

## The Sun Also Rises Redux\*

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The COVID-19 pandemic has been and continues to prove devastating to those around the globe afflicted with the disease. The virus has taxed the resources of health care professionals, medical facilities, first responders, government officials and military personnel, and it has proven highly disruptive to the lives of everyday citizens. Adhering to the advice of the CDC, WHO and responsible federal, state and local officials, will assist in the communal response necessary to combat the pandemic - neighbors helping neighbors on a scale never before witnessed in our lifetimes.

#### **Market, Portfolio Dislocations Pronounced**

HS Management Partners as a Firm is operating effectively, as correspondence sent to clients on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> detailed. Nonetheless, client portfolios have experienced significant pressure quarter-to-date, both absolute and relative to the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index and the Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> Growth Index. While we have traditionally prided ourselves on seeking to preserve capital better than indices in down markets, the severity and rapid pace of the recent market decline is such that portfolios have not held up better than the market as of this update.

At HSMP, we are bottom-up in our approach, and our focus is on growing the earnings and cash flow stream in a consistent, visible fashion by selecting quality businesses at attractive valuations. Over the years, consumer staples and discretionary have been mainstays of client portfolios. Our body of work - our since inception performance - is such that we believe those businesses and the important role that the consumer plays in the global economy have served clients well over time. That said, the COVID-19 virus will produce both direct and indirect effects that will be felt: the former are being experienced currently as consumers sensibly and appropriately simply don't show up; the latter, more indirect effects will be experienced over a longer interval, though the scope of such impacts is indeterminable at this time.

The COVID-19 pandemic is the societal health equivalent of a 100-year storm, and the unparalleled medical and social disruption has produced pressure on client portfolios that has proven similarly unparalleled.

#### **Seeing the Forest through the Trees**

We have evaluated our positions, have made select portfolio changes, and considered the cash flow characteristics of individual holdings in a climate where earnings estimates are elusive, though we now expect portfolio earnings to decline in 2020. Measures of overall corporate profitability are changing rapidly, and those

declines are expected to be material. The free cash flow attributes we prize are now manifest in a portfolio dividend yield approaching 3%, a measure of resiliency that compares favorably with 10-year Treasuries (currently yielding just over 1% - see "Greed to Fear...Chaos "Yields" to Quality" distributed on 3/6/20.)

We have attempted to maintain an even keel, recognizing that we believe meaningful near-term earnings deterioration will eventually shift to the realization that long-term earnings and cash flow prospects of our portfolio holdings in many cases remain broadly intact.

Our active management approach has persisted as we have sought to capitalize on weakness in certain stocks (existing positions as well as new names) that have been pressured but which we believe will recover well fundamentally. Our valuation measures have become more attractive as we've deployed capital from higher P/E names and ones that have held up well – therefore appearing less attractive from a valuation perspective – to help fund purchases. Valuation metrics have become much more compelling when we consider the longer-term value that we believe exists and is associated with the durability and duration of the franchises we own on clients' behalf. We think that ultimately, and when the current unsettled phase passes, long-term prospects should become more widely appreciated and rewarded.

Having experienced any number of unpleasant market events over the course of our careers - October 1987, the Dot-Com Bubble, 9/11, the Great Recession - we realize that "The Sun Also Rises." We know the greatness of America and the resilient nature of our people will once again be demonstrated. We very much appreciate the trust and confidence clients have shown in us and will share our quarterly update in mid-April.

On behalf of all members of HS Management Partners team, safe wishes to you and your families.

### **HSMP Composite Performance as of 12/31/19**

	YTD	1 Year	3 Years Annualized	5 Years Annualized	10 Years Annualized	Since Inception 4/1/07 Annualized	Since Inception 4/1/07 Cumulative
HSMP Composite (Net)	37.1%	37.1%	20.1%	13.7%	15.9%	12.5%	348.5%
S&P 500® Index	31.5%	31.5%	15.3%	11.7%	13.6%	8.9%	197.9%
Russell 1000® Growth Index	36.4%	36.4%	20.5%	14.6%	15.2%	11.2%	284.9%

Performance results are net-of-fees and include the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Please refer to pages 3, 4 & 5 for important performance and disclosures information.

<sup>\*</sup>Redux is a reference to a Thought Piece that we issued by the same name in the midst of the Financial Crisis dated 9/18/2008. For any clients interested in receiving a copy, please let us know and we would be happy to send it to you.

#### **GIPS Disclosure**

# HS Management Partners, LLC Concentrated Quality Growth Composite Annual Disclosure Presentation

	Firm	Comp	oosite		Perl	formance Res	3-Year Annualized Std Deviation				
Year Assets End (millions)	Assets	Number of	Composite			Russell	Composite	Composite		Russell	
		(USD) (millions)	Accounts	Gross	Net	S&P 500®	1000° Growth	Dispersion (Std Dev)	Gross	S&P 500®	1000® Growth
2019	3,566	3,478	280	38.12%	37.13%	31.49%	36.39%	1.13	11.29	11.93	13.07
4Q-19	3,566	3,478	280	6.84%	6.63%	9.07%	10.62%	.07	11.29	11.93	13.07
3Q-19	3,377	3,260	263	5.24%	5.05%	1.70%	1.49%	.49	11.36	12.01	13.11
2Q-19	3,266	3,197	254	8.57%	8.38%	4.30%	4.64%	.12	11.38	12.02	13.21
1Q-19	3,234	3,173	257	13.15%	12.95%	13.65%	16.10%	.27	10.23	10.58	12.02
2018	3,145	2,967	259	-4.42%	-5.07%	-4.38%	-1.51%	.28	10.04	10.80	12.12
2017	4,028	3,840	236	33.87%	33.06%	21.83%	30.21%	.46	9.61	9.92	10.54
2016	3,446	3,269	199	6.92%	6.25%	11.96%	7.08%	.10	10.72	10.59	11.15
2015	3,143	3,014	176	3.94%	3.32%	1.38%	5.67%	.81	11.03	10.48	10.70
2014	3,295	3,193	148	13.06%	12.39%	13.69%	13.05%	.26	9.85	8.98	9.59
2013	2,392	2,298	136	31.76%	31.04%	32.39%	33.48%	.09	12.26	11.94	12.18
2012	1,622	1,616	94	28.86%	28.16%	16.00%	15.26%	.15	13.82	15.09	15.66
2011	884	880	72	5.55%	5.00%	2.11%	2.64%	.11	15.81	18.70	17.76
2010	531	528	46	17.13%	16.44%	15.06%	16.71%	.28	19.54	21.85	22.11
2009	292	290	32	35.91%	35.06%	26.46%	37.21%	.33			
2008**	172	152	27	(34.49%)	(34.80%)	(37.00%)	(38.44%)	N.A.			
2007*	-	6	5 or fewer	16.84%	16.08%	4.83%	10.51%	N.A.			

<sup>\*</sup> Performance shown for 2007 is from April 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

The HS Management Partners Concentrated Quality Growth Composite includes all fully discretionary, actively managed, fee paying accounts which employ our style of investing in 20-25 quality growth businesses. These accounts must have a market value exceeding \$500,000 at the time of initial inclusion in the Composite and have a market value exceeding \$300,000 to maintain inclusion.

Accounts that have contributions/withdrawals of greater than 10% of their market value (at the time of the cash flow) shall be excluded from Composite membership. Accounts that are not actively managed according to the intended strategy are excluded at the end of the last full day in which they last met the inclusion criteria. Accounts are reinstated into the Composite on the first day after the account again meets our inclusion criteria. Prior to April 1, 2009, our inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied on a monthly basis, rather than daily. Additional information regarding the treatment of significant cash flows is available upon request. Also available upon request are policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations.

For benchmark purposes, the Composite is compared to the S&P 500° and Russell 1000° Growth indices, however, the Composite may contain securities not represented in either or both indices. The HS Management Partners Concentrated Quality Growth Composite was created January 1, 2008. Prior to January 1, 2008 the accounts in the Composite were non-fee paying individual accounts managed by Harry Segalas in accordance with HS Management Partners' investment policies, becoming HS Management Partners accounts in December 2007. Prior to July 1, 2011, the HS Management Partners Concentrated Quality Growth Composite was known as the HS Management Partners Concentrated Growth Composite.

The Composite Dispersion presented is an asset-weighted standard deviation calculated using gross performance results for accounts included within the Composite for the entire period.

HS Management Partners, LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS\*) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS\* standards. HS Management Partners, LLC has been independently verified for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2019. Verification assesses whether (1) the Firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS\* standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the Firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS\* standards. The Concentrated Quality Growth Composite has been examined for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2019. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

The performance track record from April 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 has been examined by Ashland Partners & Company, LLP and is compliant with the portability requirements of the GIPS® standards. A copy of the verification report is available upon request.

HS Management Partners, LLC is an independent SEC registered investment advisor (SEC registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training). The Firm maintains a complete list and description of composites, which is available upon request. Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the Firm. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. When international ordinary shares or ADRs are held in portfolios in the Composite, performance is shown net of foreign withholding taxes. Returns are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Net of fee performance was calculated using actual management fees. Prior to January 1, 2008, a representative fee of 0.90% annually was applied to the individual accounts in the Composite managed by Harry Segalas. Additional information regarding the policies for calculating and reporting returns is available upon request. Policies governing compliance with the GIPS® Standards were followed in establishing HS Management Partners' performance record and the accounts to be included therein. In that regard, certain individual accounts managed by Harry Segalas were excluded from the Composite because of material differences in the management style of those accounts and HS Management Partners' investment policies. The GIPS® standards were applied retroactively for the purposes of computing 2007 performance, and are being applied prospectively in a consistent manner.

Investment advisory fees are charged as a percentage of on an account's assets under management. The annual fee schedule for accounts that are at least \$10 million under management is as follows: 0.90% on first \$25 million, 0.70% on next \$25 million and 0.50% on the balance. Accounts below \$10 million pay the greater of 1% or \$10,000. Actual investment advisory fees may deviate from the above fee schedule at the Firm's sole discretion. Please refer to our Form ADV for more information related to our fees.

<sup>\*\*</sup> HS Management Partners, LLC charges its fees quarterly in arrears and therefore no significant fees were charged to client accounts in the first quarter of 2008. Had a modeled fee of 0.90% per annum been applied, the net of fee return for the first quarter of 2008 would be (10.82%).

N.A. - Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios (5 or fewer) in the Composite for the entire year.

#### IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

When we use *HSMP*, *HS Management Partners*, or *Firm*, we mean HS Management Partners, LLC. When we use *Composite*, we mean our HS Management Partners Concentrated Quality Growth Composite. This piece represents our opinion as of 3/18/20 based on our understanding of market conditions and publicly available information. It has forward-looking statements that are by their nature uncertain and based on our assumptions (such as when we refer to possible/future/estimated earnings, cash flows, earnings-per-share (EPS), growth rates, price-earnings ratios (P/E), market conditions, or portfolio/client portfolio outlook); there is no assurance that forward-looking statements are accurate as actual results and future events can differ materially from our assumptions. It is written from the perspective of our Composite holdings, performance and estimated metrics, and it does not refer to any specific group/client account (when we use *our portfolio(s)/your portfolio(s)* we mean client portfolios in general from our Composite perspective – please see below regarding differences between the Composite and actual client portfolios/ accounts). The information here is solely for illustration/discussion, is subject to change without notice, should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell any particular security, and should not be used as a base for making investment decisions. Investing in securities involves significant risks, including the risk of loss of the original amount invested. The following is a summary of some material risks, not all risks, applicable to our investment strategy and advisory business, listed alphabetically.

- Active Management Risk. Active management is key to our investment strategy, and we take an incremental trading approach. This increases trading, which in turn increases trading commissions and/or other transaction costs, fees and expenses that will reduce client returns/performance. Portfolio turnover can also result in short-term capital gains, which can reduce the after-tax return for taxable clients.
- Catastrophic Events, Civil Disturbances, Health Crises, Wars, Natural Disasters, Terrorist Attacks, Environmental Calamities, and Acts of God Risk. All these events can significantly disrupt not only the economy and market conditions, but also exchanges, trading, our vendors' services, the performance of the companies in which we invest and their competitors, and our ability to carry out our investment advisory business, as well as making our employees, vendors and market participants more susceptible to cyberattacks
- Concentration Risk. Our investment strategy involves a high concentration in certain market sectors, industries, geographic regions, and number of issuers. A concentrated portfolio is subject to greater risk of loss and market impact than a more diversified account.
- Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples and Technology Sectors Risk. Our discretionary client portfolios are concentrated in these sectors, which are highly sensitive to rising inflation, increased interest rates, pandemics, wars, and other events that impact consumer confidence and behavior. The consumer discretionary and the technology sectors are especially tied to the strength of the economy. Moreover, the technology industry is very sensitive to rapid and often unforeseeable innovation and product obsolescence.
- Cybersecurity and Other Technology Risk. We rely heavily on technology to perform our functions and also share sensitive, confidential information with client consultants, investment advisers and custodians, as well as with other third-party service providers such as broker-dealers, software providers, network administrators, and other parties we engage in the client service, operations, legal/compliance, marketing, and Firm accounting areas, among other. Thus, client and Firm sensitive, confidential data on our network or on the networks of third parties with whom we have shared data are vulnerable to inadvertent disclosure and nefarious cyberattacks aiming to expose or exploit the data.
- Equity Securities Risk. We invest in equity securities, which involves several risks. Their value can decrease, potentially dramatically, in response to many factors (including general economic conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, fluctuations in foreign currencies, and national or international political, social, governmental, tax, legal, regulatory and economic events, as well as natural disasters, environmental calamities, terrorist attacks, wars, and health crises such as epidemics or pandemics) that can negatively impact the economy in general or a particular company's financial situation, result in poor performance of some companies in certain geographical regions or economic sectors or industries, and/or adversely affect the stock market in general or overall market sentiment. Even under favorable market and industry conditions, a company's performance can be negatively impacted by internal factors, such as poor execution by company management, a cybersecurity attack or data breach, and a change in the demand for its products or services.
- Foreign Security Risk. Our discretionary client portfolios generally include foreign companies. Investing in foreign companies exposes clients to political, social, economic, legal and currency factors or other issues relevant to the corresponding foreign countries or regions.
- General Economic and Market Conditions Risk. The success of our Firm and the companies in which we invest will be affected by general economic and market conditions, such as inflation, interest rate fluctuations, a recession, the availability of credit, economic uncertainty, changes in laws, supply chain issues, labor shortages, trade barriers, currency exchange controls, energy and commodity prices, national and international political circumstances, natural disasters such as environmental calamities, and regional, national and global health crises.
- Credit Risk. Financial intermediaries and security issuers can experience adverse economic consequences, including impaired credit ratings, default, and bankruptcy or insolvency. All of which can cause adverse events, such as trading disruptions and credit events that can impair or erase a client's investment.
- Legal, Tax, and Regulatory Risk. We are a registered investment adviser regulated by the SEC. As a regulated entity, changes in laws or regulations can impact our ability to operate our business. In addition, legal, tax and regulatory developments can adversely affect the companies in which we invest or the regulatory or tax treatment of client gains.
- Liquidity Risk. In times of turbulent or uncertain market conditions liquidity risk for our client portfolio increases as there can be fewer market participants, or no market participant, willing to pay a stock price that is not deeply discounted from the price we paid when we invested in the stock, or willing to pay a stock price that we deem reasonable for the securities we own.
- Low Cash Balances Risk. Our investment strategy generally involves maintaining very low levels of cash (including cash equivalents selected by the client or the client's custodian) in client accounts, meaning client accounts are typically nearly fully invested. Therefore, client portfolios will likely be more impacted by market fluctuations than portfolios that are less invested and keep more cash available. In addition, client withdrawals of cash from an account will most likely require the sale of securities which can be at a time when prices are not favorable.
- Market Capitalization Risk. Although we typically invest in large capitalization companies, we have demonstrated a willingness to go down the capitalization scale. When moving down the capitalization scale, stock liquidity risk can significantly increase as the market for the stock can shrink and the stock price can decline, particularly in turbulent markets. In addition, small and mid-capitalization companies tend to be more volatile or vulnerable to adverse company specific or general economic conditions than large capitalization companies.
- Material Non-public Information Risk. There can be instances where we receive non-public information, voluntarily or involuntarily. In such cases, we will act in accordance with our policies and procedures relating to insider trading and determine whether the information constitutes material non-public information or is likely or possible to be considered so with the benefit of hindsight.
- Reliance on Key Personnel Risk. Our CIO and sole Portfolio Manager is considered a key person with respect to our investment strategy. Although other experienced Firm-partner members of the investment team can make investment decisions, the unforeseen absence of our CIO can impair our ability to successfully implement our investment strategy.

Refer to our Firm Brochure (at <a href="www.hsmanage.com/documents/">www.hsmanage.com/documents/</a> or upon request at 212-888-0060) for material risks applicable to our strategy and information regarding our Firm. The Liquidity chart on this piece was obtained from the indicated third-party source which we believe reliable, but we did not verify, nor do we guarantee the accuracy of this information. The information in this piece is solely for illustration/discussion, has not been tailored to any particular recipient, is subject to change without notice, should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell any particular security, and should not be used as basis for making investment decisions.

In response to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic and in an effort to protect the safety and well-being of our team and the continuity of our critical business operations, our employees are working remotely and we suspended business travel and replaced in-person meetings with conference calls and video chats. We have tested our capacity to operate remotely and members of our team have worked from home in the past, and as of this moment, we believe we can perform critical services (making investment decisions, trading and settlement, and communicating with clients about the status of their accounts), assuming that current conditions do not worsen dramatically over the next few days, that our team and close family members do not fall ill infected with COVID-19, that there are no significant disruptions to our key service providers, and that our team continues to have internet connectivity and phone access from home. Although our business continuity / disaster recovery plan aims to mitigate the impact of natural disasters or catastrophic events by maintaining critical business functions, while keeping the safety of our employees first, no plan can guarantee the continuity of our operations in the presence of these events. In particular, given the rapidly evolving situation and the unknown impact of COVID-19, we cannot predict with certainty its effect to our business and client portfolios.

We typically build a concentrated portfolio with a hard cap on company names and with an aim to keeping clients' capital nearly fully invested. Our investment advice is limited to domestic and foreign equity securities of publicly traded companies. Client accounts generally hold 20-25 companies, although in certain circumstances they may hold more or less names. We do not maintain limits on industry or sector weightings, and while we do limit portfolio positions by company, clients' portfolios are likely to be significantly concentrated by sector, industry and/or geography, among other factors. While we believe that our investment strategy will produce desired returns, there can be no assurance that we will achieve our investment objectives. We encourage you to refer to our Firm Brochure (which is available on our website—www.hsmanage.com—or upon request at 212-888-0060) for some material risks applicable to our investment strategy and additional information regarding our Firm.

The performance shown should not be taken as an indication of how the Composite or a client account will perform in the future; past performance is not indicative of and does not guarantee future results. HSMP claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). HS Management Partners, LLC is an independent SEC registered investment adviser (SEC registration does not imply any certain level of skill or training). The Composite includes all fully discretionary, actively managed, fee paying accounts which employ our style of investing in 20-25 quality growth businesses, including those accounts no longer with the Firm. Accounts must have a market value of greater than \$500,000 at the time of initial inclusion in the Composite and meet certain other criteria to maintain inclusion. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Composite performance is presented net of fees and includes the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. The Composite is compared to the Russell 1000® Growth Index and the S&P 500® Index as benchmarks for market context only. The Russell 1000 Growth Index is an unmanaged index which measures the performance of those Russell 1000® Index companies (largest 1,000 U.S. companies based on market capitalization) with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged market capitalization-weighted index designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries. Neither index bears fees and expenses and investors cannot invest directly in either of them. There are meaningful differences between the Composite and each index that should be considered when comparing performance, such as in terms of composition, concentration and volatility. For example: (1) the Composite can contain securities not represented in either or both indices and is much more concentrated than either index in terms of companies and sectors; (2) the average market capitalization of companies in the Composite will likely differ from that of either index; and (3) market or economic conditions may affect positively/negatively the Composite's performance but not the indices, which do not bear market risk. Although most discretionary client accounts are included in the Composite and dispersion is typically low over time, not all client accounts are in the Composite, and even for those in the Composite, there can be dispersion, particularly when viewed over narrow time periods. Client account holdings and performance can vary from the Composite or from other client accounts (even different accounts of the same client), and also from the representative portfolio, for several reasons, such as: client restrictions, account type and size, timing and market conditions at an account's inception and contributions/withdrawals, timing and terms of trades, actual client investment advisory fees (or the lack thereof), and client directed brokerage/commission recapture instructions. Furthermore, under our sole investment strategy (HSMP Concentrated Quality Growth Equity strategy) we provide investment advice on a discretionary basis (we make all the investment decisions and trade the accounts) and also on a nondiscretionary basis in the form of model portfolios for use in multimanager products (we act as a non-discretionary sub-adviser and do not make the final investment decisions nor trade the accounts); therefore, certain information here (including holdings, performance, Composite, and investment strategy implementation) is not applicable to model portfolio clients as we have no control and do not monitor the implementation (complete, partial or not at all) of model portfolios, and the performance of model portfolio clients is not attributable to us.

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