to push companies to adopt a system for electing directors akin to that used

in most of the world; and which is already used in Taiwan for the election of independent directors. When the company employs the nomination system, ISS recommends generally voting for all non-independent director and supervisor candidates and independent director nominees, unless the nominee is deemed non-independent under ISS's classification, is a legal entity or a representative of a legal entity, has attended less than 75 percent of board and key committee meetings over the most recent fiscal year without a satisfactory explanation, sits on more than six public company boards, or has been a partner of the company's auditor within the last three years and serves on the audit committee.

Under extraordinary circumstances, ISS recommends voting against directors or supervisors, members of a committee, or the entire board due to material failures of governance, stewardship, risk oversight or fiduciary responsibility at the company, failure to replace management as appropriate, or egregious actions related to a director's or supervisor's service on other boards that raise substantial doubt about his or her ability to effectively oversee management and serve the best interests of shareholders. In general, when making any nominations on the election of directors, ISS will not recommend against the election of a CEO, managing directors, executive chairman or founder whose removal from the board would be expected to have a material negative impact on shareholder value.

When a director election is contested, ISS recommends voting on a case-by-case basis, but shareholder nominees have the persuasive burden to show they are better suited to serve on the board than management's nominees.

India. ISS recommends voting against executive directors who hold positions on a company's key board committees, namely audit, remuneration, and nomination committees. In addition, ISS recommends voting against directors who have attended less than 75 percent of board meetings in the most recent fiscal year or who sit on more than six public company boards. Furthermore, ISS recommends against all non-independent directors (other than a CEO/managing director, executive chairman, or company founder who is deemed integral to the company) where independent directors represent less than one-third of the board (if the chairman is a non-executive) or one-half of the board (if the chairman is an executive director or a promoter director).

Australia. A unitary board structure, combining executive and non-executive directors, retiring by rotation every three years is the norm in Australia. In some cases, the CEO will be excluded from retiring by rotation once appointed to the board by shareholders. It is common and best practice for a board to have subcommittees, namely the audit, remuneration and nomination committees. Listing Rule 12.7 requires members of the All Ordinaries Index to have established an audit committee, with additional guidance on structure and role for the largest 300 companies. As in many developed markets, diversity has come to the fore in recent years. Guidance released by the Australian Securities Exchange on diversity requires companies to disclose information on gender diversity and a focus exists on building a culture of diversity within the company. With a comply-or-explain approach to governance, companies are allowed to deviate from what is considered to be best practice with regard to board structure although solid explanations are expected. Best practice supports majority independent boards, with an independent chairman. In addition, the roles of chairman and CEO should not be combined. ISS generally supports director elections in Australia but may recommend against directors when deviations from best practice are not fully justified.

Compensation

Japan. Unlike the U.S., Australia and certain European markets, the Japanese market does not require companies to submit say-on-pay proposals for a shareholder vote. Combined with a general perception that Japanese executive pay is not high, as compared to foreign counterparts, and the lack of disclosure rules shedding light on it, Japanese executive pay had long been left unflagged by shareholders. However, compensation disclosure requirements reveal that the problem of Japanese pay is not the amount, but the lack of a link to shareholder wealth creation. Accordingly, ISS policy for Japan's compensation proposals is generally intended to prompt companies to increase performance-based cash compensation as well as equity-based compensation.

Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, companies typically seek shareholder approval to set directors' fees and to approve stock option plans, but executive compensation does not require shareholder review. ISS generally supports resolutions regarding directors' fees unless they are excessive relative to fees paid by other companies of similar size.

ISS generally recommends voting against an option scheme if the maximum dilution level for the stock option plan exceeds 5 percent of issued capital for a mature company and 10 percent for a growth company. However, ISS supports plans at mature companies with dilution levels up to 10 percent if the plan includes other positive features

such as challenging performance criteria and meaningful vesting periods as these features partially offset dilution concerns by reducing the likelihood that options will become exercisable unless there is a clear improvement in shareholder value. Additionally, ISS generally recommends against plans if directors eligible to receive options under the plan are involved in the administration of the scheme and the administrator has discretion over their awards.

Korea. In Korea, companies annually seek shareholder approval to set the remuneration cap for directors. These proposals seek to set an upper limit on director pay in aggregate, but individual pay limits as well as the actual amounts paid are almost never disclosed. ISS generally recommends voting for proposals to set directors' remuneration cap unless there is a material disparity between director remuneration and the firm's dividend payout practice or financial performance, the proposed remuneration cap is excessive relative to the company's peers, or the company fails to provide justification for a substantial increase in the remuneration limit.

Singapore. In Singapore, companies typically seek shareholder approval to set directors' fees and to approve stock option plans, performance share plans and other equity-based incentives, but executive compensation does not require shareholder approval. ISS generally supports resolutions regarding directors' fees unless they are excessive relative to fees paid by other companies of similar size.

ISS generally recommends voting against an option scheme if the maximum dilution level for the stock option plan exceeds 5 percent of issued capital for a mature company and 10 percent for a growth company or if the plan permits options to be issued with an exercise price at a discount to the current market price. However, ISS supports plans at mature companies with dilution levels up to 10 percent if the plan includes other positive features such as challenging performance criteria and meaningful vesting periods as these features partially offset dilution concerns by reducing the likelihood that options will become exercisable unless there is a clear improvement in shareholder value. Additionally, ISS generally recommends against plans if directors eligible to receive options under the plan are involved in the administration of the scheme and the administrator has discretion over their awards.

China. Stock option plans and restricted stock schemes have become increasingly popular in China in recent years, with companies employing increasingly sophisticated schemes. Companies are required to provide detailed information regarding these schemes under the relevant laws and regulations. When reviewing these proposals, ISS examines the key plan features including the performance hurdles, plan participants, resulting dilution, and vesting period.

Taiwan. Restricted stock awards ("RSAs") were first introduced in Taiwan in 2012. The amount of restricted stock to be issued is capped at 5 percent of the number of shares outstanding under the law, and the restricted shares can be granted free of charge. ISS reviews RSA proposals on a case-by-case basis taking into account the following features: whether existing substantial shareholders are restricted in participation; presence of challenging performance hurdles if restricted shares are issued for free or at a deep discount; and whether a reasonable vesting period (at least two years) is set.

India. Currently, ISS does not have market-specific policies on compensation. However, shareholders are often asked to approve commissions for non-executive directors. Companies also routinely seek shareholder approval for compensation packages of executive directors. ISS recommends voting for these proposals unless there is a clear indication that directors are being rewarded for poor performance or the fees are excessive.

Companies establish employee stock option plans to reward and retain key employees. ISS generally recommends voting against an option plan if the maximum dilution level for the plan exceeds ISS guidelines of 5 percent of issued share capital for a mature company and 10 percent for a growth company or the plan permits options to be issued with an exercise price at a discount to the current market price.

Australia. Investors are given an annual say-on-pay, with the potential of forcing all directors to seek reelection if dissent exceeds 25 percent of the vote for two years running. In addition, investors can vote on individual long-term incentive grants. In general, packages are made up of a basic salary and a combination of short- and long-term incentives making up the rump of the potential award. Awards generally have pre-set performance targets with long-term awards generally vesting after a three year performance period. As with other elements of company practice, guidelines in the market exist with regard to remuneration. ISS looks for a strong link between the level of pay received and company performance. In addition, ISS expects company disclosure to be transparent enabling an informed voting decision to be made.

Audit

Japan. Shareholders are asked to approve the external auditor only when auditors are initially appointed or changed. ISS recommends a vote for the appointment of audit firms unless there are serious concerns about the accounts presented or the audit procedures used or the auditors are being changed without explanation; in which case ISS evaluates the proposal on a case-by-case basis.

Hong Kong, Singapore and India. In Hong Kong, Singapore and India, companies are required to seek shareholder approval annually for the appointment of the auditor and to authorize the board to set the auditor's fees. Auditors often provide other services in addition to audit services, which could threaten to compromise the auditor's ability to remain objective and independent. While ISS will consider the nature and scope of non-audit fees when assessing their magnitude, where non-audit fees have constituted more than 50 percent of total auditor compensation during the fiscal year, ISS will ordinarily not recommend support for the reelection of the audit firm. Non-audit fees, however, do not include fees related to significant one-time transactional fees that were accrued due to special projects or capital structure events where the company discloses those fees.

Korea and Taiwan. The appointment of the external auditor is not an item that requires shareholder review.

China. While it is acknowledged that the practice of auditors providing non-audit services to companies is problematic, the disclosure of non-audit fees is not mandatory in this market. As such, ISS generally supports the appointment of an external auditor unless there are any known negative issues against the auditor.

Australia. Shareholders are generally asked to approve the external auditor only when auditors are initially appointed or changed. ISS recommends a vote for the appointment of audit firms unless there are serious concerns about the accounts presented or the audit procedures used or the auditors are being changed without explanation.

Shareholder Rights/Takeover Defenses

Japan. ISS evaluates poison pill proposals on a case-by-case basis, but the guidelines specify a number of conditions which must ALL be met before ISS will even consider supporting a takeover defense. Those conditions are composed of five components: 1) plan features, 2) board practices, 3) creation of a special committee to evaluate takeover bids, 4) other defenses and 5) information disclosure. Only when each of these threshold conditions is met will ISS proceed to a discussion of the company's actual vulnerability to a hostile takeover, and the plans (if any) it has announced to increase its valuation and thus reduce its vulnerability. The total duration of a poison pill may not exceed three years.

In evaluating poison pill renewals, ISS will examine the company's share price performance, relative to its peers, since the pill was first put in place. Where the company has underperformed the market, it will be difficult to argue that shareholders have benefited from the pill, or that they should support its renewal. Starting in 2016 the current poison pill policy became more stringent by requiring as necessary conditions for support of a poison pill that 1) the policy provides the board a higher degree of independence, 2) all members of the special committee are either directors or statutory auditors of the company and thus directly accountable to shareholders, and, 3) the proxy circular is posted on the stock exchange website at least four weeks prior to the meeting.

Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and India. Poison pills and dual-class shares with different voting rights are not allowed. If any antitakeover measure is proposed, ISS generally recommends against such a proposal unless it is structured in such a way that it gives shareholders the ultimate decision on any proposal or offer.

Korea. Poison pills are not allowed in Korea, although it is possible to utilize redeemable convertible preferred shares to serve a similar purpose. ISS generally recommends against proposals to create classes of shares that could be utilized as an antitakeover measure.

ISS recommends against proposals to adopt a supermajority voting requirement for removal of directors or internal auditors as it will make it difficult for shareholders to dismiss directors or internal auditors, which could reduce board accountability.

Golden parachutes are allowed in Korea, and ISS generally recommends a vote against a proposal to introduce such a clause.

China. The adoption of antitakeover measures in China is regulated by the Management Approach on Acquisition of Listed Companies (the "Approach"), published by CSRC in 2006. The Approach effectively forbids the employment of poison pills, scorched earth and other common shark repellent defenses *during the event* of a hostile takeover. However, what can be done *before the event* is not regulated. As a result, Chinese companies have increasingly been adopting preemptive measures designed to discourage and inhibit takeover attempts by placing

restrictions in the company's Articles of Association. One of the most common restrictions placed in a company's Articles of Association relates to the right of shareholders to nominate directors. ISS generally recommends voting against such restrictive articles.

Australia. Poison pills and dual-class shares with different voting rights are not allowed. If any antitakeover measure is proposed, ISS generally recommends against such a proposal unless it is structured in such a way that it gives shareholders the ultimate decision on any proposal or offer.

Environmental & Social Issue Shareholder Proposals

Most proposals of this type require shareholders to apply subjective criteria in making their voting decision. While broader issues are of concern to everyone, institutional shareholders acting as representatives of their beneficiaries are required to consider only the ultimate interests of their direct beneficiaries. Relating the interests of their beneficiaries to the greater good can be a difficult process and a matter for individual determination. For this reason, ISS focuses on the financial aspects of social and environmental proposals. If a proposal would have a negative impact on the company's financial position or adversely affect important operations, ISS recommends opposing the resolution. Conversely, if a proposal would have a clear and beneficial impact on the company's finances or operations, ISS recommends supporting the proposal.

Japan. In evaluating social and environmental proposals, ISS first determines whether or not the issue in question should be addressed on a company-specific basis. Some social and environmental issues are beyond the scope of any one company and are more properly the province of government and broader regulatory action. If this is the case, ISS recommends voting against the proposal.

Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Taiwan and India. Shareholder proposals on environmental and social issues are not common in these markets. ISS reviews these proposals on case-by-case basis, taking into consideration whether implementation of the proposal is likely to enhance or protect shareholder value.

Korea. Environmental & Social Issues are not items that shareholders can vote on under the current legal framework in Korea.

Australia. Shareholder proposals on environmental and social issues are not common in Australia, with engagement carried out behind closed doors. ISS reviews these proposals on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration whether implementation of the proposal is likely to enhance or protect shareholder value.

Merger & Acquisition /Economic Proposals

Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Taiwan, India and Australia. For every Merger & Acquisition and Third-Party Placement analysis, ISS reviews publicly available information as of the date of the report and evaluates the merits and drawbacks of the proposed transaction, balancing various and sometimes countervailing factors including: valuation, market reaction, strategic rationale, negotiations and process, conflicts of interest and governance.

Korea. The company-level transactions that require shareholders' approval include sale/acquisition of a company's assets or business unit; merger agreements; and formation of a holding company. For every analysis, ISS reviews publicly available information as of the date of the report and evaluates the merits and drawbacks of the proposed transaction, balancing various and sometimes countervailing factors, including valuation, market reaction, strategic rationale, conflicts of interest, governance, and trading opportunity from the dissident's right.

Newton Guidelines

Newton's responsible investment team conducts research on environmental, social and governance ("ESG") issues and undertakes engagement consistent with Newton's views on ESG issues.

Boards. Newton believes it is essential to have an appropriate balance between executive and independent non-executive directors to ensure that the interests of shareholders are represented. A company's board should have an effective structure, have access to adequate training, undertake suitable recruitment to ensure the maintenance of appropriate skills and breadth of experience, and have planned succession. It should undertake its own annual evaluation and assess the suitability of an external evaluation. The board should review the effectiveness of the

company's internal controls and appropriateness of its risk profile at least annually. Directors should be available to meet with investors when required.

Independence. Newton believes it is important that a board maintains an appropriate level of independence. Newton looks unfavorably on directors having a recent relationship with the company, involved in related-party transactions, receiving performance-based remuneration, or where a non-executive director's length of service suggests that the board lacks fresh experience, insight and judgment.

Chairman and CEO. Newton believes it is in the best interests of shareholders for the roles of CEO and chair to be separate and defined. Newton is opposed to a CEO becoming chair of the same company and has a preference for the chair to be considered independent at the time of appointment.

Senior Independent Director. Newton expects a senior independent director or lead director to act as a conduit between the non-executive directors and the shareholders to ensure that the views of the independent non-executive directors play a prominent role in board deliberations.

Board Committees. Newton favors the establishment of key board committees with oversight of a board's audit, risk, remuneration and nomination functions, as well as a separate board committee charged with oversight of the company's environmental and social policies, where applicable. Each committee should consist of a majority of independent directors, with the audit committee and remuneration committee consisting solely of independent directors.

Succession Planning. Newton believes a fundamental role of the board is the establishment of an effective succession planning policy. Newton believes an engaged nomination committee should ensure that it has identified at least one suitable candidate to succeed individuals employed in key roles within the company and should be able to react swiftly in the event of an individual suddenly departing from the company.

Board Diversity. Newton believes a board should contain a wide variety of experience and skills and consideration of board diversity should include, but not be limited to, gender, age, nationality, race, religion, skill, experience and knowledge. A board's nomination committee should be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that a good balance of board diversity is achieved.

Risk Management and Internal Controls. Newton believes a company should have a clear policy in relation to assessing the appropriateness of its risk profile and communication how it is responding to material business risks via a clear risk register. The board should have formal responsibility for risk management and the internal control functions. Newton expects companies to report publicly on their policy and position in relation to these areas.

Auditors. Remuneration of auditors for non-audit services should be kept under review by the audit committee and should not be excessive. Newton expects non-audit fees to be disclosed and justified in the auditor's remuneration section of a company's annual report and accounts. Newton would be concerned if a company accepts a monetary cap on its auditor's liability and would expect to see a detailed explanation should any other type of liability limitation be adopted.

Remuneration. Variable remuneration should be structured so that it does not reward individuals for poor performance. If performance metrics governing the vesting of variable remuneration awards are not representative of the underlying performance of a business, Newton would expect an independent remuneration committee to exercise discretion.

Dividend Policies. Newton is cautious of companies with a consistently low dividend pay-out ratio that have not identified suitable investment opportunities or developed a strategic investment plan.

Share Buy-Backs. Newton believes a decision to buy back shares should be considered in the context of alternative uses of capital, such as acquisitions or a special dividend.

Related-Party Transactions. Newton expects companies to explain the necessity for a related-party transaction together with justification that the decision to enter into such an arrangement was taken independently of the related party.

Voting Rights. Newton is unfavorably disposed towards companies that give disproportionate influence to selected investors.

Schemes of Arrangement and Amendments to Articles of Association. A wide range of events may be covered by these proposals, including mergers, acquisitions and change of domicile. As each proposal must be considered on its own merits, Newton will exercise voting rights in line with its investment rationale and in the best interests of its clients.

Anti-Takeover Mechanisms/Poison Pills (Anti-Takeover Defense). Newton is unlikely to support arguments for approving the introduction or continuation of an anti-takeover mechanism because this may lead to the entrenchment of a poorly performing management team and inhibit the creation of shareholder value.

Shareholder Rights. Newton acknowledges that shareholders should not necessarily be involved in the detail of company management but will not support companies seeking to reduce shareholder rights and will support sensible shareholder proposals that seek to strengthen shareholder rights.

Capital Structure Alterations. Newton expects companies to communicate their intentions clearly and provide rationale for any changes to their capital structure.

Controlling and Influential Shareholders. Companies should disclose the detail behind any special relationships or agreements that are in place with such shareholders. Newton will seek to understand the investment expectations of these investors and place greater emphasis on the company conforming to corporate governance best practice in an effort to limit the possibility of Newton's clients being disadvantaged by the situation.

Political Donations. Generally, Newton will not support a company that seeks to make director donations to any political party or political organization.

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

Massachusetts Business Trusts

If a fund is a series of a fund company organized as an unincorporated business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, shareholders of the fund could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of the fund. However, the fund company's Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Trust Agreement") disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the fund company and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the fund company or a board member. The Trust Agreement provides for indemnification from a fund's property for all losses and expenses of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the fund itself would be unable to meet its obligations, a possibility which management believes is remote. Upon payment of any liability incurred by a fund, the shareholder paying such liability will be entitled to reimbursement from the general assets of the fund. The fund companies intend to conduct their operations in such a way so as to avoid, as far as possible, ultimate liability of the shareholders for liabilities of a fund.

Fund Shares and Voting Rights

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

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

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

Participating Insurance Companies will provide pass-through voting privileges to all Policy owners so long as the SEC continues to interpret the 1940 Act as requiring pass-through voting privileges for Policy owners. Participating Insurance Companies will vote by proxy, in the same proportions as the voting instructions received from Policy owners: (1) fund shares as to which no timely instructions are received; (2) fund shares owned exclusively by the relevant Participating Insurance Company or its affiliates; and (3) fund shares held in a separate account representing charges imposed by the relevant Participating Insurance Company against the separate account. As a result of this proportionate voting policy, the voting of a small number of Policy owners may determine whether a proposal is approved, depending on the number of shares attributable to Policy owners that provide instructions and to Policy owners that do not. Additional information regarding voting instruction rights is provided in the prospectus or statement of additional information for the Policies.

GLOSSARY

Term	Meaning
12b-1 Plan	A Plan adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act
1940 Act	Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended
ADRs	American Depositary Receipts and American Depositary Shares
Adviser	The Manager and/or one or more Sub-Advisers, as applicable to the relevant fund or funds
Affiliated Broker	A broker that is (1) an affiliate of a fund, or an affiliated person of such person or (2) an affiliated person of which is an affiliated person of a fund, its Adviser or the Distributor
Affiliated Entity	An affiliate of Dreyfus that, along with Dreyfus, employs fund portfolio managers who are dual employees of the Dreyfus and such affiliate
BNY Mellon	The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation; BNY Mellon is the corporate brand of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation
BNY Mellon AMNA	BNY Mellon Asset Management North America Corporation
CCO	Chief Compliance Officer
CEA	Commodities Exchange Act

Term	Meaning
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFTC	Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Code	Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended
CPO	Commodity pool operator
Custodian	The Bank of New York Mellon
Distribution Plan	A plan adopted by a fund's board pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act
Distributor	MBSC Securities Corporation
Dodd-Frank Act	Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act
Dreyfus	The Dreyfus Corporation
ETFs	Exchange traded funds and similar exchange-traded products
Exchange Act	Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
FDIC	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Federal Funds	Monies of member banks within the Federal Reserve System which are held on deposit at a Federal Reserve Bank
FINRA	Financial Industry Regulatory Authority
Fitch	Fitch Ratings
FNMA	Federal National Mortgage Association
Ginnie Maes	GNMA Mortgage Pass Through Certificates
GNMA	Government National Mortgage Association
Independent Board Member	A board member who is not an "interested person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the relevant fund
Index	The benchmark index of an Index Fund
Index Funds	Dreyfus Stock Index Fund and Small Cap Stock Index Portfolio
Index Manager	BNY Mellon AMNA
Interested Board Member	A board member who is considered to be an "interested person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the relevant fund
IPO	Initial public offering
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
Lending Agent	The Bank of New York Mellon
LIBOR	London Interbank Offered Rate
Manager	The Dreyfus Corporation
Mellon Capital	Mellon Capital Management Corporation, a predecessor company of BNY Mellon AMNA
Moody's	Moody's Investors Service, Inc.
NASDAQ	The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc.
NAV	Net asset value
Newton	Newton Investment Management (North America) Limited
NYSE	NYSE Euronext
Participating Insurance Companies	Insurance companies that establish VA and VLI separate accounts to fund VA contracts and VLI policies through which investments in the funds may be made
Policy, Policies	Variable annuity contract(s) and/or variable life insurance policy or policies through which investments in the funds may be made
Rating Agencies	S&P, Moody's, Fitch and, with respect to the Government Money Market Portfolio, DBRS

Term	Meaning
REIT	Real estate investment trust
REMIC	Real estate mortgage investment conduit
RIC	Regulated investment company
S&P	Standard & Poor's Ratings Services
Sarofim & Co.	Fayez Sarofim & Co.
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
Securities Act	Securities Act of 1933, as amended
Standish	Standish Mellon Asset Management Company LLC, a predecessor company of BNY Mellon AMNA
Sub-Adviser	A fund's sub-investment adviser, if any, as described in the prospectus
TBCAM	The Boston Company Asset Management, LLC, a predecessor company of BNY Mellon AMNA
TIPS	Treasury Inflation-Protection Securities
Transfer Agent	Dreyfus Transfer, Inc.
Treasury	U.S. Department of the Treasury
USA PATRIOT Act	Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001
VA	Variable annuity
VLI	Variable life insurance
Weekly Liquid Assets	(i) Cash; (ii) direct obligations of the U.S. government; (iii) securities issued by U.S. government agencies at a discount and have a remaining maturity of 60 days or less; (iv) securities that will mature or are subject to a demand feature that is exercisable and payable within five business days; and (v) amounts receivable and due unconditionally within five business days on pending sales of portfolio securities