

## Investment Perspective

The big story of the second quarter was the cooling down of the U.S. 10-Year Treasury Yield. Rates had been on the rise since bottoming out last summer and had advanced further as 2021 began. This made sense. Aggressive monetary stimulus was being joined by large fiscal stimulus, and growing vaccination rates led to a reopening of the economy. Talk of rising prices, wages, and inflation was once again in the air.



For now, it appears that Fed Chairman Powell has convinced the market that inflationary pressures are likely transitory. It seems the Fed's willingness to start "talking about talking about" reducing monetary stimulus has also created a sense of more vigilance regarding a response to inflation, if required. More than \$12 trillion of negative yielding global debt in the market also certainly played a role in dampening the U.S. Treasury yield advance as well.

From our perspective, the rise that we had seen in the 10-year Treasury Bond Yield and the markets growing narrative toward cyclical recovery and reopening created an opportunity. Many high-quality growth stocks — including many that benefitted from the initial stay-at-home trade and the acceleration of several long-term trends — have seen their shares tread water or drift lower since last summer.

Narratives are always part of the market equation, sentiment and psychology. There is the stay-at-home versus reopening narrative highlighted above. There is the Growth versus Value narrative. There is the large cap versus small cap narrative. The list of different possible narratives goes on.

In our view, this speaks to how critical it is to adhere to an underlying investment philosophy and methodology. Rather than be subject to “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” when being caught jumping between prevailing narratives and defining things in the manner that others are defining for you, it is clarifying to bring one’s own values and approach to investment management.

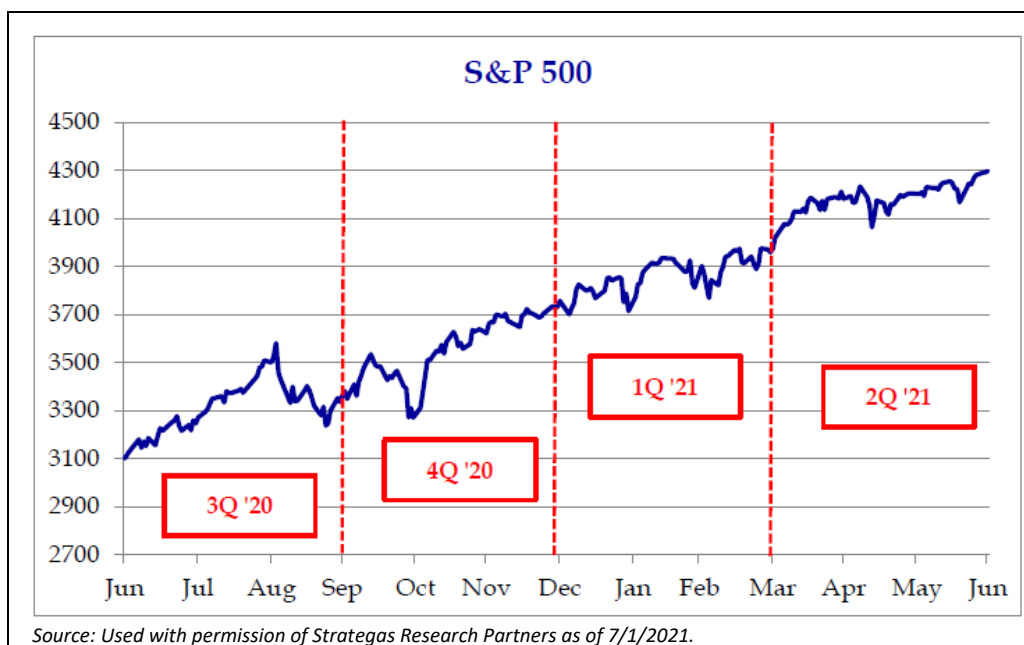
For us, it has always been about the quality of the business. It has always been about the underlying growth in the portfolio’s earnings and cash flows. And it has always been about valuation as well. It is not about growth versus value...it is growth and value.

### Investment Viewpoint

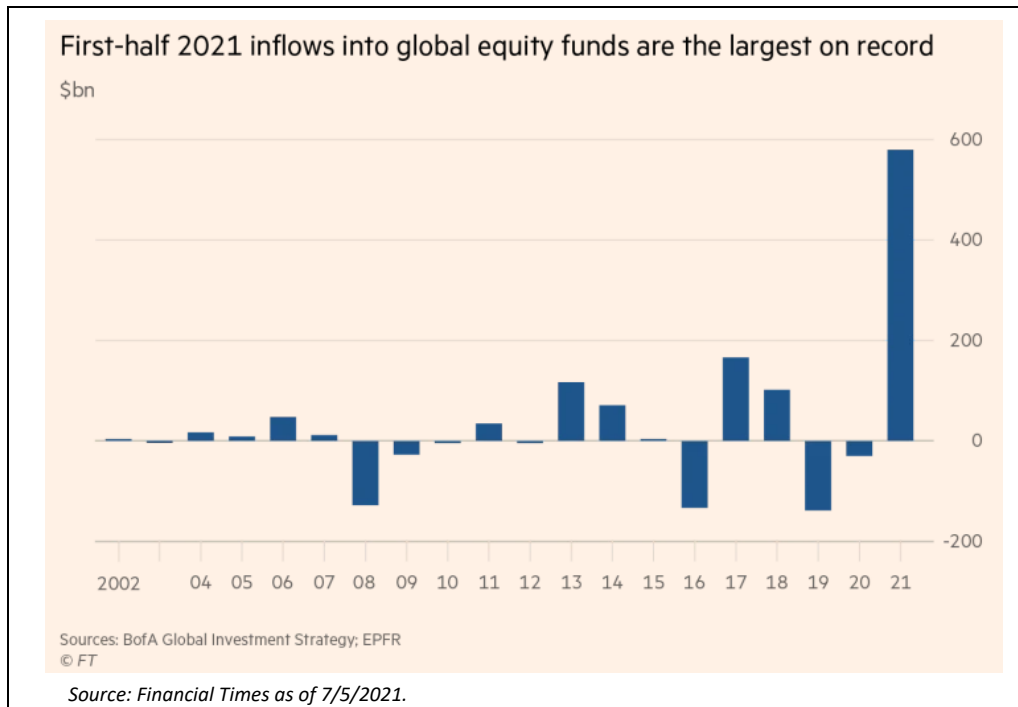
In his July 5, 2021 Weekly Economic Report, economist Ed Hyman of Evercore ISI recently noted that:

- 1) Consumer Net Worth has surged.
- 2) Consumer excess saving is over \$2 trillion!
- 3) Monetary stimulus is unprecedented.
- 4) The expansion is becoming self-sustaining.
- 5) Foreign economies are lifting U.S. growth.
- 6) Reopenings will continue around the world.
- 7) Child Tax Credit checks could provide a significant lift to growth.

In addition, jobs are growing, and U.S. consumer confidence has rebounded. This is fueling strong earnings growth, and a steadily advancing S&P 500.



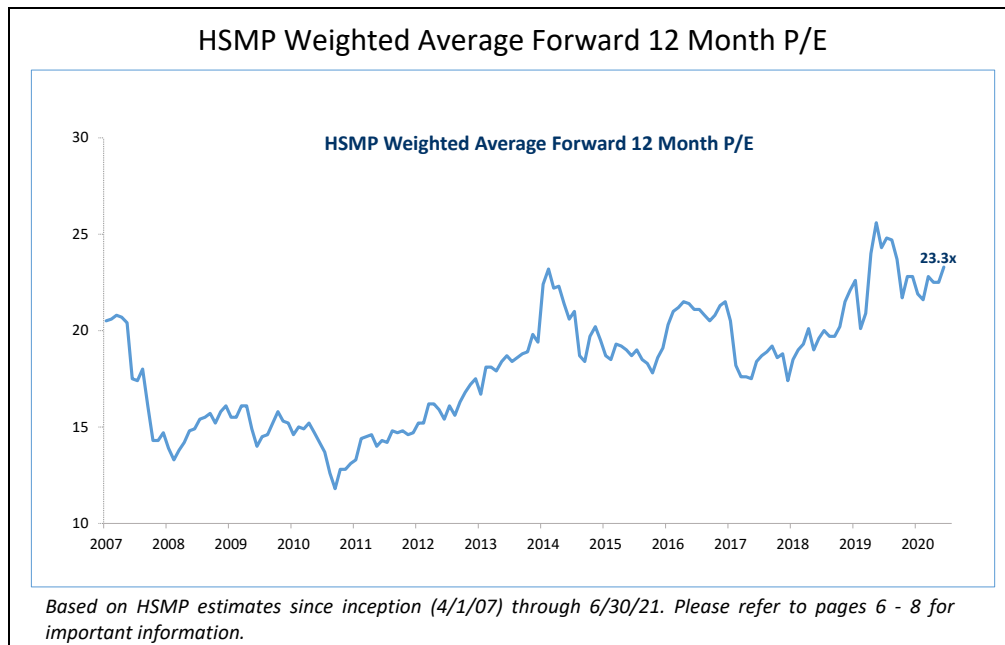
Perhaps it is not surprising that there has been a surge in equity inflows during the first half of the year.



The Cars once intoned “Let the Good Times Roll,” but we cannot help taking heed at signs of speculative behavior around us. The investment landscape has become a marketing-led, distribution-driven world around us. It is very thematic. It is increasingly retail-driven. Apple used to say, “there’s an app for that.” Now, a myriad of investment companies have new slogans “there’s an ETF for that.” SPAC’s may be quieting down some, but it is still a Meme, Crypto, casino-like atmosphere. Robinhood’s reward for paying an unprecedented \$80 million regulatory fine is to go public (IPO).

To us, investing is not gambling. It is about owning pieces of businesses. It is about trying to properly value future earnings. It is about owing a share of future cash flows.

On these metrics, we continue to feel constructive. Earnings growth looks healthy, and we may well be underestimating the absolute level of forward earnings power given the favorable economic prospects cited earlier. And while the P/E on forward earnings estimates has moved up to more than 23X at the end of the second quarter, we still think it looks appealing relative to other long duration quality assets.

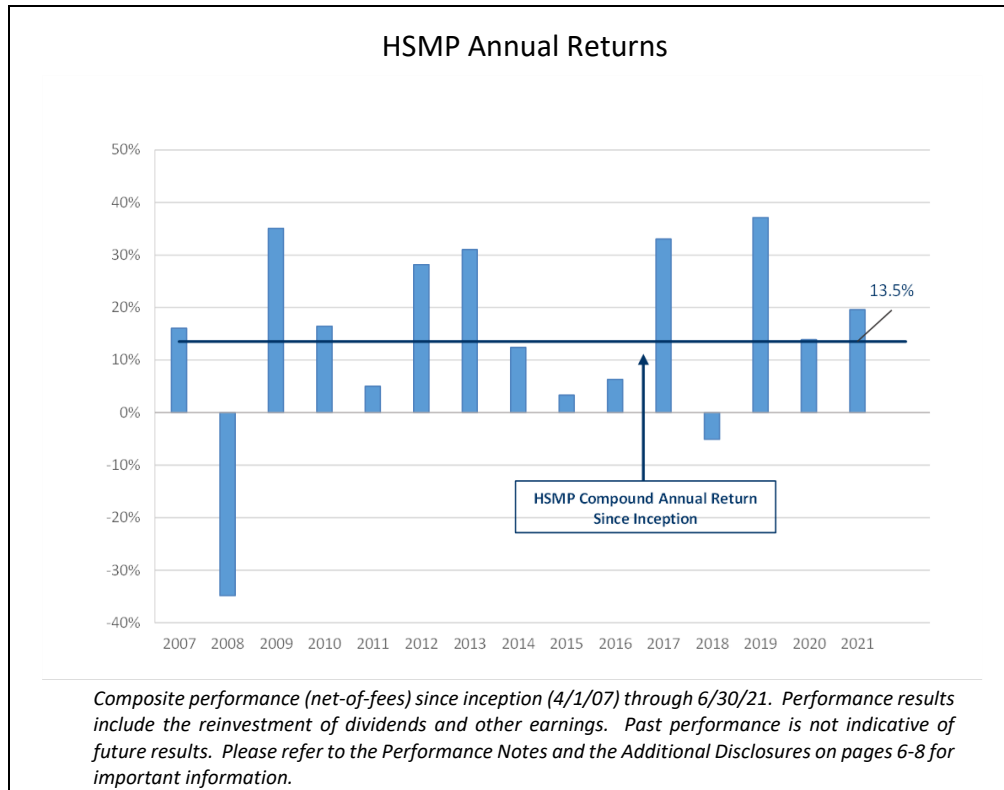


Which brings us back to where we started...the ten-year bond yield. Currently, the portfolio's earnings yield (the inverse of the P/E ratio) stands at an estimated 4.3%, which looks pretty good in a roughly 1.5% bond yield world. The dividend alone on the portfolio at 1.4% approaches that level and is sharply higher than one could get in any short-term vehicle (savings accounts get you a lousy 5 bps!)

We still think there is a good possibility that we see higher interest rates as the economy strengthens, inflation works its way through the system, and as the Fed begins to lessen Quantitative Easing (QE). As we have seen in the past, removing accommodation is not easy and has led to taper tantrums around the world. From our perspective, we must be mindful that the possibility of higher bond yields can curb valuations and create dislocations in the market.

So, we remain vigilant. While we do see speculation and outsized risk away from us, we like what we own, continue to find new opportunities, and feel the valuation — while higher — is still reasonable.

As we have stated before, we have seen the growth in our portfolio earnings drive our portfolio values over time and we continue to believe that prospects for portfolio appreciation will largely be driven by earnings gains.



Thanks, as always, for your confidence in us. We hope everyone has a happy and healthy summer.

Sincerely,

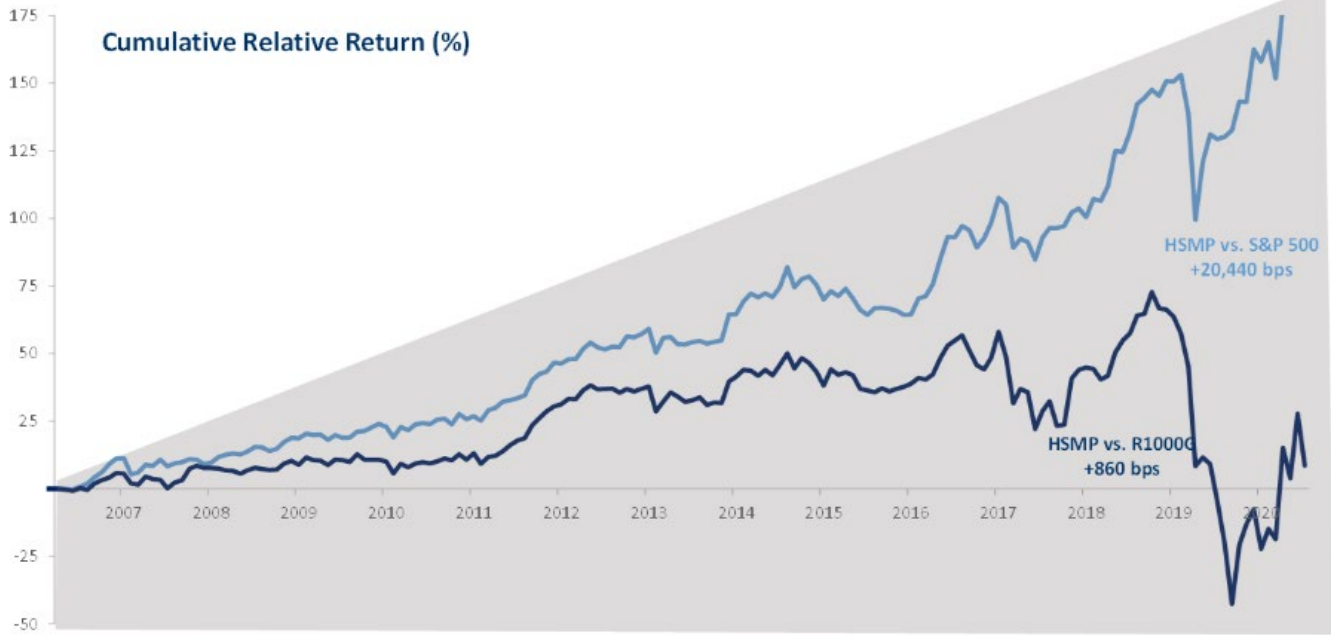
Harry W. Segalas

## Portfolio Profile (6/30/21)

### HSMP Composite Performance as of 6/30/21

	2Q21	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)	10.5%	19.6%	46.2%	22.0%	20.1%	17.1%	13.5%	510.9%
S&P 500® Index	8.6%	15.3%	40.8%	18.7%	17.7%	14.8%	10.3%	306.5%
Russell 1000® Growth Index	11.9%	13.0%	42.5%	25.1%	23.7%	17.9%	13.4%	502.3%

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 7 & 8 for important information.



Composite performance results since inception (4/01/07) through 6/30/21. Performance is net of fees and include the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Please refer to pages 7 & 8 for important information.

## IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

When we use *HSMP*, *HS Management Partners*, or *Firm*, we mean HS Management Partners, LLC. This piece is written from the perspective of our Composite holdings, performance, and estimated metrics, and it does not refer to any specific client account (client accounts can have higher or lower performance than that shown here and can have some but not all of the holdings shown here). When we use *Composite*, we mean our HS Management Partners Concentrated Quality Growth Composite, and when we use our portfolio(s)/your portfolio(s), we mean client portfolios in general from our Composite perspective (see below regarding differences between the Composite and client portfolios/accounts and differences between client portfolios/accounts themselves). This piece represents our opinion as of 7/12/2021 based on our understanding of market conditions and publicly available information (the portfolio's estimated earnings yield 4.3% figure and the 1.5% bond yield world indication are both as of 6/30/2021). 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 will prove to be accurate as actual results and future events can differ materially from our assumptions. Some of the charts in this piece were obtained from the indicated third-party sources which we believe reliable, but we did not verify, nor do we guarantee the accuracy of this information. 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. Investing in securities involves significant risks, including the risk of loss of the original amount invested. 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 basis for making investment decisions.

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 HS Management Partners Concentrated Quality Growth Composite includes all fully discretionary, actively managed, investment advisory fee-paying accounts (even if they pay zero trading commissions), 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. Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management that meet our Composite's inclusion criteria, including those accounts no longer with HSMP. Results reflect accounts managed at another entity: prior to January 1, 2008, the accounts in the Composite were non-fee paying (non-investment-advisory fee-paying) individual accounts managed by Harry Segalas in accordance with HSMP's investment policies, becoming HSMP's accounts in December 2007. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. For more information or for a copy of our fully compliant GIPS® Report and/or list of composite descriptions, please contact us at 212-888-0060.

Composite performance is presented net-of-fees (net of actual investment advisory fees and trading costs) and includes the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. The Composite is compared to the Russell 1000® Growth Index (R1000G) and the S&P 500® Index (S&P 500) as benchmarks for market context. The R1000G is an unmanaged index that 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 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. 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 (e.g., the Composite contains securities not represented in either index and is much more concentrated than either index in terms of companies and sectors; the average market capitalization of companies in the Composite will likely differ from that of either index; and market or economic conditions can affect positively/negatively the Composite's performance but not the indices to the same extent). In addition, neither index bears fees and expenses and investors cannot invest directly in either of them. Furthermore, we do not seek to mimic any market index in our investment approach and do not maintain limits on industry or sector weightings.

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 for small client accounts and also when viewed over narrow time periods. Small accounts generally experience higher dispersion from our Composite than large accounts primarily because they do not participate in trading, allocations, and aggregations to the same extent as large accounts given their size and that actual participation in trade orders depends, among other factors, on cash available in an account and on our imposed per-order share minimums, which typically range anywhere from 5 to 100 shares depending on the stock price. Also, while the investment merits of a given security drive our investment decisions, we use trading groups to facilitate trading and not all groups trade to the same extent. In sum, client account holdings and performance can deviate from our Composite and/or from other client accounts (even within the same group and even different accounts of the same client) 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 non-discretionary basis in the form of model portfolios for use in multimanager products (we do not make the final investment decisions nor trade the accounts); therefore, certain information here (including 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.

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 (client accounts can typically have over 50% exposure to the consumer discretionary, consumer staples and/or technology sectors). Cash is not a major component of our investment strategy, and we tend to keep client accounts almost fully invested with less than 1% residual cash position after a trading day. Our portfolio has typically been invested in what are generally considered more established, large cap names (over traditionally growth companies and mid-small cap companies).

While we believe that our investment strategy will produce desired returns, we do not guarantee that this will be the case, or that we can provide any margin of safety, any actual client experience, any profit or protection against loss whatsoever, or that we will achieve our investment objectives or be successful implementing our strategy. We encourage you to refer to our Firm Brochure (which is available on our website—[www.hsmanage.com](http://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 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.

In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to protect the safety of our team and the continuity of our critical business operations (making investment decisions, trading and settlement, and communicating with clients about the status of their accounts), 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 we believe we can continue to perform our services, assuming that conditions do not worsen dramatically, that our team and close family members do not fall ill 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.

The price-earnings (P/E) ratio, earnings yield, free cash flow yield, and earnings yield/bond yield are weighted averages of the Composite holdings and are based on our estimates on a 12-month forward projected basis as of the indicated reporting date (our estimates can be inaccurate; actual results and future events can differ, even materially, from our assumptions). The earnings yield/bond yield is based on the 10-year bond yield as of the indicated period. The dividend yield is a weighted average of the Composite holdings based on the most recently announced company gross dividend (annualized) divided by the last stock price as of the indicated reporting date.

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