

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form N-2/A  
February 20, 2019

As filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on February 20, 2019

1933 Act File No. 333-228049

1940 Act File No. 811-22003

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## Form N-2

(Check appropriate box or boxes)

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE  
SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Pre-Effective Amendment No. 1

Post-Effective Amendment No.

and

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE  
INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940

Amendment No. 4

## Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Declaration of Trust

333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606

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Address of Principal Executive Offices

(Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)

(800) 257-8787

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code

Gifford R. Zimmerman

Vice President and Secretary

333 West Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Name and Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code) of Agent for Service

Copies of Communications to:

Thomas S. Harman

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20004

Approximate Date of Proposed Public Offering: As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement

If any of the securities being registered on this form are offered on a delayed or continuous basis in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan, check the following box.

It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box)

when declared effective pursuant to section 8(c)

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

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<b>Title of Securities</b>	<b>Amount Being Registered</b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(1)</b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)</b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee(2)</b>
Common Shares, \$0.01 par value	1,600,000 Shares	\$13.82	\$22,112,000	\$2,679.97

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933 based on the average of the high and low sales prices of the shares of beneficial interest on February 14, 2019, as reported on the NYSE.

(2) \$1.64 of which was previously paid.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such dates as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

The information in this Prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This Prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

**PROSPECTUS**

**1.6 Million Common Shares**

**Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund**

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Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (the Fund) is a diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Fund's investment objective is to provide an attractive level of total return. The Fund cannot assure you that it will achieve its investment objective.

**Investing in the Fund's common shares ( Common Shares ) involves certain risks that are described in the Risk Factors section of this prospectus (the Prospectus ).**

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this Prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

You should read this Prospectus, which contains important information about the Fund, before deciding whether to invest, and retain it for future reference. A Statement of Additional Information, dated [ ], 2019 (the SAI), containing additional information about the Fund, has been filed with the SEC and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this Prospectus. You may request a free copy of the SAI, the table of contents of which is on the last page of this Prospectus, annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders and other information about the Fund, and make shareholder inquiries by calling (800) 257-8787, by writing to the Fund or from the Fund's website (<http://www.nuveen.com>). The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, the Fund's website is not part of this Prospectus. You also may obtain a copy of the SAI (and other information regarding the Fund) from the SEC's web site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

The Fund's Common Shares do not represent a deposit or obligation of, and are not guaranteed or endorsed by, any bank or other insured depository institution, and are not federally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board or any other governmental agency.

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*Portfolio Contents.* The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective primarily through long-term capital appreciation and secondarily through income and gains. The Fund invests in a portfolio of common stocks selected from among the stocks comprising the S&P 500® Index (the Index ) by employing a proprietary mathematical process that seeks to produce risk-adjusted excess returns over the Index over extended periods of time with an equal or lesser amount of relative investment risk compared to the Index (the Equity Portfolio ). In addition, to seek to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted returns through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the Index over extended periods of time, the Fund writes (sells) index call options and call options on custom baskets of securities (the Option Strategy ). Under normal market circumstances, the Fund generally expects to invest approximately 95% of its Managed Assets (as defined on page 1 of the Prospectus Summary) in the Equity Portfolio. Under normal market circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its Assets (as defined on page 1 of the Prospectus Summary) in the Equity Portfolio. Under normal market circumstances, the notional value of the call options written by the Fund may be up to 50% of the value of the Fund's Managed Assets.

*No Leverage.* As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund will not leverage its capital structure by issuing senior securities such as preferred shares or debt instruments. The Fund may, however, borrow up to 7.5% of its Managed Assets for cash management purposes, although it does not currently do so. In addition, the Fund may borrow for temporary or emergency purposes as permitted by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and may enter into certain derivatives transactions that have the economic effect of leverage.

*Adviser and Sub-Advisers.* Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC ( Nuveen Fund Advisors or the Adviser ), the Fund's investment adviser, is responsible for determining the Fund's overall investment strategies and their implementation. Intech Investment Management LLC ( Intech ) and Nuveen Asset Management, LLC ( Nuveen Asset Management ) are the Fund's sub-advisers. Intech manages the Equity Portfolio, while Nuveen Asset Management manages the Option Strategy.

The minimum price on any day at which Common Shares may be sold will not be less than the current net asset value per share plus the per share amount of the commission to be paid to the Fund's distributor, Nuveen Securities, LLC ( Nuveen Securities ). The Fund, Nuveen Securities, and BB&T Capital Markets, a division of BB&T Securities, LLC, will suspend the sale of Common Shares if the per share price of the shares is less than the minimum price. The Fund currently intends to distribute the shares offered pursuant to this Prospectus through at-the-market transactions, although from time to time it may also distribute shares through an underwriting syndicate or a privately negotiated transaction. To the extent shares are distributed other than through at-the-market transactions, the Fund will file a supplement to this Prospectus describing such transactions. For information on how Common Shares may be sold, see the Plan of Distribution section of this Prospectus.

Common Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE ). The trading or ticker symbol of the Fund is JCE. The Fund's closing price on the NYSE on February 13, 2019 was \$13.82.

Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the SEC, paper copies of the Fund's annual and semi-annual shareholder reports will no longer be sent by mail, unless you specifically request paper copies of the reports. Instead, the reports will be made available on the Fund's website (www.nuveen.com), and you will be notified by mail each time a report is posted and provided with a website link to access the report.

If you already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. You may elect to receive shareholder reports and other communications from the Fund electronically anytime by contacting your financial intermediary (such as a broker-dealer or bank) or, if you are a direct investor, by enrolling at www.nuveen.com/client-access.

Beginning on January 1, 2019, you may elect to receive all future reports in paper free of charge. If you invest through a financial intermediary, you can contact your financial intermediary to request that you continue to receive paper copies of your shareholder reports. If you invest directly with the Fund, you can call 800-257-8787 (select option # 2) to let the Fund know you wish to continue receiving paper copies of your shareholder reports or you can set your delivery preference by logging into your Investor Center account at www.computershare.com/investor and click on Communication Preferences. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all funds held in your account if you invest through your financial intermediary or all funds held with the fund complex if you invest directly with the Fund.

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The date of this Prospectus is [            ], 2019.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	1
<u>Summary of Fund Expenses</u>	14
<u>Financial Highlights</u>	16
<u>Trading and Net Asset Value Information</u>	18
<u>The Fund</u>	19
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	19
<u>The Fund's Investments</u>	20
<u>Use of Leverage</u>	31
<u>Risks</u>	31
<u>Management of the Fund</u>	40
<u>Net Asset Value</u>	44
<u>Distributions</u>	44
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	46
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	47
<u>Description of Shares</u>	49
<u>Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust and By-laws</u>	51
<u>Repurchase of Fund Shares: Conversion to Open-End Fund</u>	52
<u>Tax Matters</u>	53
<u>Custodian and Transfer Agent</u>	57
<u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	57
<u>Legal Opinion</u>	57
<u>Other Matters</u>	58
<u>Available Information</u>	58
<u>Table of Contents for the Statement of Additional Information</u>	59

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**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus. The Fund has not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. The Fund is not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this Prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this Prospectus. The Fund's business, financial condition, and prospects may have changed since that date. The Fund will update this Prospectus to reflect any material changes to the disclosures herein.**

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**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

*This is only a summary. You should review the more detailed information contained elsewhere in this Prospectus and in the Statement of Additional Information (the SAI) prior to making an investment in the Fund. See Risks.*

**The Fund**

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (the Fund) is a diversified, closed-end investment management company. See The Fund. The Fund's common shares, \$0.01 par value (Common Shares), are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol JCE. See Description of Shares Common Shares. As of January 31, 2019, the Fund had 16,028,573 Common Shares outstanding and net assets applicable to Common Shares of \$219,913,120.

**Investment Objective and Policies**

The Fund's investment objective is to provide an attractive level of total return. The Fund's investment objective and certain investment policies are considered fundamental and may not be changed without shareholder approval. The Fund cannot assure you that it will attain its investment objective. See The Fund's Investments and Risks. The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective primarily through long-term capital appreciation and secondarily through income and gains.

The Fund invests in a portfolio of common stocks selected by employing a proprietary mathematical process designed by Intech Investment Management LLC (Intech), a sub-adviser to the Fund, that seeks to provide, over time, risk-adjusted excess returns (alpha) above the S&P 500® Index (the Index) with an equal or lesser amount of relative investment risk. In constructing the Fund's Equity Portfolio (as defined below under Equity Portfolio Strategy), Intech employs its U.S. Large Cap Core strategy, which it has used in client portfolios since July 2001.

In addition, to seek to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted returns through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the Index (beta) over extended periods of time, the Fund writes (sells) index call options and call options on custom baskets of securities (as defined below, the Option Strategy). Nuveen Asset Management, LLC (Nuveen Asset Management), a sub-adviser to the Fund, is responsible for managing the Fund's Option Strategy.

**Equity Portfolio Strategy**

The Fund invests in a portfolio of common stocks from among the stocks comprising the Index as selected by Intech (the Equity Portfolio). Intech constructs and manages the Equity Portfolio by employing its proprietary mathematical process that seeks to produce risk-adjusted excess returns over the Index over extended periods of time with an equal or lesser amount of relative investment risk compared to the Index. Under normal market circumstances, the Fund generally expects to invest approximately 95% of its Managed Assets in the Equity Portfolio. Under normal market circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its Assets in the Equity Portfolio.

Assets means net assets of the Fund plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes. Managed Assets means the total assets of the Fund, minus the sum of its accrued liabilities (other than Fund liabilities incurred for the express purpose of creating leverage). Total assets for this



purpose shall include assets attributable to the Fund's use of leverage (whether or not those assets are reflected in the Fund's financial statements for purposes of generally accepted accounting principles), and derivatives will be valued at their market value.

In constructing the Equity Portfolio, Intech employs its U.S. Large Cap Core strategy. Intech's mathematical process seeks to capitalize on the natural volatility of the market by searching for common stocks that have high relative volatility (providing the potential for risk-adjusted excess returns) but that essentially move in opposite directions or have low correlation to each other (providing the potential for lower relative risk). By constructing the Equity Portfolio in this manner and through regular rebalancing of the portfolio, Intech's mathematical process seeks to create an Equity Portfolio with potentially more efficient weightings than are typically present in the market capitalization weighted Index, thereby producing the opportunity for returns in excess of the Index, with an equal or lesser amount of relative risk, over time. Intech's process is based on mathematical principles and Intech does not engage in fundamental research. Under normal market circumstances, the Equity Portfolio will consist of a diversified portfolio of approximately 150 to 450 common stocks included in the Index. The rebalancing technique employed by Intech is likely to result in a higher portfolio turnover rate and related expenses compared to a buy and hold fund strategy. See Risks Equity Portfolio Strategy Risks Frequent Trading Risk.

For purposes of analyzing and comparing investment returns of a portfolio relative to the returns of a benchmark (in the case of the Fund, the Index), assuming the overall volatility of the portfolio returns relative to the benchmark (beta) is approximately equal to or less than the volatility of the benchmark returns, the total return of a portfolio that outperforms the benchmark may be described as consisting of the sum of (i) the market return measured by the benchmark and (ii) the risk-adjusted excess returns generated by the portfolio over the benchmark returns (alpha).

The Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies that is market-capitalization weighted and is generally representative of the performance of larger companies in the U.S. It is not possible to invest directly in the Index. The total return on the Equity Portfolio may be more or less than the total return of the Index. There can be no assurance that the Equity Portfolio will attain returns in excess of the Index.

#### **Option Strategy**

To seek to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted returns through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the Index over extended periods of time, the Fund writes (sells) index call options and call options on custom baskets of securities (the Option Strategy). Nuveen Asset Management is responsible for managing the Fund's Option Strategy. Under normal market circumstances, the notional value of the call options written by the Fund may be up to 50% of the value of the Fund's Managed Assets.

In applying the Option Strategy, Nuveen Asset Management is responsible for determining the notional value, timing, type and terms of the options strategies used by the Fund. Nuveen Asset Management actively manages the Fund's options positions. In Nuveen Asset Management's discretion,

the Fund may purchase back call options or allow them to expire. To determine the options strategies used, Nuveen Asset Management considers market factors, such as current market levels and volatility, and option-specific factors, including but not limited to premium/cost, exercise price and expiration. Nuveen Asset Management typically seeks to invest in call options that, based on the current market conditions and market expectations, provide an opportunity to deliver enhanced risk-adjusted returns. This will often lead to a portfolio that has exposure to multiple strike prices and expiration dates in any investment period.

Due to U.S. federal income tax considerations, the Fund intends to limit the overlap between the stocks held in the Equity Portfolio and the stocks underlying the Fund's call options to less than 70% (generally based on the value of such components) on an ongoing basis.

**Other Policies**

During temporary defensive periods, the Fund may deviate from its investment objective and invest all or a portion of its assets in investment grade debt securities, including obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities. In addition, the Fund's investment adviser, Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (Nuveen Fund Advisors or the Adviser), and Nuveen Asset Management may deviate from the Fund's investment guidelines by implementing a hedging strategy using derivatives and other instruments, including options, futures contracts, index futures and total return swaps. For purposes of determining compliance with the Fund's policy of investing at least 80% of its Assets in the Equity Portfolio under normal market circumstances, the Fund will value eligible derivatives at market value or fair value instead of notional value. There can be no assurance that such investment techniques will be successful. For a more complete discussion of the Fund's portfolio composition, see The Fund's Investments.

**Use of Leverage**

As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund will not leverage its capital structure by issuing senior securities such as preferred shares or debt instruments. The Fund may, however, borrow up to 7.5% of its Managed Assets for cash management purposes, although it does not currently do so. In addition, the Fund may borrow for temporary or emergency purposes and may enter into certain derivatives transactions that have the economic effect of leverage by creating additional investment exposure.

**Investment Adviser and Sub-Advisers**

Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC, the Fund's investment adviser, is responsible for overseeing the Fund's overall investment strategy and its implementation. Nuveen Fund Advisors offers advisory and investment management services to a broad range of investment company clients. Nuveen Fund Advisors has overall responsibility for management of the Fund, oversees the management of the Fund's portfolio, manages the Fund's business affairs and provides certain clerical, bookkeeping and other administrative services. Nuveen Fund Advisors is located at 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Nuveen Fund Advisors is a subsidiary of Nuveen, LLC (Nuveen), the investment management arm of Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA). TIAA is a life insurance company founded in 1918 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and is the companion organization of College Retirement Equities Fund. As of December 31, 2018, Nuveen managed approximately \$930.5 billion in assets, of which approximately \$135.3 billion was managed by Nuveen Fund Advisors.

The Adviser has entered into sub-advisory agreements with Intech, an independently managed indirect subsidiary of Janus Henderson Group plc, and Nuveen Asset Management, a subsidiary of Nuveen Fund Advisors (each a Sub-Adviser and together, the Sub-Advisers). Intech manages the Equity Portfolio while Nuveen Asset Management manages the Option Strategy.

Nuveen Securities, LLC (Nuveen Securities), a registered broker-dealer affiliate of Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management, is involved in the offering of the Fund's Common Shares. See Plan of Distribution Distribution Through At-The-Market Transactions.

#### Offering Methods

The Fund may offer Common Shares using one or more of the following methods: (i) at-the-market transactions conducted through one or more broker-dealers that have entered into a selected dealer agreement with Nuveen Securities, one of the Fund's underwriters; (ii) through an underwriting syndicate; and (iii) through privately negotiated transactions between the Fund and specific investors. See Plan of Distribution.

*Distribution Through At-The-Market Transactions.* The Fund, from time to time, may issue and sell its Common Shares through Nuveen Securities to certain broker-dealers that have entered into selected dealer agreements with Nuveen Securities. Currently, Nuveen Securities has entered into a selected dealer agreement with BB&T Capital Markets (BB&T), a division of BB&T Securities, LLC, pursuant to which BB&T will act as Nuveen Securities' sub-placement agent with respect to at-the-market offerings of Common Shares. Common Shares will only be sold on such days as shall be agreed to by the Fund, Nuveen Securities, and BB&T. Common Shares will be sold at prevailing market prices through the National Market System, subject to a minimum price to be established each day by Nuveen Securities. The minimum price on any day will not be less than the current net asset value (NAV) per share plus the per share amount of the commission to be paid to Nuveen Securities. The Fund, Nuveen Securities, and BB&T will suspend the sale of Common Shares if the per share price of the shares is less than the minimum price.

The Fund will compensate Nuveen Securities with respect to sales of the Common Shares at a commission rate of up to 1.0% of the gross proceeds of the sale of Common Shares. Nuveen Securities will compensate sub-placement agents or other broker-dealers participating in the offering at a rate of up to 0.8% of the gross sales proceeds of the sale of Common Shares sold by that sub-placement agent or broker-dealer.

Settlements of Common Share sales will occur on the second business day following the date of sale. In connection with the sale of Common Shares on behalf of the Fund, Nuveen Securities may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the 1933 Act), and the compensation of Nuveen Securities may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. Unless otherwise indicated in a further Prospectus supplement, Nuveen Securities will act as underwriter on a reasonable efforts basis.

The offering of Common Shares pursuant to the Distribution Agreement (defined below under Plan of Distribution Distribution Through At-The-Market Transactions) will terminate upon the earlier of (i) the sale of all

Common Shares subject thereto or (ii) termination of the Distribution Agreement. The Fund and Nuveen Securities each have the right to terminate the Distribution Agreement in its discretion at any time. See Plan of Distribution Distribution Through At-The-Market Transactions. The Fund currently intends to distribute the shares offered pursuant to this Prospectus through at-the-market transactions, although from time to time it may also distribute shares through an underwriting syndicate or a privately negotiated transaction. To the extent shares are distributed other than through at-the-market transactions, the Fund will file a supplement to this Prospectus describing such transactions.

The Fund's closing price on the NYSE on February 13, 2019 was \$13.82.

*Distribution Through Underwriting Syndicates.* The Fund, from time to time, may issue additional Common Shares through a syndicated secondary offering. In order to limit the impact on the market price of the Fund's Common Shares, underwriters will market and price the offering on an expedited basis (e.g., overnight or similarly abbreviated offering period). The Fund will launch a syndicated offering on a day, and upon terms, mutually agreed upon between the Fund, Nuveen Securities and the underwriting syndicate.

The Fund will offer its shares at a price equal to a specified discount of up to 5% from the closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares on the day prior to the offering date. The applicable discount will be negotiated by the Fund and Nuveen Securities in consultation with the underwriting syndicate on a transaction-by-transaction basis. The Fund will compensate the underwriting syndicate out of the proceeds of the offering based upon a sales load of up to 4% of the gross proceeds of the sale of Common Shares.

The minimum net proceeds per share to the Fund will not be less than the greater of (i) the Fund's latest NAV per share of Common Shares or (ii) 91% of the closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares on the day prior to the offering date. See Plan of Distribution Distribution Through Underwriting Syndicates.

*Distribution Through Privately Negotiated Transactions.* The Fund from time to time may sell directly to, and solicit offers from, institutional and other sophisticated investors, who may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the 1933 Act for any resale of Common Shares.

The terms of such privately negotiated transactions will be subject to the discretion of the management of the Fund. In determining whether to sell Common Shares through a privately negotiated transaction, the Fund will consider relevant factors including, but not limited to, the attractiveness of obtaining additional funds through the sale of Common Shares, the purchase price to apply to any such sale of Common Shares and the investor seeking to purchase the Common Shares.

Common Shares issued by the Fund through privately negotiated transactions will be issued at a price equal to the greater of (i) the NAV per share of the Fund's Common Shares or (ii) at a discount ranging from 0% to 5% of the average daily closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares at the close of business on the ten business days preceding the date upon which Common Shares are sold pursuant to the privately negotiated transaction. The applicable discount will be determined by the Fund on a

transaction-by-transaction basis. See Plan of Distribution Distribution Through Privately Negotiated Transactions.

The principal business address of Nuveen Securities is 333 West Wacker Drive, Suite 3300, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

## Distributions

The Fund will pay quarterly distributions stated in terms of a fixed cents per Common Share dividend rate that would be composed of supplemental amounts generally representing realized capital gains or, possibly, returns of capital representing unrealized capital gains. Quarterly distributions, including such supplemental amounts, are sometimes referred to as managed distributions. The Fund will seek to establish a distribution rate that roughly corresponds to Nuveen Fund Advisors' projections of the total return that could reasonably be expected to be generated by the Fund over an extended period of time, although the distribution rate will not be solely dependent on the amount of income earned or capital gains realized by the Fund. Nuveen Fund Advisors, in making such projections, may consider long-term historical returns and a variety of other factors.

Distributions can only be made after paying any interest and required principal payments on borrowings, if any, and any accrued dividends to preferred shareholders, if any. The distribution policy recognizes that many investors are willing to accept the potentially higher asset value volatility of the Fund's equity investments compared to fixed-income investments, preferring that a consistent level of cash distributions be available each quarter for reinvestment or other purposes of their choosing.

If, for any quarterly distribution, net investment income and net realized capital gains were less than the amount of the distribution, the difference would be distributed from the Fund's assets. In addition, in order to make such distributions, the Fund might have to sell a portion of its investment portfolio at a time when independent investment judgment might not dictate such action. The Fund's final distribution for each calendar year would include any remaining net investment income and net realized capital gains undistributed during the year. The Fund's actual financial performance will likely vary significantly from month-to-month and from year-to-year, and there may be extended periods of up to several years, when the distribution rate will exceed the Fund's actual total returns. The Fund's projected or actual distribution rate is not a prediction of what the Fund's actual total returns will be over any specific future period.

As portfolio and market conditions change, the rate of distributions on the Common Shares and the Fund's distribution policy could change. To the extent that the total return of the Fund's overall strategy exceeds the distribution rate for an extended period, the Fund may be in a position to increase the distribution rate or distribute supplemental amounts to shareholders. Conversely, if the total return of the Fund's overall strategy is less than the distribution rate for an extended period of time, the Fund will effectively be drawing upon its NAV to meet payments prescribed by its distribution policy. Similarly, for tax purposes such distributions by the Fund may consist in part of a return of capital to Common Shareholders. The exact tax characteristics of the Fund's distributions will not be known until after the Fund's fiscal year-end. Common Shareholders should not confuse a return of capital distribution with dividend yield or total return. See Distributions for additional information.

At the same time that it pays a quarterly distribution, the Fund will post on its website ([www.nuveen.com/cef](http://www.nuveen.com/cef)), and make available in written form to holders of its Common Shares a notice of the estimated sources and tax characteristics of the Fund's distributions (*i.e.*, what percentage of the distributions is estimated to constitute ordinary income, short-term capital gains, long-term capital gains, and/or a non-taxable return of capital) on a year-to-date basis, in compliance with a federal securities law requirement that any fund paying a distribution from sources other than net investment income disclose to shareholders the respective portion attributable to such other sources. These estimates may be based on certain assumptions about the Fund's expected investment returns and the realization of net gains, if any, over the remaining course of the year. These estimates may, and likely will, vary over time based on the activities of the Fund and changes in the value of portfolio investments. The Fund expects that it will provide this type of information primarily on a tax basis, instead of on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis, because experience has shown that fund shareholders are most concerned about the tax character of their distributions, and because the Fund expects that the distributions' tax characteristics will fairly reflect the economic basis of the Fund's distributions and returns. The final determination of the source and tax characteristics of all distributions will be made after December 31 in each year, and reported to Common Shareholders on Form 1099-DIV early the following year.

As explained more fully under "Tax Matters," the Fund intends to distribute to Common Shareholders any net capital gain (which is the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) for each taxable year through its managed distributions or, alternatively, to retain all or a portion of the year's net capital gain and pay federal income tax on the retained gain. Each Common Shareholder of record as of the end of the Fund's taxable year will include in income for federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, his or her share of any retained gain, will be deemed to have paid his or her proportionate share of the tax paid by the Fund on such retained gain, and will be entitled to an income tax credit or refund for that share of the tax. The Fund may treat any retained capital gain amount as a substitute for equivalent cash distributions. In addition, the Fund may make total distributions during a given calendar year in an amount that exceeds the Fund's net investment income and net realized long-term capital gains for that calendar year, in which case the excess will generally be treated by shareholders as return of capital for tax purposes. A return of capital reduces a shareholder's tax basis, which could result in more taxable gain when the shareholder sells his or her shares. This may cause the shareholder to pay taxes even if he or she sells shares for less than the original price.

The Fund reserves the right to change its distribution policy and the basis for establishing the rate of its quarterly distributions at any time, subject to a finding by the Fund's Board of Trustees (the Board or the Trustees) that such change is in the best interests of the Fund and its Common Shareholders.

**Custodian and Transfer Agent**

State Street Bank and Trust Company serves as custodian of the Fund's assets. Computershare Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. serve as the Fund's transfer agent. See Custodian and Transfer Agent.

**Special Risk Considerations**

Investment in the Fund involves special risk considerations, which are summarized below. The Fund is designed as a long-term investment and not as a trading vehicle. The Fund is not intended to be a complete investment program. See Risks for a more complete discussion of the special risk considerations of an investment in the Fund.

*Investment and Market Risk.* An investment in the Fund's Common Shares is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the entire principal amount that you invest. Your investment in Common Shares represents an indirect investment in the securities owned by the Fund. Your Common Shares at any point in time may be worth less than your original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of Fund dividends and distributions. See Risks Investment and Market Risk.

*Market Discount from Net Asset Value.* Shares of closed-end investment companies like the Fund have during some periods traded at prices higher than NAV and have during other periods traded at prices lower than NAV. The Fund cannot predict whether Common Shares will trade at, above or below NAV. This characteristic is a risk separate and distinct from the risk that the Fund's NAV could decrease as a result of investment activities. Investors bear a risk of loss to the extent that the price at which they sell their shares is lower in relation to the Fund's NAV than at the time of purchase, assuming a stable NAV. Proceeds from the sale of Common Shares in this offering will be reduced by shareholder transaction costs (if applicable, which vary depending on the offering method used). The NAV per Common Share will be reduced by costs associated with any future issuances of Common Shares. Depending on the premium of Common Shares at the time of any offering of Common Shares hereunder, the Fund's NAV may be reduced by an amount up to the offering costs (estimated to be an additional 1.04% of the offering price assuming a Common Share offering price of \$13.82 (the Fund's closing price on the NYSE on February 13, 2019)). Common Shares are designed primarily for long-term investors, and you should not view the Fund as a vehicle for trading purposes. See Risks Market Discount from Net Asset Value.

*Recent Market Conditions.* Since the financial crisis that started in 2008, the U.S. and many foreign economies continue to experience its after-effects, which have resulted, and may continue to result, in certain instruments experiencing unusual liquidity issues, increased price volatility and, in some cases, credit downgrades and increased likelihood of default. These events have reduced the willingness and ability of some lenders to extend credit, and have made it more difficult for some borrowers to obtain financing on attractive terms, if at all. In addition, global economies and financial markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, which increases the possibilities that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact issuers in a different country or region. A rise in protectionist trade policies, and the possibility of changes to some international trade agreements, could affect the economies of many nations in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. The severity

or duration of adverse economic conditions may also be affected by policy changes made by governments or quasi-governmental organizations.

In addition, political events within the U.S. and abroad may affect investor and consumer confidence and may adversely impact financial markets and the broader economy, perhaps suddenly and to a significant degree. The U.S. government has recently reduced federal corporate income tax rates, and future legislative, regulatory and policy changes may result in more restrictions on international trade, less stringent prudential regulation of certain players in the financial markets, and significant new investments in infrastructure and national defense. Interest rates have been unusually low in recent years in the U.S. and abroad. Because there is little precedent for this situation, it is difficult to predict the impact on various markets of a significant rate increase, whether brought about by U.S. policy makers or by dislocations in world markets. In addition, there is a risk that the prices of goods and services in the U.S. and many foreign economies may decline over time, known as deflation (the opposite of inflation). Deflation may have an adverse effect on stock prices and creditworthiness and may make defaults on debt more likely. To the extent the Fund focuses its investments in a region enduring geopolitical market disruption, it will face higher risks of loss. Thus, investors should closely monitor current market conditions to determine whether the Fund meets their individual financial needs and tolerance for risk.

*Legislation and Regulatory Risk.* At any time after the date of this Prospectus, legislation or additional regulations may be enacted that could negatively affect the assets of the Fund, securities held by the Fund or the issuers of such securities. Fund shareholders may incur increased costs resulting from such legislation or additional regulation. There can be no assurance that future legislation, regulation or deregulation will not have a material adverse effect on the Fund or will not impair the ability of the Fund to achieve its investment objective.

#### *Equity Portfolio Risks*

Common Stock Risk. Common stocks generally represent an ownership interest in an issuer, without preference over any other class of securities, including such issuer's debt securities, preferred stock and other senior equity securities. Although common stocks historically have generated higher average returns than fixed-income securities, common stocks also have experienced significantly more volatility in those returns. An adverse event, such as an unfavorable earnings report, may depress the value of a particular common stock held by the Fund. Also, prices of common stocks are sensitive to general movements in the stock market and a drop in the stock market may depress the prices of common stocks held by the Fund or to which it has exposure.

Large-Cap Stock Risk. Because it invests primarily in large-capitalization stocks, the Fund may underperform funds that invest primarily in stocks of smaller capitalization companies during periods when the stocks of such companies are in favor.

Dividend Income Risk. A portion of the net investment income paid by the Fund to its Common Shareholders is derived from dividends it receives from the common stocks held in the Fund's Equity Portfolio. Dividends



paid on securities held by the Fund can vary significantly over the short-term and long-term. Dividends on common stocks are not fixed, but are declared at the discretion of an issuer's board of directors. There is no guarantee that the issuers of common stocks in which the Fund invests will declare dividends in the future or that if declared they will remain at current levels or increase over time.

**Investment Process Risk.** Because Intech utilizes a proprietary mathematical process, there is a risk that Intech, and thus the Equity Portfolio, will not achieve its targeted results over the Index. Intech's method of identifying common stocks with high volatility relative to the Index and low correlation to one another (moving essentially in opposite directions) may not result in a combination of stocks that will produce the expected results and therefore the Equity Portfolio may not outperform, and may underperform, the Index. In addition, the rebalancing technique employed by Intech is likely to result in a higher portfolio turnover rate and related expenses compared to a buy and hold fund strategy, which higher expenses will reduce the Fund's total return. A higher portfolio turnover rate increases the likelihood of higher net taxable gains or losses compared to a buy and hold strategy for an investor in the Fund.

**Frequent Trading Risk.** The Fund may engage in active and frequent trading of its portfolio investments. Effects of frequent trading may include high transaction costs, which may lower the Fund's return, and realization of greater short-term capital gains, distributions of which are taxable as ordinary income to taxable shareholders.

#### *Option Strategy Risks*

**Call Option Risk.** As the writer of a call option, the Fund foregoes, during the option's life, the opportunity to profit from increases in the market value of the instrument underlying the call option above the sum of the premium and the strike price of the option, but will retain the risk of loss should the market value of the instrument underlying the call option decline. The purchaser of the call option has the right to any appreciation in the value of the underlying instrument over the exercise price upon the exercise of the call option or the expiration date. As the Fund increases the option overlay percentage, its ability to benefit from capital appreciation becomes more limited and the risk of NAV erosion increases. If the Fund experiences NAV erosion, which itself may have a negative effect on the market price of the Fund's shares, the Fund will have a reduced asset base over which to write call options, which may eventually lead to reduced distributions to shareholders.

In addition, because the exercise of index options is settled in cash, sellers of index call options, such as the Fund, cannot provide in advance for their potential settlement obligations by acquiring and holding the underlying securities. The Fund bears a risk that the value of the securities held by the Fund will vary from the value of the Index and relative to the written index call option positions. Accordingly, the Fund may incur losses on the index call options that it has sold that exceed gains on the Fund's equity portfolio. The value of index options written by the Fund, which will be priced daily, will be affected by changes in the value of and dividend rates of the underlying common stocks in the index, changes in the actual or perceived

volatility of the stock market and the remaining time to the options' expiration. The value of the index options also may be adversely affected if the market for the index options becomes less liquid or smaller.

**Option Strategy Risk.** In employing the Option Strategy, Nuveen Asset Management seeks to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted returns through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the Index over extended periods of time. This strategy may not protect against market declines, may limit the Fund's participation in market gains, particularly during periods when market values are increasing and volatility is high, may increase the Fund's portfolio transaction costs, which could result in losses or reduce gains, and may not be successful.

***Tax Risk.*** The tax treatment and characterization of the Fund's distributions may vary significantly from time to time because of the varied nature of the Fund's investments. The ultimate tax characterization of the Fund's distributions made in a calendar year may not finally be determined until after the end of that calendar year. In addition, there is a possibility that the Fund may make total distributions during a calendar year in an amount that exceeds the Fund's net investment income and net realized capital gains for that calendar year. For example, because of the nature of the Fund's investments, the Fund may distribute net short-term capital gains early in the calendar year, but incur net short-term capital losses later in the year, thereby offsetting the short-term net capital gains for which distributions have already been made by the Fund. In such a situation, the amount by which the Fund's total distributions exceed net investment income and net realized capital gains would generally be treated as a tax-free return of capital up to the amount of the Common Shareholder's tax basis in his Common Shares, with any amounts exceeding such basis treated as gain from the sale of his Common Shares. While a portion of the Fund's income distributions may be classified as qualified dividend income, which is generally taxable to individual investors who meet holding period and other requirements at a lower rate, there can be no assurance as to the percentage of the Fund's income distributions that will be qualified dividend income. The writing of call options by the Fund may significantly reduce or eliminate its ability to make distributions eligible to be treated as qualified dividend income. Covered call options may also be subject to federal tax rules applicable to straddles under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). If two or more positions constitute a straddle, recognition of a realized loss from one position must generally be deferred to the extent of unrecognized gain in an offsetting position. In addition, long-term capital gain may be recharacterized as short-term capital gain, or short-term capital loss as long-term capital loss. Interest and other carrying charges allocable to personal property that is part of a straddle are not currently deductible but must instead be capitalized. Similarly, wash sale rules apply to defer the recognition of loss by the Fund from the disposition of stock or securities at a loss in a case in which identical or substantially identical stock or securities (or an option to acquire such property) is or has been acquired within a prescribed period. The Fund intends to avoid being subject to the straddle rules under federal income tax law by limiting the overlap between the stocks held in the Equity Portfolio and the stocks underlying

the Fund's call options to less than 70% (generally based on the value of such components) on an ongoing basis. See Risks Tax Risk.

*Derivatives Risk.* The Fund is subject to risks related to its use of derivatives, including the risks associated with the Fund's Option Strategy, which are described above. The Fund's use of derivatives involves risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the investments underlying the derivatives. Whether the Fund's use of derivatives is successful will depend on, among other things, if Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management correctly forecast market values, interest rates and other applicable factors. If Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management incorrectly forecast these and other factors, the investment performance of the Fund will be unfavorably affected.

The Fund may enter into various types of derivatives transactions, including options, futures contracts, index futures and total return swaps and other derivative instruments. The use of derivatives is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. In addition, the use of derivatives requires an understanding by Nuveen Asset Management not only of the referenced asset, rate or index, but also of the derivative contract itself and the markets in which they trade. Successful implementation of most hedging strategies would generate taxable income.

The derivatives market is subject to a changing regulatory environment. It is possible that regulatory or other developments in the derivatives market could adversely affect the Fund's ability to successfully use derivative instruments. See Risks Derivatives Risk and Risks Counterparty Risk.

*Management Risk.* The Fund is subject to management risk because it is an actively managed portfolio. Nuveen Fund Advisors, Intech, and Nuveen Asset Management will apply investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for the Fund, but there can be no guarantee that these will produce the desired results.

*Potential Conflicts of Interest Risk.* Nuveen Fund Advisors, Intech, and Nuveen Asset Management each provide a wide array of portfolio management and other asset management services to a mix of clients and may engage in ordinary course activities in which their respective interests or those of their clients may compete or conflict with those of the Fund. For example, Nuveen Fund Advisors, Intech, and Nuveen Asset Management may provide investment management services to other funds and accounts that follow investment objectives similar to those of the Fund. In certain circumstances, and subject to its fiduciary obligations under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, Nuveen Fund Advisors, Intech, or Nuveen Asset Management may have to allocate a limited investment opportunity among its clients, which include closed-end funds, open-end funds and other commingled funds. Nuveen Fund Advisors, Intech, and Nuveen Asset Management have each adopted policies and procedures designed to address such situations and other potential conflicts of interests. For additional information about potential conflicts of interest, and the way in which Nuveen Fund Advisors, Intech, and Nuveen Asset Management address such conflicts, please see the SAI.

*Anti-Takeover Provisions.* The Fund's Declaration of Trust (the Declaration) includes provisions that could limit the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund or convert the Fund to open-end status. These provisions could have the effect of depriving the Common Shareholders of opportunities to sell their Common Shares at a premium over the then current market price of the Common Shares. See Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust and Risks Anti-Takeover Provisions.

In addition, an investment in the Fund's Common Shares raises other risks, which are more fully disclosed in the Risks section of this Prospectus.

**Voting Rights**

All Common Shares have equal non-cumulative voting rights.

**SUMMARY OF FUND EXPENSES**

The purpose of the table below and the Examples below are to help you understand all fees and expenses that you, as a Common Shareholder, would bear directly or indirectly. The table shows the expenses of the Fund as a percentage of the average net assets applicable to Common Shares, and not as a percentage of total assets or Managed Assets.

<b>Shareholder Transaction Expenses</b> (as a percentage of offering price)	
Maximum Sales Charge	4.00%*
Offering Costs <sup>(1)</sup>	1.04%
Dividend Reinvestment Plan Fees <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 2.50

\* A maximum sales charge of 4.00% applies only to offerings pursuant to a syndicated underwriting. The maximum sales charge for offerings made at-the-market is 1.00%. There is no sales charge for offerings pursuant to a private transaction.

	<b>As a Percentage of Net Assets Attributable to Common Shares<sup>(3)</sup></b>
<b>Annual Expenses</b>	
Management Fees	0.91%
Other Expenses <sup>(4)</sup>	0.12%
<b>Total Annual Expenses</b>	<b>1.03%</b>

- (1) Assuming a Common Share offering price of \$13.82 (the Fund's closing price on the NYSE on February 13, 2019).
- (2) You will be charged a \$2.50 service charge and pay brokerage charges if you direct Computershare Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as agent for the Common Shareholders (the Plan Agent), to sell your Common Shares held in a dividend reinvestment account.
- (3) Stated as annualized percentages of average net assets attributable to Common Shares for the six months ended June 30, 2018 (Unaudited).
- (4) Other Expenses is based on estimated amounts for the current fiscal year. Expenses attributable to the Fund's investments, if any, in other investment companies are currently estimated not to exceed 0.01%. See Portfolio Composition Other Investment Companies below.

See Management of the Fund Investment Adviser, Sub-Advisers, and Portfolio Managers.

**Examples**

The following examples illustrate the expenses, including the applicable transaction fees (referred to as the Maximum Sales Charge in the fee table above), if any, and estimated offering costs of \$10.40 that a Common Shareholder would pay on a \$1,000 investment that is held for the time periods provided in the table. Each example assumes that all dividends and other distributions are reinvested in the Fund and that the Fund's Annual Expenses, as provided above, remain the same. The examples also assume a 5% annual return.<sup>(1)</sup>

**Example # 1 (At-the-Market Transaction)**

The following example assumes a transaction fee of 1.00%, as a percentage of the offering price.

<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
\$31	\$53	\$76	\$144

**Example # 2 (Underwriting Syndicate Transaction)**

The following example assumes a transaction fee of 4.00%, as a percentage of the offering price.

<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
\$60	\$82	\$104	\$170

**Example # 3 (Privately Negotiated Transaction)**

The following example assumes there is no transaction fee.

<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
\$21	\$43	\$67	\$135

**The examples should not be considered a representation of future expenses. Actual expenses may be greater or less than those shown above.**

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<sup>(1)</sup> The examples assume that all dividends and distributions are reinvested at Common Share NAV. Actual expenses may be greater or less than those assumed. Moreover, the Fund's actual rate of return may be greater or less than the hypothetical 5% return shown in the example.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following Financial Highlights table is intended to help a prospective investor understand the Fund's financial performance for the periods shown. Certain information reflects financial results for a single Common Share of the Fund. The total returns in the table represent the rate an investor would have earned or lost on an investment in Common Shares of the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends). The Fund's annual financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 through December 31, 2008, including the financial highlights for the fiscal years then ended, have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has not reviewed or examined any records, transactions or events after the date of such reports. The information with respect to the six months ended June 30, 2018 is unaudited and is included in the Fund's 2018 Semi-Annual Report which is incorporated herein by reference. A copy of the Annual Report and Semi-Annual Report may be obtained from [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) or by visiting [www.nuveen.com](http://www.nuveen.com). The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, the Fund's website is not part of this Prospectus. Past results are not indicative of future performance.

The following per share data and ratios have been derived from information provided in the financial statements.

Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period:

	Period Ended										
	June 30	Year Ended December 31,									
	2018(d)	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
<b>PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE</b>											
Beginning Common Share Net Asset Value ( NAV )	\$ 14.76	\$ 14.27	\$ 14.93	\$ 17.49	\$ 17.91	\$ 14.76	\$ 13.88	\$ 14.05	\$ 13.18	\$ 11.74	\$ 18.72
Investment Operations:											
Net Investment Income (Loss)(a)	0.03	0.18	0.13	0.09	0.16	0.13	0.17	0.10	0.10	0.14	0.16
Net Realized/ Unrealized Gain (Loss)	0.40	2.84	0.35	0.10	1.93	4.47	1.79	0.81	1.87	2.38	(5.65)
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>4.60</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>2.52</b>	<b>(5.49)</b>
Less Distributions:											
From Net Investment Income	(0.56)**	(0.17)	(0.13)	(0.10)	(0.16)	(0.13)	(1.08)	(1.08)	(0.92)	(0.15)	(0.16)
From Accumulated Net Realized Gains		(2.36)	(0.44)	(2.65)	(2.35)	(1.32)					
Return of Capital			(0.57)						(0.18)	(0.95)	(1.34)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.56)</b>	<b>(2.53)</b>	<b>(1.14)</b>	<b>(2.75)</b>	<b>(2.51)</b>	<b>(1.45)</b>	<b>(1.08)</b>	<b>(1.08)</b>	<b>(1.10)</b>	<b>(1.10)</b>	<b>(1.50)</b>
Discount from Shares Repurchased and Retired Offering Costs								*	*	0.02	0.01
<b>Ending NAV</b>	<b>\$ 14.63</b>	<b>\$ 14.76</b>	<b>\$ 14.27</b>	<b>\$ 14.93</b>	<b>\$ 17.49</b>	<b>\$ 17.91</b>	<b>\$ 14.76</b>	<b>\$ 13.88</b>	<b>\$ 14.05</b>	<b>\$ 13.18</b>	<b>\$ 11.74</b>



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Ending Share Price	\$ 14.63	\$ 14.60	\$ 13.08	\$ 14.27	\$ 17.47	\$ 16.98	\$ 13.35	\$ 12.47	\$ 13.12	\$ 12.21	\$ 9.61
Total Returns:											
Based on NAV(b)	2.95%	21.72%	3.25%	1.64%	12.08%	31.97%	14.28%	6.70%	15.82%	23.16%	(30.84)%
Based on Share Price(b)	4.07%	31.85%	(0.41)%	(1.70)%	18.31%	39.08%	15.81%	3.11%	17.25%	41.27%	(34.06)%

	Period Ended		Year Ended December 31,								
	June 30										
	2018(d)	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
<b>RATIOS/SUPPLEMENTAL DATA</b>											
Ending Net Assets (000)	\$ 234,396	\$ 236,475	\$ 228,600	\$ 239,280	\$ 280,261	\$ 286,972	\$ 236,438	\$ 222,461	\$ 225,187	\$ 211,367	\$ 191,180
Ratios to Average Net Assets											
Expenses	1.03%***	1.02%	1.03%	1.03%	1.03%	1.04%	1.05%	1.05%	1.11%	1.15%	1.11%
Net Investment Income (Loss)	0.37%***	1.18%	0.87%	0.54%	0.87%	0.77%	1.14%	0.69%	0.73%	1.20%	1.04%
Portfolio Turnover											
Rate(c)	72%	159%	110%	93%	111%	65%	77%	67%	131%	112%	51%

(a) Per share Net Investment Income (Loss) is calculated using the average daily shares method.

(b) Total Return Based on NAV is the combination of changes in NAV, reinvested dividend income at NAV and reinvested capital gains distributions at NAV, if any. The last dividend declared in the period, which is typically paid on the first business day of the following month, is assumed to be reinvested at the ending NAV. The actual reinvest price for the last dividend declared in the period may often be based on the Fund's market price (and not its NAV), and therefore may be different from the price used in the calculation. Total returns are not annualized.

Total Return Based on Share Price is the combination of changes in the market price per share and the effect of reinvested dividend income and reinvested capital gains distributions, if any, at the average price paid per share at the time of reinvestment. The last dividend declared in the period, which is typically paid on the first business day of the following month, is assumed to be reinvested at the ending market price. The actual reinvestment for the last dividend declared in the period may take place over several days, and in some instances may not be based on the market price, so the actual reinvestment price may be different from the price used in the calculation. Total returns are not annualized.

(c) Portfolio Turnover Rate is calculated based on the lesser of long-term purchases or sales divided by the average long-term market value during the period.

(d) For the six months ended June 30, 2018 (Unaudited).

\* Rounds to less than \$.01 per share.

\*\* Represents distributions paid From and in excess of net investment income for the six months ended June 30, 2018.

\*\*\* Annualized.

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**TRADING AND NET ASSET VALUE INFORMATION**

The following table shows for the periods indicated: (i) the high and low sales prices for the Common Shares reported as of the end of the day on the NYSE, (ii) the high and low net asset values of the Common Shares, and (iii) the high and low of the premium/(discount) to NAV (expressed as a percentage) of the Common Shares.

<b>Fiscal Quarter Ended</b>	<b>Market Price</b>		<b>Net Asset Value</b>		<b>Premium/(Discount)</b>	
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
December 2018	\$ 15.47	\$ 11.26	\$ 15.27	\$ 11.88	1.64%	(7.20)%
September 2018	\$ 16.47	\$ 14.40	\$ 15.53	\$ 14.56	8.07%	(2.61)%
June 2018	\$ 15.44	\$ 14.39	\$ 15.55	\$ 14.39	1.59%	(1.93)%
March 2018	\$ 15.58	\$ 14.17	\$ 15.85	\$ 14.30	(0.14)%	(3.20)%
December 2017	\$ 16.14	\$ 14.39	\$ 16.57	\$ 14.74	(0.93)%	(4.62)%
September 2017	\$ 15.61	\$ 14.74	\$ 16.11	\$ 15.33	(0.64)%	(4.64)%
June 2017	\$ 14.99	\$ 13.78	\$ 15.79	\$ 14.69	(4.37)%	(7.51)%
March 2017	\$ 14.22	\$ 13.18	\$ 15.36	\$ 14.34	(6.57)%	(8.52)%

The NAV per share, the market price and percentage of premium/(discount) to NAV per Common Share on February 13, 2019 was \$14.07, \$13.82 and (1.78)%, respectively. As of January 31, 2019, the Fund had 16,028,573 Common Shares outstanding and net assets applicable to Common Shares of \$219,913,120. See [Repurchase of Fund Shares; Conversion to Open-End Fund](#).

**THE FUND**

The Fund is a diversified, closed-end management investment company registered under the 1940 Act. The Fund was organized as a Massachusetts business trust on January 9, 2007, pursuant to the Declaration, which is governed by the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Fund's Common Shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol JCE.

The Fund's principal office is located at 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, and its telephone number is (800) 257-8787.

The following provides information about the Fund's outstanding Common Shares as of January 31, 2019:

<u>Title of Class</u>	<u>Amount Authorized</u>	<u>Amount Held by the Fund or for its Account</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>
Common	unlimited	0	16,028,573

**5% Shareholders**

The following table sets forth the percentage ownership of each person who, as of February 19, 2019, owned of record, or was known by the Fund to own of record or beneficially, 5% or more of any class of the Fund's equity securities<sup>§</sup>:

<u>Name of Equity Security</u>	<u>Name and Address of Owner</u>	<u>% of Beneficial Ownership</u>
Common Shares	Advisors Asset Management, Inc. 18952 Base Camp Road Monument, Colorado 80132	5.70%
	First Trust Portfolios L.P. 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400 Wheaton, Illinois 60187	20.56%
	First Trust Advisors L.P. 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400 Wheaton, Illinois 60187	

The Charger Corporation

120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400

Wheaton, Illinois 60187

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\* The information contained in this table is based on Schedule 13G filings made February 11, 2019.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

The net proceeds from the issuance of Common Shares hereunder will be invested in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies as stated below. Pending investment, the timing of which may vary depending on the size of the investment but in no case is expected to exceed 30 days, it is anticipated that the proceeds will be invested in short-term or long-term securities issued by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities or in high-quality, short-term money market instruments.

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## THE FUND'S INVESTMENTS

### Investment Strategies and Rationale

The Fund invests in a portfolio of common stocks included in the Index by employing a proprietary mathematical process designed by Intech that seeks to provide, over time, risk-adjusted excess returns above the Index (  $\alpha$  ) with an equal or lesser amount of relative investment risk. In constructing the Fund's Equity Portfolio, Intech employs its U.S. Large Cap Core strategy, which it has used in client portfolios since July 2001.

In addition, to seek to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted returns through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the Index (  $\beta$  ) over extended periods of time, the Fund employs the Option Strategy by writing (selling) index call options and call options on custom baskets of securities. Nuveen Asset Management is responsible for managing the Fund's Option Strategy.

### Investment Objective and Policies

The Fund's investment objective is to provide an attractive level of total return. The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective primarily through long-term capital appreciation and secondarily through income and gains.

*Equity Portfolio Strategy.* The Fund invests in a portfolio of common stocks from among the stocks comprising the Index as selected by Intech. Intech constructs and manages the Equity Portfolio by employing its proprietary mathematical process that seeks to produce risk-adjusted excess returns over the Index over extended periods of time with an equal or lesser amount of risk. The proprietary mathematical process is designed to construct and manage a portfolio of common stocks from among the stocks comprising the Index, and seeks to generate risk-adjusted excess returns over time with a comparable or lesser level of investment risk as the Index over time. Under normal market circumstances, the Fund generally expects to invest approximately 95% of its Managed Assets in the Equity Portfolio. Under normal market circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its Assets in the Equity Portfolio.

In constructing the Equity Portfolio, Intech employs its U.S. Large Cap Core strategy. Intech's mathematical process seeks to capitalize on the natural volatility of the market by searching for common stocks that have high relative volatility (providing the potential for risk-adjusted excess returns) but that essentially move in opposite directions or have low correlation to each other (providing the potential for lower relative risk). By constructing the Equity Portfolio in this manner and through periodic rebalancing of the portfolio, Intech's mathematical process seeks to create an Equity Portfolio with potentially more efficient weightings than are typically present in the market capitalization weighted Index, thereby producing the opportunity for returns in excess of the Index, with an equal or lesser amount of relative risk, over time. Intech's process is based on mathematical principles and Intech does not engage in fundamental research. Under normal market circumstances, the Equity Portfolio will consist of a diversified portfolio of approximately 150 to 450 common stocks included in the Index. The rebalancing technique employed by Intech is likely to result in a higher portfolio turnover rate and related expenses compared to a buy and hold fund strategy. See Risks Equity Portfolio Strategy Risks Frequent Trading Risk.

For purposes of analyzing and comparing investment returns of a portfolio relative to the returns of a benchmark (in the case of the Fund, the Index), assuming the overall volatility of the portfolio returns relative to the benchmark (  $\beta$  ) is approximately equal to or less than the volatility of the benchmark returns, the total return of a portfolio that outperforms the benchmark may be described as consisting of the sum of (i) the market return measured by the benchmark and (ii) the risk-adjusted excess returns generated by the portfolio over the benchmark returns (  $\alpha$  ).

The Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies that is market-capitalization weighted and is generally representative of the performance of larger companies in the U.S. It is not possible to invest directly in the Index.

The total return on the Equity Portfolio may be more or less than the total return of the Index. There can be no assurance that the Equity Portfolio will attain returns in excess of the Index.

*Option Strategy.* Nuveen Asset Management is responsible for managing the Fund's Option Strategy. To seek to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted returns through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the Index over extended periods of time, the Fund writes (sells) index call options and call options on custom baskets of securities. Under normal market circumstances, the notional value of the call options written by the Fund may be up to 50% of the value of the Fund's Managed Assets.

In applying the Option Strategy, Nuveen Asset Management is responsible for determining the notional value, timing, type and terms of the options strategies used by the Fund. Nuveen Asset Management actively manages the Fund's options positions. In Nuveen Asset Management's discretion, the Fund may purchase back call options or allow them to expire. To determine the options strategies used, Nuveen Asset Management considers market factors, such as current market levels and volatility, and option-specific factors, including but not limited to premium/cost, exercise price and expiration. Nuveen Asset Management typically seeks to invest in call options that, based on the current market conditions and market expectations, provide an opportunity to deliver enhanced risk-adjusted returns. This will often lead to a portfolio that has exposure to multiple strike prices and expiration dates in any investment period.

Due to U.S. federal income tax considerations, the Fund intends to limit the overlap between the stocks held in the Equity Portfolio and the stocks underlying the Fund's call options to less than 70% (generally based on the value of such components) on an ongoing basis.

The Fund's policy of investing at least 80% of its Assets in the Equity Portfolio under normal market circumstances is not considered to be fundamental by the Fund and can be changed without a vote of the Common Shareholders. However, this policy may only be changed by the Fund's Board following the provision of 60 days' prior written notice to Common Shareholders.

The Fund cannot change its investment objective without the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding Common Shares and, if applicable, preferred shares voting together as a single class, and of the holders of a majority of the outstanding preferred shares voting as a separate class. When used with respect to particular shares of the Fund, a majority of the outstanding shares means (i) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the shares are present or represented by proxy or (ii) more than 50% of the shares, whichever is less. See Description of Shares Preferred Shares Voting Rights and the SAI under Description of Shares Preferred Shares Voting Rights for additional information with respect to the voting rights of holders of preferred shares. See also Management of the Fund.

## **Overall Fund Management**

Nuveen Fund Advisors is the Fund's investment adviser, managing the Fund's overall strategy and operations and overseeing Nuveen Asset Management's and Intech's implementation of their investment processes on behalf of the Fund. This oversight includes ongoing evaluation of Nuveen Asset Management's and Intech's investment performance, quality of investment process and personnel, compliance with Fund regulatory guidelines, trade allocation and execution and other factors.

## **Intech's Investment Philosophy and Process**



## Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-2/A

Intech's active, mathematical portfolio strategies are based upon research conducted by Intech's founder, Dr. Robert Fernholz, and first published in his 1982 paper, "Stochastic Portfolio Theory and Stock Market Equilibrium." These proprietary strategies attempt to capitalize on the random nature of stock price movement in the market regardless of the valuations of specific stocks and trends in the overall equity markets.

Intech systematically evaluates the relative volatility of stocks within a universe defined by a reference index (in this case, the Index). The process, which Intech refers to as volatility capture, selects target weights for

stocks based on volatility and correlation characteristics attempting to combine stocks in a manner that will produce long term returns in excess of the benchmark index with a level of risk that is less than or equal to the benchmark. The general criterion of the mathematical model is to select the combination of stocks with high volatility relative to the index and low correlation to each other in an effort to produce both risk-adjusted excess returns and style consistency. The process determines the weightings for equity securities held in the portfolio, and by utilizing a specific mathematical investment process, regularly updates the target weights and rebalances the portfolio in order to attempt to create an Equity Portfolio with potentially more efficient weightings than are typically present in the market capitalization weighted Index.

The goal of the investment process is to construct potentially more efficient portfolios in an effort to improve risk-adjusted returns. All of the research performed by Intech is mathematical in nature as opposed to fundamental or quantitative. Intech does not manage portfolios based on value or growth premises, by exploiting inefficiencies in the market or by attempting to predict trends or potential stock appreciation. In managing the Equity Portfolio, Intech employs its U.S. Large Cap Core strategy which it has employed in client portfolios since July 31, 2001.

Intech believes that mathematical, risk-controlled stock selection and portfolio management processes based on an analysis of relative stock price volatility and correlation can add value because the process:

is precise, leading to quantifiable and manageable relative risk;

is designed to achieve a potentially more efficient portfolio than the Index;

utilizes state of the art technology and techniques;

results in a diversified, fully invested portfolio that attempts to limit individual company risk;

benefits from one of the longest continuous track records among mathematically-based investment managers;

utilizes an efficient stock-trading platform that is focused on reducing costs; and

two Ph.D.s continually refine and enhance the process.

*Portfolio Construction.* The U.S. Large Cap Core strategy investment process begins with designating the investments universe, which for the Fund's investments include all common stocks in the Index. Intech then runs a bankruptcy and liquidity screen, which is expected to exclude approximately 2% or less of the market capitalization of the common stocks within the Index. The next step of portfolio construction involves quantification and analysis of the historical relative volatility and correlation data for the remaining pool of stocks. Portfolio construction also includes incorporating target risk-adjusted excess returns and risk control constraints with respect to diversification and exposure limits for each stock. The next step in portfolio construction is the optimization process, which identifies target weights for stocks designed to produce a targeted risk-adjusted excess return with a minimum amount of tracking error.

*Portfolio Rebalancing.* Once the initial target weights are determined and the portfolio is constructed and invested Intech begins its rigorous ongoing management process. The portfolio is re-optimized periodically and the stocks are rebalanced to new target weights. The resulting portfolio is estimated to contain between 150 and 450 stocks. The turnover in the portfolio (measured in terms of total dollar volume of stock trading) is estimated to range between 50% and 105% per year.

*Risk Control Measures.* Intech analyzes risk using a variety of internal measures. Intech measures risk using tracking error and information ratio. Tracking error is measured as the standard deviation (a statistical measure of the extent to which returns of a portfolio vary from its average) of the risk-adjusted excess returns of a portfolio relative to the Index. The information ratio is the ratio of relative return to relative risk (tracking error) that measures the consistency with which a manager outperforms a benchmark on a risk-adjusted basis. Intech's investment process is built to attempt to generate high information ratio portfolios. Intech attempts to achieve a

targeted level of risk-adjusted excess return while controlling tracking error. The optimization process attempts to manage the level of risk by minimizing tracking error of the portfolio within a risk-adjusted excess return target given certain parameters. The market risk of the Equity Portfolio is also constrained to be less than or equal to the market risk of the Index. All of these constraints attempt to control the relative risk of the strategy to the Index.

#### **Nuveen Asset Management's Investment Philosophy and Process**

Nuveen Asset Management employs an option strategy consisting of writing (selling) index call options and call options on custom baskets of securities. The Fund's overwrite level is determined based on the portfolio manager's assessment of market conditions.

Nuveen Asset Management actively manages its option positions, purchasing back the call options and/or selling additional contracts based on relative value and risk/return analysis. To determine which options to utilize, Nuveen Asset Management considers market factors, such as current market levels and volatility, and option-specific factors (including but not limited to premium/cost, exercise price and expiration). Nuveen Asset Management typically seeks to invest in call options that, based on current market conditions and market expectations, provide an opportunity to deliver enhanced risk-adjusted returns. This will often lead to a portfolio that has exposure to multiple strike prices and expiration dates in any investment period.

#### **Portfolio Composition and Other Information**

The Fund's portfolio will be composed principally of the following investments.

*Common Stocks.* Common stock generally represents an equity ownership interest in an issuer. Although common stocks have historically generated higher average total returns than fixed-income securities over the long term, common stocks also have experienced significantly more volatility in those returns and may under-perform relative to fixed-income securities during certain periods. An adverse event, such as an unfavorable earnings report, may depress the value of a particular common stock held by the Fund. Also, prices of common stocks are sensitive to general movements in the stock market and a drop in the stock market may depress the price of common stocks to which the Fund has exposure. Common stock prices fluctuate for several reasons including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, or the occurrence of political or economic events which effect the issuers. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, which increases borrowing costs and the costs of capital.

*Call Options.* The Fund implements the Option Strategy by writing (selling) index call options and call options on custom baskets of securities.

An option contract is a contract that gives the holder of the option, in return for a premium, the right to buy from (in the case of a call) or sell to (in the case of a put) the writer of the option the reference instrument underlying the option (or the cash value of the index) at a specified exercise price at any time during the term of the option. The writer of an option on a security has the obligation upon exercise of the option to deliver the reference instrument (or the cash) upon payment of the exercise price or to pay the exercise price upon delivery of the reference instrument (or the cash). Upon exercise of an index option, the writer of an option on an index is obligated to pay the difference between the cash value of the index and the exercise price multiplied by the specified multiplier for the index option. Options may be covered, meaning that the party required to deliver the reference instrument if the option is exercised owns that instrument (or has set aside sufficient assets to meet its obligation to deliver the instrument). Options may be listed on an exchange or traded in the over-the-counter (OTC) market. In general, exchange-traded options have standardized exercise prices and expiration dates and may require the parties to post margin against their obligations, and the performance of the parties' obligations in connection with such options is guaranteed by the exchange or a related clearing

corporation. OTC options have

more flexible terms negotiated between the buyer and the seller, but generally are subject to counterparty risk. The ability of the Fund to transact business with any one or any number of counterparties, the lack of any independent evaluation of the counterparties or their financial capabilities, and the absence of a regulated market to facilitate settlement, may increase the potential for losses to the Fund. OTC options also involve greater liquidity risk. This risk may be increased in times of financial stress, if the trading market for OTC derivative contracts becomes limited. The staff of the SEC takes the position that certain purchased OTC options, and assets used as cover for certain written OTC options, are illiquid.

The Fund writes index call options on broad-based indices and may, if Nuveen Asset Management deems conditions appropriate, write call options on a variety of other equity market indices. As the seller of an index call option, the Fund receives a premium from the purchaser. The purchaser of the index call option has the right to any appreciation in the value of the index over the exercise price upon the exercise of the call option or the expiration date. If, at expiration, the purchaser exercises the index option sold by the Fund, the Fund will pay the purchaser the difference between the cash value of the index and the exercise price of the index option. The premium, the exercise price and the market value of the index determine the gain or loss realized by the Fund as the seller of the index call option.

The Fund may also write call options on custom baskets of securities. A custom basket call option is an OTC option with a counterparty whose value is linked to the market value of a portfolio of underlying securities and is collateralized by a portion of the Fund's equity portfolio. In order to minimize the difference between the returns of the underlying securities in the custom basket (commonly referred to as a tracking error), Nuveen Asset Management will use optimization calculations when selecting the individual securities for inclusion in the custom basket.

As the seller of a call option, the Fund creates the potential for a liability to the extent the asset(s) underlying the option appreciates to a level above the strike price.

*Derivatives.* The Fund may invest in certain derivative instruments in addition to the Fund's use of call options described above. Such instruments include options, futures contracts, index futures and total return swaps. In addition, the Fund may invest in other types of derivative instruments that are currently non-principal investments, including forward contracts, interest rate swaps, caps, collars and floors, credit default swaps, and swap options. Credit default swaps may require initial premium (discount) payments as well as periodic payments (receipts) related to the interest leg of the swap or to the default of a reference obligation. If the Fund is a seller of a contract, the Fund would be required to pay the par (or other agreed upon) value of a referenced debt obligation to the counterparty in the event of a default or other credit event by the reference issuer, such as a U.S. or foreign corporate issuer, with respect to such debt obligations. In return, the Fund would receive from the counterparty a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract provided that no event of default has occurred. If no default occurs, the Fund would keep the stream of payments and would have no payment obligations. As the seller, the Fund would be subject to investment exposure on the notional amount of the swap. If the Fund is a buyer of a contract, the Fund would have the right to deliver a referenced debt obligation and receive the par (or other agreed-upon) value of such debt obligation from the counterparty in the event of a default or other credit event (such as a credit downgrade) by the reference issuer, such as a U.S. or foreign corporation, with respect to its debt obligations. In return, the Fund would pay the counterparty a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract provided that no event of default has occurred. If no default occurs, the counterparty would keep the stream of payments and would have no further obligations to the Fund. Interest rate swaps involve the exchange by the Fund with a counterparty of their respective commitments to pay or receive interest, such as an exchange of fixed-rate payments for floating rate payments. The Fund will usually enter into interest rate swaps on a net basis; that is, the two payment streams will be netted out in a cash settlement on the payment date or dates specified in the instrument, with the Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments.

See Hedging Transactions in the SAI and Segregation of Assets below.

The requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company ( RIC ) under Subchapter M of the Code also may limit the extent to which the Fund may employ futures, options on futures or swaps.

For purposes of determining compliance with the Fund's policy of investing at least 80% of its Assets in the Equity Portfolio under normal market circumstances, the Fund will value eligible derivatives at market value or fair value instead of notional value.

There is no assurance that these derivative strategies will be available at any time or that Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management will determine to use them for the Fund or, if used, that the strategies will be successful.

Stock Futures and Forward Contracts. Stock futures contracts are agreements in which one party agrees to deliver to the other an amount of cash equal to a specific dollar amount times the difference between the value of a specific security or index at the close of the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the agreement is made. No physical delivery of securities is made. Forward contracts are agreements to purchase or sell a specified security at a specified future date (or within a specified time period) and price set at the time of the contract. Forward contracts are usually entered into with banks, foreign exchange dealers or broker-dealers and are usually for less than one year, but may be renewed. Forward contracts are generally purchased or sold in OTC transactions.

Swap Transactions. The Fund may enter into total return, interest rate and credit default swap agreements and interest rate caps, floors and collars. The Fund may also enter into options on the foregoing types of swap agreements ( swap options ).

The Fund may enter into swap transactions for any purpose consistent with its investment objective and strategies, such as for the purpose of attempting to obtain or preserve a particular return or spread at a lower cost than obtaining a return or spread through purchases and/or sales of instruments in other markets, as a duration management technique, to reduce risk arising from the ownership of a particular instrument, or to gain exposure to certain sectors or markets in the most economical way possible.

Swap agreements are two party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for a specified period of time. In a standard swap transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on a particular predetermined asset, reference rate or index. The gross returns to be exchanged or swapped between the parties are generally calculated with respect to a notional amount, e.g., the return on or increase in value of a particular dollar amount invested at a particular interest rate or in a basket of securities representing a particular index. The notional amount of the swap agreement generally is only used as a basis upon which to calculate the obligations that the parties to the swap agreement have agreed to exchange. See Segregation of Assets below.

Interest Rate Swaps, Caps, Collars and Floors. Interest rate swaps are bilateral contracts in which each party agrees to make periodic payments to the other party based on different referenced interest rates (e.g., a fixed rate and a floating rate) applied to a specified notional amount. The purchase of an interest rate floor entitles the purchaser, to the extent that a specified index falls below a predetermined interest rate, to receive payments of interest on a notional principal amount from the party selling such interest rate floor. The purchase of an interest rate cap entitles the purchaser, to the extent that a specified index rises above a predetermined interest rate, to receive payments of interest on a notional principal amount from the party selling such interest rate cap. Interest rate collars involve selling a cap and purchasing a floor or vice versa to protect the Fund against interest rate movements exceeding given minimum or maximum levels.





The use of interest rate transactions, such as interest rate swaps and caps, is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. Depending on the state of interest rates in general, the Fund's use of interest rate swaps or caps could enhance or harm the overall performance of the Fund's Common Shares. To the extent there is a decline in interest rates, the value of the interest rate swap or cap could decline, and could result in a decline in the NAV of the Common Shares. In addition, if short-term interest rates are lower than the Fund's fixed rate of payment on the interest rate swap, the swap will reduce common share net earnings. If, on the other hand, short-term interest rates are higher than the fixed rate of payment on the interest rate swap, the swap will enhance Common Share net earnings. Buying interest rate caps could enhance the performance of the Common Shares by providing a maximum leverage expense. Buying interest rate caps could also decrease the net earnings of the common shares in the event that the premium paid by the Fund to the counterparty exceeds the additional amount such Fund would have been required to pay had it not entered into the cap agreement.

**Total Return Swaps.** In a total return swap, one party agrees to pay the other the total return of a defined underlying asset during a specified period, in return for periodic payments based on a fixed or variable interest rate or the total return from other underlying assets. A total return swap may be applied to any underlying asset but is most commonly used with equity indices, single stocks, bonds and defined baskets of loans and mortgages. The Fund might enter into a total return swap involving an underlying index or basket of securities to create exposure to a potentially widely diversified range of securities in a single trade. An index total return swap can be used by the portfolio managers to assume risk, without the complications of buying the component securities from what may not always be the most liquid of markets. In connection with the Fund's position in a swap contract, the Fund will segregate liquid assets or will otherwise cover its position in accordance with applicable SEC requirements. See Segregation of Assets below.

**Credit Default Swaps.** A credit default swap is a bilateral contract that enables an investor to buy or sell protection against a defined-issuer credit event. The Fund may enter into credit default swap agreements either as a buyer or a seller. The Fund may buy protection to attempt to mitigate the risk of default or credit quality deterioration in an individual security or a segment of the fixed income securities market to which it has exposure, or to take a short position in individual bonds or market segments which it does not own. The Fund may sell protection in an attempt to gain exposure to the credit quality characteristics of particular bonds or market segments without investing directly in those bonds or market segments. As the buyer of protection in a credit default swap, the Fund would pay a premium (by means of an upfront payment or a periodic stream of payments over the term of the agreement) in return for the right to deliver a referenced bond or group of bonds to the protection seller and receive the full notional or par value (or other agreed upon value) upon a default (or similar event) by the issuer(s) of the underlying referenced obligation(s). If no default occurs, the protection seller would keep the stream of payments and would have no further obligation to the Fund. Thus, the cost to the Fund would be the premium paid with respect to the agreement. If a credit event occurs, however, 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. The Fund bears the risk that the protection seller may fail to satisfy its payment obligations.

If the Fund is a seller of protection in a credit default swap and no credit event occurs, the Fund would generally receive an up-front payment or a periodic stream of payments over the term of the swap. If a credit event occurs, however, generally the Fund would have to 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. As the protection seller, the Fund effectively adds economic leverage to its portfolio because, in addition to being subject to investment exposure on its total net assets, the Fund is subject to investment exposure on the notional amount of the swap. Thus, the Fund bears the same risk as it would by buying the reference obligations directly, plus the additional risks related to obtaining investment exposure through a derivative instrument discussed below under Risks Associated with Swap Transactions.

**Swap Options.** A swap option is a contract 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. The Fund may write (sell) and purchase put and call swap options. Depending on the terms of the particular option agreement, the Fund generally would incur a greater degree of risk when it writes a swap option than when it purchases a swap option. When the 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 the Fund writes a swap option, upon exercise of the option the Fund would become obligated according to the terms of the underlying agreement.

**Risks Associated with Swap Transactions.** The use of swap transactions is a highly specialized activity which involves strategies and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. If Nuveen Fund Advisors and/or Nuveen Asset Management is incorrect in its forecasts of default risks, market spreads or other applicable factors or events, the investment performance of the Fund would diminish compared with what it would have been if these techniques were not used. As the protection seller in a credit default swap, the Fund effectively adds economic leverage to its portfolio because, in addition to being subject to investment exposure on its total net assets, the Fund is subject to investment exposure on the notional amount of the swap. The Fund generally may only close out a swap, cap, floor, collar or other two-party contract with its particular counterparty, and generally may only transfer a position with the consent of that counterparty. In addition, the price at which the Fund may close out such a two party contract may not correlate with the price change in the underlying reference asset. If the counterparty defaults, the Fund will have contractual remedies, but there can be no assurance that the counterparty will be able to meet its contractual obligations or that the Fund will succeed in enforcing its rights. It also is possible that developments in the derivatives market, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect the Fund's ability to terminate existing swap or other agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

**Futures and Options on Futures Generally.** A futures contract is an agreement between two parties to buy and sell a security, index or interest rate (each a financial instrument) for a set price on a future date. Certain futures contracts, such as futures contracts relating to individual securities, call for making or taking delivery of the underlying financial instrument. However, these contracts generally are closed out before delivery by entering into an offsetting purchase or sale of a matching futures contract (same exchange, underlying financial instrument, and delivery month). Other futures contracts, such as futures contracts on interest rates and indices, do not call for making or taking delivery of the underlying financial instrument, but rather are agreements pursuant to which two parties agree to take or make delivery of an amount of cash equal to the difference between the value of the financial instrument at the close of the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the contract was originally written. These contracts also may be settled by entering into an offsetting futures contract. Unlike when the Fund purchases or sells a security, no price is paid or received by the Fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Initially, the Fund will be required to deposit with the futures broker, known as a FCM, an amount of cash or securities equal to a varying specified percentage of the contract amount. This amount is known as initial margin. The margin deposit is intended to ensure completion of the contract. Minimum initial margin requirements are established by the futures exchanges and may be revised. In addition, FCMs may establish margin deposit requirements that are higher than the exchange minimums. Cash held in the margin account generally is not income producing. However, coupon bearing securities, such as Treasury securities, held in margin accounts generally will earn income. Subsequent payments to and from the FCM, called variation margin, will be made on a daily basis as the price of the underlying financial instrument fluctuates, making the futures contract more or less valuable, a process known as marking the contract to market. Changes in variation margin are recorded by the Fund as unrealized gains or losses. At any time prior to expiration of the futures contract, the Fund may elect to close the position by taking an opposite position that will operate to terminate its position in the futures contract. A final determination of variation margin is then made, additional cash is required to be paid by or released to the Fund, and the Fund realizes a gain or loss. In the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of an FCM that holds margin on behalf of the Fund, the Fund may be entitled to

the return of margin owed to it only in proportion to the amount received by the FCM's other customers, potentially resulting in losses to the Fund. Futures transactions also involve brokerage costs and the Fund may have to segregate additional liquid assets in accordance with applicable SEC requirements. See [Segregation of Assets](#) below.

A futures option gives the purchaser of such option the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a long position (call) or short position (put) in a futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time during the period of the option. Upon exercise of a call option, the purchaser acquires a long position in the futures contract and the writer is assigned the opposite short position. Upon the exercise of a put option, the opposite is true.

There are certain risks associated with the use of financial futures and options to hedge investment portfolios. There may be an imperfect correlation between price movements of the futures and options and price movements of the portfolio securities being hedged. Losses may be incurred in hedging transactions, which could reduce the portfolio gains that might have been realized if the hedging transactions had not been entered into.

If the Fund engages in futures transactions or in the writing of options on futures, it will be required to maintain initial margin and maintenance margin and may be required to make daily variation margin payments in accordance with applicable rules of the exchanges and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). If the Fund purchases a financial futures contract or a call option or writes a put option in order to hedge the anticipated purchase of municipal securities, and if the Fund fails to complete the anticipated purchase transaction, the Fund may have a loss or a gain on the futures or options transaction that will not be offset by price movements in the municipal securities that were the subject of the anticipatory hedge. The cost of put options on debt securities or indexes effectively increases the cost of the securities subject to them, thereby reducing the yield otherwise available from these securities. If the Fund decides to use futures contracts or options on futures contracts for hedging purposes, the Fund will be required to establish an account for such purposes with one or more CFTC-registered FCMs. An FCM could establish initial and maintenance margin requirements for the Fund that are greater than those which would otherwise apply to the Fund under applicable rules of the exchanges and the CFTC.

There can be no assurance that a liquid market will exist at a time when the Fund seeks to close out a derivatives or futures or a futures option position, and the Fund would remain obligated to meet margin requirements until the position is closed. Futures exchanges may limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in certain futures contract prices during a single trading day. The daily limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day's settlement price at the end of the current trading session. Once the daily limit has been reached in a futures contract subject to the limit, no more trades may be made on that day at a price beyond that limit. The daily limit governs only price movements during a particular trading day and therefore does not limit potential losses because the limit may work to prevent the liquidation of unfavorable positions. For example, futures prices have occasionally moved to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of positions and subjecting some holders of futures contracts to substantial losses.

**Segregation of Assets.** As a closed-end investment company registered with the SEC, the Fund is subject to the federal securities laws, including the 1940 Act, the rules thereunder, and various interpretive positions of the SEC and its staff. In accordance with these laws, rules and positions, the Fund must maintain liquid assets (often referred to as [asset segregation](#)), or engage in other SEC staff-approved measures, to cover open positions with respect to certain kinds of derivative instruments and financial agreements (such as reverse repurchase agreements). Generally, the Fund will maintain an amount of liquid assets with its custodian in an amount at least equal to the current amount of its obligations, including the value of unpaid past and future payment obligations, under derivative instruments and financial agreements, in accordance with SEC guidance. However, the Fund also may cover certain obligations by other means such as through ownership of the underlying security or financial instrument. The Fund also may enter into offsetting transactions with respect to certain obligations consistent with existing guidance from the SEC and its staff so that its combined position,

coupled with any liquid assets maintained by its custodian, equals its net outstanding obligation in related derivatives or financial agreements. If the Fund will write credit default swaps, it will segregate the full notional amount of the payment obligation under the credit default swap that must be paid upon the occurrence of a credit event.

The Fund reserves the right to modify its policies in the future to comply with any changes in the positions from time to time articulated by the SEC or its staff, such as the SEC's proposed rules governing the use of derivatives by registered investment companies, regarding asset segregation.

To the extent the Fund uses its assets to cover its obligations as required by the 1940 Act, the rules thereunder, and applicable positions of the SEC and its staff, such assets may not be used for other operational purposes. Nuveen Fund Advisors and/or Nuveen Asset Management will monitor the Fund's use of derivatives and will take action as necessary for the purpose of complying with the asset segregation policy stated above. Such actions may include the sale of the Fund's portfolio investments.

*Other Investments.* The Fund may invest in other securities as non-principal investments as described below:

Repurchase Agreements. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements (the purchase of a security coupled with an agreement to resell that security at a higher price) with respect to its permitted investments. The Fund's repurchase agreements will provide that the value of the collateral underlying the repurchase agreement will always be at least equal to the repurchase price, including any accrued interest earned on the agreement, and will be marked-to-market daily.

Illiquid Securities. The Fund may invest in securities that, at the time of investment, are illiquid (i.e., securities that are not readily marketable). The Fund's Equity Portfolio will be invested in liquid equity securities selected from the Index. However, certain OTC options that the Fund may sell may be deemed to be illiquid. For this purpose, illiquid securities may include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities the disposition of which is restricted under the federal securities laws), securities that may only be resold pursuant to Rule 144A under the 1933 Act, that are deemed to be illiquid, and certain repurchase agreements.

The Board or its delegate has the ultimate authority to determine which securities are liquid or illiquid. The Board has delegated to Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, and Intech the day-to-day determination of the illiquidity of any security held by the Fund, although it has retained oversight and ultimate responsibility for such determinations. No definitive liquidity criteria are used. The Board has directed Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, and Intech when making liquidity determinations to look for such factors as (i) the nature of the market for a security (including the institutional private resale market; the frequency of trades and quotes for the security; the number of dealers willing to purchase or sell the security; the amount of time normally needed to dispose of the security; and the method of soliciting offers and the mechanics of transfer), (ii) the terms of certain securities or other instruments allowing for the disposition to a third party or the issuer thereof (e.g., certain repurchase obligations and demand instruments), and (iii) other relevant factors.

Restricted securities may be sold only in privately negotiated transactions or in a public offering with respect to which a registration statement is in effect under the 1933 Act. Where registration is required, the Fund may be obligated to pay all or part of the registration expenses and a considerable period may elapse between the time of the decision to sell and the time the Fund may be permitted to sell a security under an effective registration statement. If, during such a period, adverse market conditions were to develop, the Fund might obtain a less favorable price than that which prevailed when it decided to sell. Illiquid securities will be priced at fair value as determined in good faith by the Board or its delegate.

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When-Issued and Delayed Delivery Transactions. The Fund may buy and sell securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis, making payment or taking delivery at a later date, normally within 15 to 45 days of the

trade date. This type of transaction may involve an element of risk because no interest accrues on the securities prior to settlement and, because securities are subject to market fluctuations, the value of the securities at time of delivery may be less (or more) than their cost. A separate account of the Fund will be established with its custodian consisting of cash equivalents or liquid securities having a market value at all times at least equal to the amount of any delayed payment commitment.

**Other Investment Companies.** The Fund may invest up to 10% of its Managed Assets in securities of other open- or closed-end investment companies (including exchange-traded funds (ETFs)) that invest primarily in securities of the types in which the Fund may invest directly and that have a similar investment objective and strategy. The Fund generally expects that it may invest in other investment companies during periods when it has large amounts of uninvested cash, such as during periods when there is a shortage of attractive securities of the types in which the Fund may invest directly available in the market. As an investor in an investment company, the Fund will bear its ratable share of that investment company's expenses, and would remain subject to payment of the Fund's advisory and administrative fees with respect to assets so invested. Common Shareholders would therefore be subject to duplicative expenses to the extent the Fund invests in other investment companies. Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, and Intech will take expenses into account when evaluating the investment merits of an investment in an investment company relative to available securities of the types in which the Fund may invest directly. In addition, the securities of other investment companies may be leveraged and therefore will be subject to leverage risks.

### **Inter-Fund Borrowing and Lending**

The SEC has granted an exemptive order permitting registered open-end and closed-end Nuveen funds, including the Fund, to participate in an inter-fund lending facility whereby the Nuveen funds may directly lend to and borrow money from each other for temporary purposes (e.g., to satisfy redemption requests or when a sale of securities fails, resulting in an unanticipated cash shortfall) (the Inter-Fund Program). The Fund will participate only as a lender, and not as a borrower, in the Inter-Fund Program. The Inter-Fund Program is subject to a number of conditions, including, among other things, the requirements that (1) no fund may borrow or lend money through the Inter-Fund Program unless it receives a more favorable interest rate than is typically available from a bank or other financial institution for a comparable transaction; (2) no fund may borrow on an unsecured basis through the Inter-Fund Program unless the Fund's outstanding borrowings from all sources immediately after the inter-fund borrowing total 10% or less of its total assets; provided that if the borrowing fund has a secured borrowing outstanding from any other lender, including but not limited to another fund, the inter-fund loan must be secured on at least an equal priority basis with at least an equivalent percentage of collateral to loan value; (3) if a fund's total outstanding borrowings immediately after an inter-fund borrowing would be greater than 10% of its total assets, the Fund may borrow through the inter-fund loan on a secured basis only; (4) no fund may lend money if the loan would cause its aggregate outstanding loans through the Inter-Fund Program to exceed 15% of its net assets at the time of the loan; (5) a fund's inter-fund loans to any one fund shall not exceed 5% of the lending fund's net assets; (6) the duration of inter-fund loans will be limited to the time required to receive payment for securities sold, but in no event more than seven days; and (7) each inter-fund loan may be called on one business day's notice by a lending fund and may be repaid on any day by a borrowing fund. In addition, a Nuveen fund may participate in the Inter-Fund Program only if and to the extent that such participation is consistent with the Fund's investment objective and investment policies. The Board is responsible for overseeing the Inter-Fund Program.

The limitations detailed above and the other conditions of the SEC exemptive order permitting the Inter-Fund Program are designed to minimize the risks associated with Inter-Fund Program for both the lending fund and the borrowing fund. However, no borrowing or lending activity is without risk. When a fund borrows money from another fund, there is a risk that the loan could be called on one day's notice or not renewed, in which case the borrowing fund may have to borrow from a bank at a higher rate or take other actions to payoff such loan if an inter-fund loan is not available from another fund. When a fund lends money to another fund, any delay in repayment to the lending fund could result in a lost investment opportunity or additional borrowing costs.

In May 2017, the Board approved the Nuveen funds (including the Fund s) participation in the Inter-Fund Program. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund did not enter into any inter-fund loan activity.

### **Portfolio Turnover**

The rebalancing technique employed by Intech is likely to result in a higher portfolio turnover rate and related expenses compared to a buy and hold fund strategy. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund s portfolio turnover rate was 159%. For the six months ended June 30, 2018, the Fund s portfolio turnover rate was 72%. However, there are no limits on the rate of portfolio turnover, and investments may be sold without regard to length of time held when investment considerations warrant such action. A higher portfolio turnover rate results in correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other transactional expenses. High portfolio turnover may result in the realization of net short-term capital gains by the Fund, which, when distributed to shareholders, will be taxable as ordinary income. See Tax matters.

### **USE OF LEVERAGE**

As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund will not leverage its capital structure by issuing senior securities such as preferred shares or debt instruments. The Fund may, however, borrow up to 7.5% of its Managed Assets for cash management purposes, although it does not currently do so. In addition, the Fund may borrow for temporary or emergency purposes and may enter into certain derivatives transactions that have the economic effect of leverage by creating additional investment exposure.

### **RISKS**

The Fund is a diversified, closed-end management investment company designed primarily as a long-term investment and not as a trading vehicle. The Fund is not intended to be a complete investment program and, due to the uncertainty inherent in all investments, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. Your Common Shares at any point in time may be worth less than your original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of Fund dividends and distributions.

### **Investment and Market Risk**

An investment in the Fund s Common Shares is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the entire principal amount that you invest. Your investment in Common Shares represents an indirect investment in the securities owned by the Fund. Your Common Shares at any point in time may be worth less than your original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of Fund dividends and distributions.

### **Market Discount from Net Asset Value**

Shares of closed-end investment companies like the Fund have during some periods traded at prices higher than NAV and have during other periods traded at prices lower than NAV. The Fund cannot predict whether Common Shares will trade at, above or below NAV. This

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characteristic is a risk separate and distinct from the risk that the Fund's NAV could decrease as a result of investment activities. Investors bear a risk of loss to the extent that the price at which they sell their shares is lower in relation to the Fund's NAV than at the time of purchase, assuming a stable NAV. Proceeds from the sale of Common Shares in this offering will be reduced by transaction costs (if applicable, which vary depending on the offering method used). The NAV per Common Share will be reduced by an amount up to the offering costs. The NAV per Common Share will be reduced by costs associated with any future offerings of Common Shares. Depending on the premium of Common Shares at the time of any offering of Common Shares hereunder, the Fund's NAV may be reduced by an amount up to the



offering costs (estimated to be an additional 1.04% of the offering price assuming a Common Share offering price of \$13.82 (the Fund's closing price on the NYSE on February 13, 2019)). The Common Shares are designed primarily for long-term investors, and you should not view the Fund as a vehicle for trading purposes.

### **Impact of Offering Methods Risk**

The issuance of Common Shares through the various methods described in the Prospectus may have an adverse effect on prices in the secondary market for the Fund's Common Shares by increasing the number of Common Shares available for sale. In addition, the Common Shares may be issued at a discount to the market price for such shares, which may put downward pressure on the market price for Common Shares of the Fund.

### **Equity Portfolio Strategy Risks**

*Common Stock Risk.* Common stock generally represents an equity ownership interest in an issuer. Although common stocks have historically generated higher average total returns than fixed-income securities over the long term, common stocks also have experienced significantly more volatility in those returns and may under-perform relative to fixed-income securities during certain periods. An adverse event, such as an unfavorable earnings report, may depress the value of a particular common stock held by the Fund. Also, prices of common stocks are sensitive to general movements in the stock market and a drop in the stock market may depress the price of common stocks to which the Fund has exposure. Common stock prices fluctuate for several reasons including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, or the occurrence of political or economic events which effect the issuers. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, which increases borrowing costs and the costs of capital.

*Large-Cap Stock Risk.* While large-cap companies may be less volatile than those of mid- and small-cap companies, they still involve risk. To the extent the Fund invests in large-capitalization stocks, the Fund may underperform funds that invest primarily in stocks of smaller capitalization companies during periods when the stocks of such companies are in favor. Large-cap companies may be unable to respond quickly to new competitive challenges like changes in technology or consumer taste, and also may not be able to attain the high growth rates of successful, smaller companies, especially during periods of economic expansion.

*Dividend Income Risk.* A portion of the Fund's net investment income paid by the Fund to its Common Shareholders is derived from dividends it receives from common stocks held in the Fund's Equity Portfolio. Dividends paid on the securities held by the Fund can vary significantly over the short-term and long-term. Dividends on common stocks are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of an issuer's board of directors. There is no guarantee that the issuers of common stocks in which the Fund invests will declare dividends in the future or that if declared they will remain at current levels or increase over time.

*Investment Process Risk.* Because Intech utilizes a proprietary mathematical process, there is a risk that Intech, and thus the Equity Portfolio, will not achieve its targeted results over the Index. Intech's method of identifying common stocks with high volatility relative to the Index and low correlation to one another (moving essentially in opposite directions), may not result in a combination of stocks that will produce the expected results and therefore the Equity Portfolio may not outperform, and may underperform, the Index. In addition, the rebalancing technique employed by Intech is likely to result in a higher portfolio turnover rate and related expenses compared to a buy and hold fund strategy, which higher expenses will reduce the Fund's total return. A higher portfolio turnover rate increases the likelihood of higher net taxable gains or losses compared to a buy and hold strategy for an investor in the Fund.

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*Frequent Trading Risk.* The Fund may engage in active and frequent trading of its portfolio investments. Effects of frequent trading may include high transaction costs, which may lower the Fund's return, and realization of greater short-term capital gains, distributions of which are taxable as ordinary income to taxable shareholders.

## Option Strategy Risks

*Call Option Risk.* As the writer of a call option, the Fund foregoes, during the option's life, the opportunity to profit from increases in the market value of the instrument underlying the call option above the sum of the premium and the strike price of the option, but will retain the risk of loss should the market value of the instrument underlying the call option decline. The purchaser of the call option has the right to any appreciation in the value of the underlying instrument over the exercise price upon the exercise of the call option or the expiration date. As the Fund increases the option overlay percentage, its ability to benefit from capital appreciation becomes more limited and the risk of NAV erosion increases. If the Fund experiences NAV erosion, which itself may have a negative effect on the market price of the Fund's shares, the Fund will have a reduced asset base over which to write call options, which may eventually lead to reduced distributions to shareholders.

In addition, because the exercise of index options is settled in cash, sellers of index call options, such as the Fund, cannot provide in advance for their potential settlement obligations by acquiring and holding the underlying securities. The Fund bears a risk that the value of the securities held by the Fund will vary from the value of the Index and relative to the written index call option positions. Accordingly, the Fund may incur losses on the index call options that it has sold that exceed gains on the Fund's equity portfolio. The value of index options written by the Fund, which will be priced daily, will be affected by changes in the value of and dividend rates of the underlying common stocks in the index, changes in the actual or perceived volatility of the stock market and the remaining time to the options' expiration. The value of the index options also may be adversely affected if the market for the index options becomes less liquid or smaller.

*Option Strategy Risk.* In employing the Option Strategy, Nuveen Asset Management seeks to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted returns through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the Index over extended periods of time. This strategy may not protect against market declines, may limit the Fund's participation in market gains, particularly during periods when market values are increasing and volatility is high, may increase the Fund's portfolio transaction costs, which could result in losses or reduce gains, and may not be successful. The success of the Option Strategy will be subject to Nuveen Asset Management's ability to correctly assess the degree of correlation between the performance of the Index and the metrics used by Nuveen Asset Management to measure market volatility. Because the characteristics of many securities change as markets change or time passes, the success of the Option Strategy also will be subject to Nuveen Asset Management's ability to continually recalculate, readjust, and execute volatility management techniques in an efficient manner. In addition, market conditions change, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably, and Nuveen Asset Management may be unable to execute the volatility management strategy in a timely manner or at all. Moreover, volatility management strategies may increase portfolio transaction costs, which could cause or increase losses or reduce gains. For a variety of reasons, Nuveen Asset Management may not seek to establish a perfect correlation between the relevant market index and the metrics that Nuveen Asset Management uses to measure market volatility. In addition, it is not possible to manage volatility fully or perfectly. Any one or more of these factors may prevent the Fund from achieving the intended volatility management or could cause the Fund to underperform or experience losses (some of which may be sudden) or volatility for any particular period that may be higher or lower. In addition, the use of volatility management techniques may not protect against market declines and may limit the Fund's participation in market gains, even during periods when the market is rising. Volatility management techniques, when implemented effectively to reduce the overall risk of investing in the Fund, may result in underperformance by the Fund. The Fund's performance may be lower than the performance of similar funds where volatility management techniques are not used.

## Tax Risk

The tax treatment and characterization of the Fund's distributions may vary significantly from time to time because of the varied nature of the Fund's investments. The ultimate tax characterization of the Fund's distributions made in a calendar year may not finally be determined until after the end of that calendar year. In addition, there is a possibility that the Fund may make total distributions during a calendar year in an amount that

exceeds the Fund's net investment income and net realized capital gains for that calendar year. For example, because of the nature of the Fund's investments, the Fund may distribute net short-term capital gains early in the calendar year, but incur net short-term capital losses later in the year, thereby offsetting the short-term net capital gains for which distributions have already been made by the Fund. In such a situation, the amount by which the Fund's total distributions exceed net investment income and net realized capital gains would generally be treated as a tax-free return of capital up to the amount of the Common Shareholder's tax basis in his Common Shares, with any amounts exceeding such basis treated as gain from the sale of his Common Shares. While a portion of the Fund's income distributions may be classified as qualified dividend income, which is generally taxable to individual investors who meet certain holding period and other requirements at a lower rate, there can be no assurance as to the percentage of the Fund's income distributions that will be qualified dividend income. The writing of call options by the Fund may significantly reduce or eliminate its ability to make distributions eligible to be treated as qualified dividend income. Covered call options may also be subject to the federal tax rules applicable to straddles under the Code. If positions held by the Fund were treated as straddles for federal income tax purposes, dividends on such positions would not constitute qualified dividend income subject to favorable income tax treatment. In addition, generally, straddles are subject to certain rules that may affect the amount, character and timing of the Fund's gains and losses with respect to straddle positions by requiring, among other things, that: (1) any loss realized on disposition of one position of a straddle may not be recognized to the extent that the Fund has unrealized gains with respect to the other position in such straddle; (2) the Fund's holding period in straddle positions be suspended while the straddle exists (possibly resulting in a gain being treated as short-term capital gain rather than long-term capital gain); (3) the losses recognized with respect to certain straddle positions that are part of a mixed straddle and that are non-Section 1256 contracts be treated as 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital loss; (4) losses recognized with respect to certain straddle positions that would otherwise constitute short-term capital losses be treated as long-term capital losses; and (5) the deduction of interest and carrying charges attributable to certain straddle positions may be deferred. The Fund intends to manage the Equity Portfolio generally in order to avoid being subject to the straddle rules under federal income tax law. The Fund expects that positions held under this strategy will not be considered straddles because the Equity Portfolio will not have substantial overlap with the stocks underlying the Fund's call options. Accordingly, based on current law, the Fund intends to maintain an overlap of less than 70% between the stocks held in the Equity Portfolio and the stocks underlying the Fund's call options. Under certain circumstances, however, the Fund may enter into option transactions or certain other investments that may constitute positions in a straddle.

#### **Derivatives Risk**

The Fund is subject to risks related to its use of derivatives, including the risks associated with the Fund's Option Strategy, which are described above. The Fund's use of derivatives involves risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the investments underlying the derivatives. Whether the Fund's use of derivatives is successful will depend on, among other things, if Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management correctly forecast market values, interest rates and other applicable factors. If Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management incorrectly forecast these and other factors, the investment performance of the Fund will be unfavorably affected.

#### **Hedging Risk**

The Fund may use derivatives or other instruments in order to keep the Fund's cash fully invested or for purposes of hedging the Equity Portfolio against declining equity markets. There may be an imperfect correlation between the Equity Portfolio's holdings and such derivatives, which may prevent the Fund from achieving the intended consequences of the applicable transaction or expose the Fund to risk of loss. Further, the Fund's use of derivatives or other transactions to reduce risk involves costs and will be subject to Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management's ability to predict correctly changes in the relationships of such hedge instruments to the Fund's portfolio holdings or other factors. No assurance can be given that Nuveen Fund Advisors and

Nuveen Asset Management's judgment in this respect will be correct. In addition, no assurance can be given that the Fund will enter into hedging or other transactions at times or under circumstances in which it may be advisable to do so.

### **Counterparty Risk**

Changes in the credit quality of the companies that serve as the Fund's counterparties with respect to derivatives, insured municipal securities or other transactions supported by another party's credit will affect the value of those instruments. Certain entities that have served as counterparties in the markets for these transactions in the past have incurred significant financial hardships including bankruptcy and losses as a result of exposure to sub-prime mortgages and other lower quality credit investments that have experienced defaults or otherwise suffered extreme credit deterioration. As a result, such hardships reduced these entities' capital and called into question their continued ability to perform their obligations under such transactions. By using such derivatives or other transactions, the Fund assumes the risk that its counterparties could experience similar financial hardships.

### **Risks Related to the Fund's Clearing Broker and Central Clearing Counterparty**

The CEA requires swaps and futures clearing brokers registered as futures commission merchants to segregate all funds received from customers with respect to any orders for the purchase or sale of U.S. domestic futures contracts and cleared swaps from the brokers' proprietary assets. Similarly, the CEA requires each futures commission merchant to hold in separate secure accounts all funds received from customers with respect to any orders for the purchase or sale of foreign futures contracts and cleared swaps and segregate any such funds from the funds received with respect to domestic futures contracts. However, all funds and other property received by a clearing broker from its customers are held by the clearing broker on a commingled basis in an omnibus account and may be invested in certain instruments permitted under applicable regulations. There is a risk that assets deposited by the Fund with any swaps or futures clearing broker as margin for futures contracts or cleared swaps may, in certain circumstances, be used to satisfy losses of other clients of the Fund's clearing broker. In addition, the assets of the Fund might not be fully protected in the event of the Fund's clearing broker's bankruptcy, as the Fund would be limited to recovering only a pro rata share of all available funds segregated on behalf of the clearing broker's customers for the relevant account class. Similarly, the CEA requires a clearing organization approved by the CFTC as a derivatives clearing organization to segregate all funds and other property received from a clearing member's clients in connection with domestic cleared derivative contracts from any funds held at the clearing organization to support the clearing member's proprietary trading. Nevertheless, all customer funds held at a clearing organization in connection with any futures contracts are held in a commingled omnibus account and are not identified to the name of the clearing member's individual customers. All customer funds held at a clearing organization with respect to cleared swaps of customers of a clearing broker are also held in an omnibus account, but CFTC rules require that the clearing broker notify the clearing organization of the amount of the initial margin provided by the clearing broker to the clearing organization that is attributable to each customer. With respect to futures and options contracts, a clearing organization may use assets of a nondefaulting customer held in an omnibus account at the clearing organization to satisfy payment obligations of a defaulting customer of the clearing member to the clearing organization. With respect to cleared swaps, a clearing organization generally cannot do so, but may do so if the clearing member does not provide accurate reporting to the clearing organization as to the attribution of margin among its clients. Also, since clearing brokers generally provide to clearing organizations the net amount of variation margin required for cleared swaps for all of its customers in the aggregate, rather than the gross amount of each customer, the Fund is subject to the risk that a clearing organization will not make variation margin payments owed to the Fund if another customer of the clearing member has suffered a loss and is in default. As a result, in the event of a default or the clearing broker's other clients or the clearing broker's failure to extend its own funds in connection with any such default, the Fund may not be able to recover the full amount of assets deposited by the clearing broker on behalf of the Fund with the clearing organization.

### **Borrowing Risk**

The Fund may borrow up to 7.5% of its Managed Assets for cash management purposes, although it does not currently do so. Borrowing may exaggerate changes in the NAV of the Fund's shares and may affect the Fund's net income. When the Fund borrows money, it must pay interest and other fees, which will reduce the Fund's returns if such costs exceed the returns on the portfolio securities purchased or retained with such borrowings. Any such borrowings are intended to be temporary. However, under certain market circumstances, such borrowings might be outstanding for longer periods of time.

### **Illiquid Securities Risk**

The Fund may invest in securities and other instruments that, at the time of investment, are illiquid. Illiquid securities are securities that are not readily marketable and may include some restricted securities, which are securities that may not be resold to the public without an effective registration statement under the 1933 Act or, if they are unregistered, may be sold only in a privately negotiated transaction or pursuant to an exemption from registration. Illiquid securities involve the risk that the securities will not be able to be sold at the time desired by the Fund or at prices approximating the value at which the Fund is carrying the securities on its books.

### **Repurchase Agreement Risk**

With respect to repurchase agreements, if the party agreeing to repurchase specific securities should default, the Fund may seek to sell the securities that it holds. This could involve transaction costs or delays in addition to a loss on the securities if their value should fall below their repurchase price. Repurchase agreements maturing in more than seven days are considered to be illiquid securities.

### **Other Investment Companies Risk**

The Fund may invest in the securities of other investment companies. Such securities may be leveraged. As a result, the Fund may be indirectly exposed to leverage through an investment in such securities and therefore magnify the Fund's leverage risk. Utilization of leverage is a speculative investment technique and involves certain risks. An investment in securities of other investment companies that are leveraged may expose the Fund to higher volatility in the market value of such securities and the possibility that the Fund's long-term returns on such securities (and, indirectly, the long-term returns of the Common Shares) will be diminished. The Fund, as a holder of the securities of other investment companies, will bear its pro rata portion of the other investment companies' expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses are in addition to the direct expenses of the Fund's own operations. An ETF that is based on a specific index, whether stock or otherwise, may not be able to replicate and maintain exactly the composition and relative weighting of securities in the index. An ETF also incurs certain expenses not incurred by its applicable index. The market value of shares of ETFs and closed-end funds may differ from their NAV.

### **Inflation Risk**

Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investment will be worth less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the real value of the Common Shares and distributions thereon can decline.

**Deflation Risk**

Deflation risk is the risk that prices throughout the economy decline over time, which may have an adverse effect on the market valuation of companies, their assets and revenues. In addition, deflation may have an adverse effect on the creditworthiness of issuers and may make issuer default more likely, which may result in a decline in the value of the Fund's portfolio.

### **Certain Affiliations**

Certain broker-dealers may be considered to be affiliated persons of the Fund, Nuveen Fund Advisors, TIAA, and/or Nuveen Investments. Absent an exemption from the SEC or other regulatory relief, the Fund is generally precluded from effecting certain principal transactions with affiliated brokers, and its ability to purchase securities being underwritten by an affiliated broker or a syndicate including an affiliated broker, or to utilize affiliated brokers for agency transactions, is subject to restrictions. This could limit the Fund's ability to engage in securities transactions and take advantage of market opportunities. See also Management of the Fund Investment Adviser, Sub-Advisers, and Portfolio Managers.

### **Cybersecurity Risk**

Technology, such as the internet, has become more prevalent in the course of business, and as such, the Fund and its service providers are susceptible to operational and information security risk resulting from cyber incidents. Cyber incidents refer to both intentional attacks and unintentional events including: processing errors, human errors, technical errors including computer glitches and system malfunctions, inadequate or failed internal or external processes, market-wide technical-related disruptions, unauthorized access to digital systems (through hacking or malicious software coding), computer viruses, and cyber-attacks which shut down, disable, slow or otherwise disrupt operations, business processes or website access or functionality (including denial of service attacks). Cyber incidents could adversely impact the Fund and cause the Fund to incur financial loss and expense, as well as face exposure to regulatory penalties, reputational damage, and additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures. Cyber incidents may cause a Fund or its service providers to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption, lose operational capacity or fail to comply with applicable privacy and other laws. Among other potentially harmful effects, cyber incidents also may result in theft, unauthorized monitoring and failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support the Fund and its service providers. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred in order to prevent any cyber incidents in the future. While the Fund's service providers have established business continuity plans in the event of, and risk management systems to prevent, such cyber incidents, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified. Furthermore, the Fund cannot control the cybersecurity plans and systems put in place by its service providers or any other third parties whose operations may affect the Fund.

### **Recent Market Circumstances**

Since the financial crisis that started in 2008, the U.S. and many foreign economies continue to experience its after-effects. Conditions in the U.S. and many foreign economies have resulted, and may continue to result, in certain instruments experiencing unusual liquidity issues, increased price volatility and, in some cases, credit downgrades and increased likelihood of default. These events have reduced the willingness and ability of some lenders to extend credit, and have made it more difficult for some borrowers to obtain financing on attractive terms, if at all. In some cases, traditional market participants have been less willing to make a market in some types of debt instruments, which has affected the liquidity of those instruments. During times of market turmoil, investors tend to look to the safety of securities issued or backed by the U.S. Treasury, causing the prices of these securities to rise and the yields to decline. Reduced liquidity in fixed income and credit markets may negatively affect many issuers worldwide. In addition, global economies and financial markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, which increases the possibilities that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact issuers in a different country or region. A rise in protectionist trade policies, and the possibility of changes to some international trade agreements, could affect the economies of many nations in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time.

In response to the financial crisis, the U.S. and other governments and the Federal Reserve and certain foreign central banks have taken steps to support financial markets. In some countries where economic conditions are recovering, such countries are nevertheless perceived as still fragile. Withdrawal of government support, failure of efforts in response to the crisis, or investor perception that such efforts are not succeeding,





could adversely impact the value and liquidity of certain securities. The severity or duration of adverse economic conditions may also be affected by policy changes made by governments or quasi-governmental organizations, including changes in tax laws. The impact of new financial regulation legislation on the markets and the practical implications for market participants may not be fully known for some time. Regulatory changes are causing some financial services companies to exit long-standing lines of business, resulting in dislocations for other market participants. In addition, the contentious domestic political environment, as well as political and diplomatic events within the United States and abroad, such as the U.S. government's inability at times to agree on a long-term budget and deficit reduction plan, the threat of a federal government shutdown and threats not to increase the federal government's debt limit, may affect investor and consumer confidence and may adversely impact financial markets and the broader economy, perhaps suddenly and to a significant degree. The U.S. government has recently reduced federal corporate income tax rates, and future legislative, regulatory and policy changes may result in more restrictions on international trade, less stringent prudential regulation of certain players in the financial markets, and significant new investments in infrastructure and national defense. Markets may react strongly to expectations about the changes in these policies, which could increase volatility, especially if the markets' expectations for changes in government policies are not borne out.

Changes in market conditions will not have the same impact on all types of securities. Interest rates have been unusually low in recent years in the United States and abroad. Because there is little precedent for this situation, it is difficult to predict the impact of a significant rate increase on various markets. For example, because investors may buy securities or other investments with borrowed money, a significant increase in interest rates may cause a decline in the markets for those investments. Because of the sharp decline in the worldwide price of oil, there is a concern that oil producing nations may withdraw significant assets now held in U.S. Treasuries, which could force a substantial increase in interest rates. Regulators have expressed concern that rate increases may cause investors to sell fixed income securities faster than the market can absorb them, contributing to price volatility. In addition, there is a risk that the prices of goods and services in the U.S. and many foreign economies may decline over time, known as deflation (the opposite of inflation). Deflation may have an adverse effect on stock prices and creditworthiness and may make defaults on debt more likely. If a country's economy slips into a deflationary pattern, it could last for a prolonged period and may be difficult to reverse. The precise details and the resulting impact of the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union (EU), commonly referred to as Brexit, are not yet known. The effect on the United Kingdom's economy will likely depend on the nature of trade relations with the EU and other major economies following its exit, which are matters to be negotiated. The outcomes may cause increased volatility and have a significant adverse impact on world financial markets, other international trade agreements, and the United Kingdom and European economies, as well as the broader global economy for some time.

The impact of these developments in the near- and long-term is unknown and could have additional adverse effects on economies, financial markets and asset valuations around the world.

### **Market Disruption and Geopolitical Risk**

The occurrence of events similar to those in recent years, such as the aftermath of the war in Iraq, instability in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Russia, Ukraine and other parts of the Middle East, the outbreak of infectious diseases such as Ebola or the Zika Virus, terrorist attacks in the U.S. and around the world, social and political discord, debt crises (such as the recent Greek crisis), sovereign debt downgrades, or the exit or potential exit of one or more countries from the EU, among others, may result in market volatility, may have long-term effects on the U.S. and worldwide financial markets, and may cause further economic uncertainties in the U.S. and worldwide. The Fund does not know how long the securities markets may be affected by these events and cannot predict the effects of these and similar events in the future on the U.S. economy and securities markets. The Fund may be adversely affected by abrogation of international agreements and national laws which have created the market instruments in which the Fund may invest, failure of the designated national and international authorities to enforce compliance with the same laws and agreements, failure of local, national and international organization to carry out the duties prescribed to them under the relevant agreements, revisions of these laws and agreements

which dilute their effectiveness or conflicting interpretation of provisions of the same laws and agreements. The Fund may be adversely affected by uncertainties such as terrorism, international political developments, and changes in government policies, taxation, restrictions on foreign investment and currency repatriation, currency fluctuations and other developments in the laws and regulations of the countries in which it is invested.

### **Legislation and Regulatory Risk**

At any time after the date of this Prospectus, legislation or additional regulations may be enacted that could negatively affect the assets of the Fund, securities held by the Fund or the issuers of such securities. Changing approaches to regulation may have a negative impact on the entities and/or securities in which the Fund invests. Legislation or regulation may also change the way in which the Fund itself is regulated. Fund shareholders may incur increased costs resulting from such legislation or additional regulation. There can be no assurance that future legislation, regulation or deregulation will not have a material adverse effect on the Fund or will not impair the ability of the Fund to achieve its investment objective.

For example, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act) is designed to impose stringent regulation on the OTC derivatives market in an attempt to increase transparency and accountability and provides for, among other things, new clearing, execution, margin, reporting, recordkeeping, business conduct, disclosure, position limit, minimum net capital and registration requirements. Although the CFTC has released final rules under the Dodd-Frank Act, many of the provisions are subject to further final rulemaking, and thus the Dodd-Frank Act's ultimate impact remains unclear.

The SEC has proposed rules governing the use of derivatives by registered investment companies, which could affect the nature and extent of derivatives use by the Fund. The proposed rules have not yet been adopted and therefore the full impact of such rules is uncertain at this time. It is possible that such rules, if adopted, could limit the implementation of the Fund's use of derivatives, which could have an adverse effect on the Fund.

Additionally, the Fund is operated by persons who have claimed an exclusion, granted to operators of registered investment companies like the Fund, from registration as a commodity pool operator under Rule 4.5 promulgated by the CFTC pursuant to its authority under the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) and, therefore, is not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator. As a result, the Fund is limited in its ability to use commodity futures (which include futures on broad-based securities indexes and interest rate futures) or options on commodity futures, engage in swaps transactions or make certain other investments (whether directly or indirectly through investments in other investment vehicles) for purposes other than bona fide hedging. With respect to transactions other than for bona fide hedging purposes, either: (1) the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish the Fund's positions in such investments may not exceed 5% of the liquidation value of the Fund's portfolio (after accounting for unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such investments); or (2) the aggregate net notional value of such instruments, determined at the time the most recent position was established, may not exceed 100% of the liquidation value of the Fund's portfolio (after accounting for unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). In addition to meeting one of the foregoing trading limitations, the Fund may not market itself as a commodity pool or otherwise as a vehicle for trading in the futures, options or swaps markets. If the Fund does not continue to claim the exclusion, it would likely become subject to registration and regulation as a commodity pool operator. The Fund may incur additional expenses as a result of the CFTC's registration and regulatory requirements.

### **Management Risk**

The Fund is subject to management risk because it is an actively managed portfolio. Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, and Intech will apply investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for the Fund, but there can be no guarantee that these will produce the desired results.



### **Potential Conflicts of Interest Risk**

Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, and Intech each provide a wide array of portfolio management and other asset management services to a mix of clients and may engage in ordinary course activities in which their respective interests or those of their clients may compete or conflict with those of the Fund. For example, Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, and Intech may provide investment management services to other funds and accounts that follow investment objectives similar to those of the Fund. In certain circumstances, and subject to its fiduciary obligations under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, and Intech may have to allocate a limited investment opportunity among its clients, which include closed-end funds, open-end funds and other commingled funds. Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, and Intech have each adopted policies and procedures designed to address such situations and other potential conflicts of interests.

### **Anti-Takeover Provisions**

The Declaration and By-laws include provisions that could limit the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund or convert the Fund to open-end status. These provisions could have the effect of depriving the Common Shareholders of opportunities to sell their Common Shares at a premium over the then current market price of the Common Shares. See Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust and By-Laws.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND**

### **Trustees and Officers**

The Board is responsible for the Fund's management, including supervision of the duties performed by Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, and Intech. The names and business addresses of the Fund's trustees and officers and their principal occupations and other affiliations during the past five years are set forth under Management of the Fund in the SAI.

### **Investment Adviser, Sub-Advisers, and Portfolio Managers**

*Nuveen Fund Advisors.* Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC, the Fund's investment adviser, is responsible for overseeing the Fund's overall investment strategy and its implementation. Nuveen Fund Advisors offers advisory and investment management services to a broad range of investment company clients. Nuveen Fund Advisors has overall responsibility for management of the Fund, oversees the management of the Fund's portfolio, manages the Fund's business affairs and provides certain clerical, bookkeeping and other administrative services. Nuveen Fund Advisors is located at 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Nuveen Fund Advisors is a subsidiary of Nuveen, the investment management arm of TIAA. TIAA is a life insurance company founded in 1918 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and is the companion organization of College Retirement Equities Fund. As of December 31, 2018, Nuveen managed approximately \$930.5 billion in assets, of which approximately \$135.3 billion was managed by Nuveen Fund Advisors.

*Nuveen Asset Management, LLC.* Nuveen Asset Management, LLC, 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, serves as a sub-adviser to the Fund pursuant to a sub-advisory agreement between Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management (the Nuveen Asset Management Sub-Advisory Agreement). Nuveen Asset Management is responsible for implementing the Option Strategy, subject to the

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supervision of Nuveen Fund Advisors and the Board. Nuveen Asset Management is a registered investment adviser and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nuveen Fund Advisors. Pursuant to the Nuveen Asset Management Sub-Advisory Agreement, Nuveen Asset Management is compensated for the services it provides to the Fund with a portion of the management fee Nuveen Fund Advisors receives from the Fund. Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management retain the right to reallocate investment advisory responsibilities and fees between themselves in the future.

David Friar, Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager of Nuveen Asset Management since January 2011, entered the financial services industry in 1998. He joined Nuveen Asset Management in January 2011 following the firm's acquisition of a portion of the asset management business of FAF Advisors. Mr. Friar previously served in various positions with FAF Advisors since 1999 where he served as a member of FAF's Performance Measurement group. Mr. Friar has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since February 2011.

Jody Hrazanek joined Nuveen in May 2018 from Voya Investment Management where she was head of Strategy Design and Implementation from 2005 to 2018. In this role, she was portfolio manager for a number of multi-asset strategies including target date, portable alpha and option overlay strategies. Prior to Voya, Ms. Hrazanek worked at Advent Capital Management from 2003 to 2005 as a convertible bond trader for both long-only and hedge fund portfolios. Ms. Hrazanek has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since September 1, 2018.

*Intech Investment Management LLC.* Intech serves as a sub-adviser to the Fund pursuant to a sub-advisory agreement between Nuveen Fund Advisors and Intech (the "Intech Sub-Advisory Agreement" and together with the Nuveen Asset Management Sub-Advisory Agreement, the "Sub-Advisory Agreements"). Intech is responsible for managing the Fund's Equity Portfolio, subject to the oversight of Nuveen Fund Advisors and the Board. Intech is organized as a Delaware limited liability company and is an independently managed direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Janus Capital Management LLC and an indirect subsidiary of Janus Henderson Group plc. Intech is a global asset manager with one of the industry's longest continuous performance records of mathematical equity investment strategies for institutional investors and \$50.2 billion in assets under management as of June 30, 2018. Intech's global headquarters is located in West Palm Beach, Florida, with its research headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey, and an international headquarters in London. The business address of Intech is 525 Okeechobee Boulevard, Suite 1800, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401. The business address of Janus Capital Management LLC is 151 Detroit Street, Denver, Colorado 80206. The business address for Janus Henderson Group plc is 201 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3AE UK. Pursuant to the Intech Sub-Advisory Agreement, Intech is compensated for the services it provides to the Fund with a portion of the management fee Nuveen Fund Advisors receives from the Fund. Nuveen Fund Advisors and Intech retain the right to reallocate investment advisory responsibilities and fees between themselves in the future.

A team of investment professionals consisting of Dr. Adrian Banner, Dr. Vassilios Papathanakos, and Joseph Runnels works together to implement the mathematical portfolio management process. No one person of the investment team is primarily responsible for implementing the investment strategy of the portion of the Fund allocated to Intech.

Adrian Banner, Ph.D., is chief executive officer and chief investment officer of Intech. Dr. Banner was named chief executive officer in November 2012 and concurrently is the firm's chief investment officer, a position he has held since January 2012. Previously, Dr. Banner was co-chief investment officer beginning January 2009, senior investment officer from September 2007 to January 2009, and joined Intech in August 2002 as director of research. Since that time, Dr. Banner has been an integral part of the firm's Princeton-based research team. Dr. Banner has extensive knowledge of Intech's trading systems, optimization programs and research initiatives, both on an operational and theoretical basis. Dr. Banner supervises the implementation of the portfolio optimization, management, and trading processes. He conducts mathematical research on the investment process and reviews and recommends improvements. Dr. Banner earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton University and his M.Sc. and B.Sc., also in mathematics, from the University of New South Wales, Australia. Mr. Banner has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since December 31, 2008.

Vassilios Papathanakos, Ph.D., is executive vice president and deputy chief investment officer of Intech. He was named executive vice president in January 2014 and deputy chief investment officer in November 2012. Prior to that, he was the firm's director of research since July 2007, and joined Intech in October 2006 as associate director of research. Dr. Papathanakos is jointly responsible, with Dr. Banner, for the day-to-day implementation of Intech's investment process and trading operations. Dr. Papathanakos received his Ph.D. in

Physics from Princeton University in November 2006 and earned a B.S. in Physics from the University of Ioannina, Greece, in July 2001. Dr. Papathanakos has also accumulated a long teaching experience, instructing courses in all undergraduate and graduate levels, assisting in the development of new courses and coaching new teaching assistants. Mr. Papathanakos has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since December 31, 2011.

Joseph W. Runnels, CFA, has been vice president of portfolio management at Intech since March 2003 and joined the firm in 1998. Mr. Runnels holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Murray State University. Mr. Runnels has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since March 1, 2003.

Additional information about each portfolio manager's compensation, other accounts managed by each portfolio manager and each portfolio manager's ownership of securities in the Fund is provided in the SAI. The SAI is available free of charge by calling (800) 257-8787 or by visiting the Fund's website at [www.nuveen.com](http://www.nuveen.com). The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, the Fund's website is not part of this Prospectus or the SAI.

### Investment Management and Sub-Advisory Agreements

*Investment Management Agreement.* Pursuant to an investment management agreement between Nuveen Fund Advisors and the Fund (the Investment Management Agreement), the Fund has agreed to pay an annual management fee for the services and facilities provided by Nuveen Fund Advisors, payable on a monthly basis, based on the sum of a fund-level fee and a complex-level fee, as described below.

*Fund-Level Fee.* The annual fund-level fee for the Fund, payable monthly, is calculated according to the following schedule:

<u>Average Daily Managed Assets*</u>	<u>Fund-Level Fee Rate</u>
For the first \$500 million	0.7500%
For the next \$500 million	0.7250%
For the next \$500 million	0.7000%
For the next \$500 million	0.6750%
For over \$2 billion	0.6500%

*Complex-Level Fee.* The annual complex-level fee for the Fund, payable monthly, is calculated by multiplying the current complex-wide fee rate, determined according to the following schedule, by the Fund's daily Managed Assets:

<u>Complex-Level Eligible Asset Breakpoint Level*</u>	<u>Effective Complex-Level Fee Rate at Breakpoint Level</u>
\$55 billion	0.2000%
\$56 billion	0.1996%
\$57 billion	0.1989%



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\$60 billion	0.1961%
\$63 billion	0.1931%
\$66 billion	0.1900%
\$71 billion	0.1851%
\$76 billion	0.1806%
\$80 billion	0.1773%
\$91 billion	0.1691%
\$125 billion	0.1599%
\$200 billion	0.1505%

<b>Complex-Level Eligible Asset Breakpoint Level*</b>	<b>Effective Complex-Level Fee Rate at Breakpoint Level</b>
\$250 billion	0.1469%
\$300 billion	0.1445%

\* For the complex-level fees, managed assets include closed-end fund assets managed by the Adviser that are attributable to certain types of leverage. For these purposes, leverage includes the funds' use of preferred stock and borrowings and certain investments in the residual interest certificates (also called inverse floating rate securities) in tender option bond (TOB) trusts, including the portion of assets held by a TOB trust that has been effectively financed by the trust's issuance of floating rate securities, subject to an agreement by the Adviser as to certain funds to limit the amount of such assets for determining managed assets in certain circumstances. The complex-level fee is calculated based upon the aggregate daily managed assets of all Nuveen open-end and closed-end funds that constitute eligible assets. Eligible assets do not include assets attributable to investments in other Nuveen funds or assets in excess of a determined amount (originally \$2 billion) added to the Nuveen fund complex in connection with the Adviser's assumption of the management of the former First American Funds effective January 1, 2011. As of November 30, 2018, the complex-level fee for the Fund was 0.1595%.

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's most recent approval of the Investment Management Agreement for the Fund may be found in the Fund's semi-annual report to shareholders dated June 30 of each year.

In addition to the fee of Nuveen Fund Advisors, the Fund pays all other costs and expenses of its operations, including compensation of its Trustees (other than those affiliated with Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management), custodian, transfer agency and dividend disbursing expenses, legal fees, expenses of independent auditors, expenses of repurchasing shares, expenses associated with any borrowings, expenses of issuing any preferred shares, expenses of preparing, printing and distributing shareholder reports, notices, proxy statements and reports to governmental agencies, and taxes, if any. All fees and expenses are accrued daily and deducted before payment of dividends to investors.

*Sub-Advisory Agreements.*

Pursuant to the Nuveen Asset Management Sub-Advisory Agreement, Nuveen Asset Management receives from Nuveen Fund Advisors a management fee equal to 10.5263% of the net management fee paid by the Fund to Nuveen Fund Advisors.

Pursuant to the Intech Sub-Advisory Agreement, Intech will receive from Nuveen Fund Advisors a management fee based on the Fund's average daily Managed Assets managed by Intech, payable on a monthly basis:

<b>Average Daily Managed Assets</b>	<b>Management Fee Rate</b>
Up to \$100 million	0.4000%
\$100 million to \$250 million	0.3250%
\$250 million to \$500 million	0.2750%
\$500 million to \$1 billion	0.2500%
Over \$1 billion	0.2000%

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A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's most recent approval of the Sub-Advisory Agreements for the Fund may be found in the Fund's semi-annual report to shareholders dated June 30 of each year.

### NET ASSET VALUE

The Fund's NAV per Common Share is determined as of the close of regular session trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the NYSE is open for business. NAV is computed by dividing the value of all assets of the Fund (including accrued interest and dividends), less all liabilities (including accrued expenses and dividends declared but unpaid), by the total number of Common Shares outstanding. In determining NAV, expenses are accrued and applied daily and securities and other assets for which market quotations are available are valued at market value. Exchange-traded equity securities are generally valued at the last sales price on the securities exchange on which such securities are primarily traded. Exchange-traded equity securities traded on a securities exchange for which there are no transactions on a given day or securities not listed on a securities exchange are valued at closing mid or bid prices. Securities reported on NASDAQ are valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. Exchange-listed option contracts are valued using the prices reported on the exchanges where such instruments are primarily traded as of 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Investors should note that the listed options markets generally close at 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time. Changes in the value of the Fund's options portfolio after 4.00 p.m. generally would not be reflected in that day's NAV. Exchange-traded futures contracts and options on futures contracts are generally valued at the final settlement price or official closing price on the exchange such futures contracts and options on futures contracts are primarily traded. OTC derivatives, including OTC options, are valued based on prices from a third party evaluation service. Temporary investments in securities that have variable rate and demand features qualifying them as short-term investments are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value.

The Fund's securities are valued in accordance with procedures approved by the Board. Where a security is traded on more than one exchange, the security is generally valued at the price on the exchange considered to be the primary exchange. In the case of securities not traded on an exchange, or if exchange prices are not otherwise available, the prices are typically determined by independent third party pricing services that use a variety of techniques and methodologies.

The valuations for fixed income securities and certain derivative instruments are typically the prices supplied by independent third party pricing services, which may use market prices or broker/dealer quotations or a variety of fair valuation techniques and methodologies. Any independent pricing service determining fair value will do so pursuant to procedures adopted by, or under the supervision of, the Board. If independent third party pricing services are unable to supply prices for a portfolio investment, or if the prices supplied are deemed to be unreliable, the market price may be determined by using quotations from one or more broker/dealers. When such prices or quotations are not available, or when believed to be unreliable, securities may be priced using fair value procedures approved by the Board. These procedures permit, among other things, the use of a matrix, formula or other method that takes into consideration market indexes, yield curves and other specific adjustments to determine fair value. The Fund may also use fair value procedures if it is determined that a significant event has occurred between the time at which a market price is determined and the time at which the fund's NAV is calculated. The effect of using fair value pricing is that the Common Share NAV will be subject to the judgment of the Board or its designee instead of being determined by the market.

### DISTRIBUTIONS

The Fund pays quarterly distributions stated in terms of a fixed cents per Common Share dividend rate that will be composed of supplemental amounts generally representing realized capital gains or, possibly, returns of capital representing unrealized capital gains or a return of your original investment. In addition, the Fund intends to distribute any net long-term capital gains to Common Shareholders as long-term capital gain dividends as frequently as quarterly. Quarterly distributions, including such supplemental amounts, are sometimes referred to as managed distributions.

The Fund will seek to establish a distribution rate that roughly corresponds to Nuveen Fund Advisors projections of the total return that could reasonably be expected to be generated by the Fund over an extended period of time, although the distribution rate will not be solely dependent on the amount of income earned or capital gains realized by the Fund. Nuveen Fund Advisors, in making such projections, may consider long-term historical returns and a variety of other factors. Distributions can only be made after paying accrued dividends to preferred shareholders, if any, and interest and required principal payments on borrowings, if any. The distribution policy recognizes that many investors are willing to accept the potentially higher asset volatility of the Fund's equity investments compared to fixed-income investments, but they prefer a consistent level of cash distributions be available each quarter for reinvestment or for other purposes of their choosing.

If, for any quarterly distribution, net investment income and net realized capital gains were less than the amount of the distribution, the difference would be distributed from the Fund's assets. In addition, in order to make such distributions, the Fund might have to sell a portion of its investment portfolio at a time when independent investment judgment might not dictate such action. The Fund's final distribution for each calendar year will include any remaining net investment income undistributed during the year and may include any remaining net realized capital gains undistributed during the year. The Fund's actual financial performance will likely vary significantly from quarter-to-quarter and from year-to-year, and there may be extended periods of up to several years when the distribution rate will exceed the Fund's actual total returns. The Fund's projected or actual distribution rate is not a prediction of what the Fund's actual total returns will be over any specific future period.

As portfolio and market conditions change, the rate of distributions on the Common Shares and the Fund's distribution policy could change. To the extent that the total return of the Fund's overall strategy exceeds the distribution rate for an extended period, the Fund may be in a position to increase the distribution rate or distribute supplemental amounts to shareholders. Conversely, if the total return of the Fund's overall strategy is less than the distribution rate for an extended period of time, the Fund will effectively be drawing upon its net assets to meet payments prescribed by its distribution policy. Similarly, for tax purposes such distributions by the Fund may consist in part of a return of capital to Common Shareholders. The exact tax characteristics of the Fund's distributions will not be known until after the Fund's fiscal year-end. Common Shareholders should not confuse a return of capital distribution with dividend yield or total return. There is no assurance that the Fund will continue to make quarterly distributions of net long-term capital gains. Under the terms of an exemptive order from the SEC, the Fund's Board is required to determine whether to continue the quarterly distribution of net long-term capital gains if: (i) the Common Shares have traded at an average premium to NAV equal to or greater than 10%, as determined on the basis of the average of the discount or premium to the NAV of the Common Shares as of the close of each trading day over a 12-week rolling period, and (ii) the Fund's distribution rate for that 12-week rolling period, expressed as a percentage of NAV as of the ending date of the 12-week rolling period, is greater than the Fund's average annual total return in relation to the change in NAV over the 2-year period ending on the last day of the 12-week rolling period.

At the same time that it pays a quarterly distribution, the Fund will post on its website ([www.nuveen.com/etf](http://www.nuveen.com/etf)), and make available in written form to Common Shareholders, a written notice of the estimated sources and tax characteristics of the Fund's distributions (*i.e.*, what percentage of the distributions is estimated to constitute ordinary income, short-term capital gains, long-term capital gains, and/or a non-taxable return of capital) on a year-to-date basis, in compliance with a federal securities law requirement that any fund paying a distribution from sources other than net investment income disclose to shareholders the respective portion attributable to such other sources. These estimates may be based on certain assumptions about the Fund's expected investment returns and the realization of net gains, if any, over the remaining course of the year. These estimates may, and likely will, vary over time based on the activities of the Fund and changes in the value of portfolio investments. The Fund expects that it will provide this type of information primarily on a tax basis, instead of on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis, because experience has shown that fund shareholders are most concerned about the tax character of their distributions, and because the Fund expects that the distributions' tax characteristics will fairly reflect the economic basis of the Fund's distributions and returns. The final determination of the source and tax

characteristics of all distributions will be made after December 31 in each year, and reported to Common Shareholders on Form 1099-DIV early the following year.

As explained more fully below in *Tax Matters*, at least annually, the Fund intends to distribute to Common Shareholders any net capital gain (which is the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) for each taxable year through its managed distributions after making interest and required principal payments on borrowings or paying any accrued dividends or making any redemption or liquidation payments to preferred shareholders or, alternatively, to retain all or a portion of the year's net capital gain and pay U.S. federal income tax on the retained gain. Each Common Shareholder of record as of the end of the Fund's taxable year will include in income for federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, his or her share of any retained gain, will be deemed to have paid his or her proportionate share of the tax paid by the Fund on such retained gain, and will be entitled to an income tax credit or refund for that share of the tax. The Fund may treat any retained capital gain amount as a substitute for equivalent cash distributions. In addition, the Fund may make total distributions during a given calendar year in an amount that exceeds the Fund's net investment income and net capital gain for that calendar year, in which case the excess will generally be treated by shareholders as return of capital for tax purposes. Distributions treated as return of capital will reduce a shareholder's basis in his or her Common Shares, which will generally result in an increase in the amount of gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that the shareholder will recognize on his or her sale or other disposition of such Common Shares.

Distributions will be reinvested in additional Common Shares under the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan unless a Common Shareholder elects to receive cash.

The Fund reserves the right to change its distribution policy and the basis for establishing the rate of its quarterly distributions at any time, subject to a finding by the Fund's Board that such change is in the best interests of the Fund and its Common Shareholders.

#### **DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN**

If your Common Shares are registered directly with the Fund or if you hold your Common Shares with a brokerage firm that participates in the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the *Plan*) your distributions, including any capital gain distributions, will automatically be reinvested in additional Common Shares under the Plan unless you request otherwise. If you elect not to participate in the Plan, or are not eligible to participate because your brokerage firm does not participate in the Plan, you will receive all distributions in cash paid by check mailed directly to you or your brokerage firm by Computershare Trust Company, N.A. and Computershare Inc. (together, *Computershare*) as dividend paying agent (the *Plan Agent*). The tax consequences of a distribution are the same regardless of whether such distribution is reinvested or received in cash. See *Tax Matters* below.

Under the Plan, the number of Common Shares you will receive will be determined as follows:

(1) If the Common Shares are trading *at or above* NAV at the time of valuation, the Fund will issue new shares at a price equal to the greater of (i) NAV per Common Share on that date or (ii) 95% of the market price on that date.

(2) If Common Shares are trading *below* NAV at the time of valuation, the Plan Agent will receive the dividend or distribution in cash and will purchase Common Shares in the open market, on the NYSE or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts. It is possible that the market price for the Common Shares may increase before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases. Therefore, the average purchase price per share paid by the Plan Agent may exceed the market price at the time of valuation, resulting in the purchase of fewer shares than if the dividend or distribution had been paid in Common Shares issued by the Fund. The Plan Agent will use all dividends and distributions received in cash to purchase Common

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Shares in the open market within 30 days of the valuation date. Interest will not be paid on any uninvested cash payments. The

Plan provides that if the Common Shares start trading at or above NAV before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases, the Plan Agent may cease purchasing Common Shares in the open market, and may invest the uninvested portion in new shares at a price equal to the greater of (i) NAV per Common Share determined on the last business day immediately prior to the purchase date or (ii) 95% of the market price on that date.

You may withdraw from the Plan at any time by giving written notice to the Plan Agent. If you withdraw or the Plan is terminated, you will receive whole shares in your account under the Plan and you will receive a cash payment for any fraction of a share in your account. If you wish, the Plan Agent will sell your shares and send you the proceeds, minus brokerage commissions and a \$2.50 service fee.

The Plan Agent maintains all shareholders' accounts in the Plan and gives written confirmation of all transactions in the accounts, including information you may need for tax records. Common Shares in your account will be held by the Plan Agent in non-certificated form. Any proxy you receive will include all Common Shares you have received under the Plan.

There is no brokerage charge for reinvestment of your dividends or distributions in Common Shares. However, all participants will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred by the Plan Agent when it makes open market purchases.

Automatically reinvesting dividends and distributions does not mean that you do not have to pay income taxes due upon receiving dividends and distributions.

As noted above, if you hold your Common Shares with a brokerage firm that does not participate in the Plan, you will not be able to participate in the Plan and any dividend reinvestment may be effected on different terms than those described above. Consult your financial adviser for more information.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan if in the judgment of the Board the change is warranted. There is no direct service charge to participants in the Plan; however, the Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants. Additional information about the Plan may be obtained from Computershare, P.O. Box 505000, Louisville, Kentucky, 40233-5000 (800) 257-8787.

#### **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The Fund may sell the Common Shares offered under this Prospectus through

at-the-market transactions;

underwriting syndicates; and

privately negotiated transactions.



The Fund will bear the expenses of the offering, including but not limited to, the expenses of preparation of the Prospectus and SAI for the offering and the expense of counsel and auditors in connection with the offering.

#### **Distribution Through At-The-Market Transactions**

The Fund has entered into a distribution agreement with Nuveen Securities (the **Distribution Agreement** ), which has been filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Distribution Agreement, the Fund may from time to time issue and sell its Common Shares through Nuveen Securities to certain broker-dealers which have entered into selected dealer agreements with Nuveen Securities. Currently, Nuveen Securities has entered into a selected dealer agreement (the **Selected**

Dealer Agreement ) with BB&T pursuant to which BB&T will be acting as Nuveen Securities' sub-placement agent with respect to at-the-market offerings of Common Shares. The Selected Dealer Agreement has been filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus forms a part.

Common Shares will only be sold on such days as shall be agreed to by the Fund and Nuveen Securities. Common Shares will be sold at prevailing market prices through the National Market System, subject to a minimum price to be established each day by Nuveen Securities. The minimum price on any day will not be less than the current NAV per Common Share plus the per share amount of the commission to be paid to Nuveen Securities. The Fund, Nuveen Securities, and BB&T will suspend the sale of Common Shares if the per share price of the shares is less than the minimum price.

The Fund will compensate Nuveen Securities with respect to sales of the Common Shares at a commission rate of up to 1.0% of the gross proceeds of the sale of Common Shares. Nuveen Securities will compensate sub-placement agents or other broker-dealers participating in the offering at a rate of up to 0.8% of the gross proceeds of the sale of Common Shares sold by that sub-placement agent or broker-dealer. Settlements of sales of Common Shares will occur on the second business day following the date on which any such sales are made. In connection with the sale of the Common Shares on behalf of the Fund, Nuveen Securities may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the 1933 Act, and the compensation of Nuveen Securities may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. Unless otherwise indicated in a further Prospectus supplement, Nuveen Securities will act as underwriter on a reasonable efforts basis.

The offering of Common Shares pursuant to the Distribution Agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (i) the sale of all Common Shares subject thereto or (ii) termination of the Distribution Agreement. The Fund and Nuveen Securities each have the right to terminate the Distribution Agreement in its discretion at any time. The Fund currently intends to distribute the shares offered pursuant to this Prospectus through at-the-market transactions, although from time to time it may also distribute shares through an underwriting syndicate or a privately negotiated transaction. To the extent shares are distributed other than through at-the-market transactions, the Fund will file a supplement to this Prospectus describing such transactions.

The Fund's closing price on the NYSE on February 13, 2019 was \$13.82.

#### **Distribution Through Underwriting Syndicates**

The Fund from time to time may issue additional Common Shares through a syndicated secondary offering. In order to limit the impact on the market price of the Fund's Common Shares, underwriters will market and price the offering on an expedited basis (*e.g.*, overnight or similarly abbreviated offering period). The Fund will launch a syndicated offering on a day, and upon terms, mutually agreed upon between the Fund, Nuveen Securities, one of the Fund's underwriters, and the underwriting syndicate.

The Fund will offer its shares at a price equal to a specified discount of up to 5% from the closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares on the day prior to the offering date. The applicable discount will be negotiated by the Fund and Nuveen Securities in consultation with the underwriting syndicate on a transaction-by-transaction basis. The Fund will compensate the underwriting syndicate out of the proceeds of the offering based upon a sales load of up to 4% of the gross proceeds of the sale of Common Shares. The minimum net proceeds per share to the Fund will not be less than the greater of (i) the Fund's latest NAV per share of Common Shares or (ii) 91% of the closing market price of the shares of the Fund's Common Shares on the day prior to the offering date.

#### **Distribution Through Privately Negotiated Transactions**

The Fund from time to time may sell directly to, and solicit offers from, institutional and other sophisticated investors, who may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the 1933 Act for any resale of Common Shares.

The terms of such privately negotiated transactions will be subject to the discretion of the management of the Fund. In determining whether to sell Common Shares through a privately negotiated transaction, the Fund will consider relevant factors including, but not limited to, the attractiveness of obtaining additional funds through the sale of Common Shares, the purchase price to apply to any such sale of Common Shares and the person seeking to purchase the Common Shares.

Common Shares issued by the Fund through privately negotiated transactions will be issued at a price equal to the greater of (i) the NAV per share of the Fund's Common Shares or (ii) at a discount ranging from 0% to 5% of the average daily closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares at the close of business on the ten business days preceding the date upon which Common Shares are sold pursuant to the privately negotiated transaction. The applicable discount will be determined by the Fund on a transaction-by-transaction basis.

The principal business address of Nuveen Securities is 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

## DESCRIPTION OF SHARES

### Common Shares

The Declaration authorizes the issuance of an unlimited number of Common Shares. The Common Shares being offered have a par value of \$0.01 per share and, subject to the rights of holders of preferred shares, if issued, and borrowings, if incurred, have equal rights to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon liquidation of the Fund. The Common Shares being offered will, when issued, be fully paid and, subject to matters discussed in Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust and By-laws, non-assessable, and will have no preemptive or conversion rights or rights to cumulative voting. The Fund has no current intention of issuing preferred shares or incurring borrowings. However, if at some future time the Fund issues Preferred Shares and/or incurs borrowings, the Common Shareholders will not be entitled to receive any cash distributions from the Fund unless all accrued dividends on preferred shares and interest on borrowings have been paid, and (i) unless asset coverage (as defined in the 1940 Act) with respect to any borrowings would be at least 300% after giving effect to the distributions and (ii) unless asset coverage (again, as defined in the 1940 Act) with respect to preferred shares would be at least 200% after giving effect to the distributions. See Preferred Shares below.

The Common Shares are listed on the NYSE and trade under the ticker symbol JCE. The Fund intends to hold annual meetings of shareholders so long as the Common Shares are listed on a national securities exchange and such meetings are required as a condition to such listing. The Fund will not issue share certificates.

Unlike open-end funds, closed-end funds like the Fund do not provide daily redemptions. Rather, if a shareholder determines to buy additional Common Shares or sell shares already held, the shareholder may conveniently do so by trading on the exchange through a broker or otherwise. Shares of closed-end investment companies may frequently trade on an exchange at prices lower than NAV. Shares of closed-end investment companies like the Fund have, during some periods, traded at prices higher than NAV and, during other periods, have traded at prices lower than NAV. Because the market value of the Common Shares may be influenced by such factors as dividend levels (which are in turn affected by expenses), dividend stability, NAV, relative demand for and supply of such shares in the market, general market and economic conditions, and other factors beyond the control of the Fund, the Fund cannot guarantee you that Common Shares will trade at a price equal to or higher than NAV in the future. The Common Shares are designed primarily for long-term investors, and investors in the Common Shares should not view the Fund as a vehicle for trading purposes. See the SAI under Repurchase of Fund Shares; Conversion to Open-End Fund.

## Preferred Shares

As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund will not leverage its capital structure by issuing senior securities such as preferred shares or debt instruments. However, the Declaration authorizes the issuance of an unlimited number of preferred shares in one or more classes or series, with rights as determined by the Board, by action of the Board without the approval of the Common Shareholders. The terms of any preferred shares that may be issued by the Fund may be the same as, or different from, the terms described below, subject to applicable law and the Declaration.

*Limited Issuance of Preferred Shares.* Under the 1940 Act, the Fund can issue preferred shares with an aggregate liquidation value of up to one-half of the value of the Fund's total net assets, measured immediately after issuance of the preferred shares. Liquidation value means the original purchase price of the shares being liquidated plus any accrued and unpaid dividends. In addition, the Fund is not permitted to declare any cash dividend or other distribution on its Common Shares unless the liquidation value of the preferred shares is less than one-half of the value of the Fund's total net assets (determined after deducting the amount of such dividend or distribution) immediately after the distribution.

*Distribution Preference.* The preferred shares would have complete priority over the Common Shares as to distribution of assets.

*Liquidation Preference.* In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Fund, holders of preferred shares would be entitled to receive a preferential liquidating distribution (expected to equal the original purchase price per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon, whether or not earned or declared) before any distribution of assets is made to holders of Common Shares.

*Voting Rights.* Preferred shares are required to be voting shares and to have equal voting rights with Common Shares. Except as otherwise indicated in this Prospectus or the SAI and except as otherwise required by applicable law, holders of preferred shares would vote together with Common Shareholders as a single class.

Holders of preferred shares, voting as a separate class, would be entitled to elect two of the Fund's trustees (following the establishment of the Fund by an initial trustee, the Declaration provides for a total of no less than two and no more than fifteen trustees). The remaining trustees would be elected by Common Shareholders and holders of preferred shares, voting together as a single class. In the unlikely event that two full years of accrued dividends are unpaid on the preferred shares, the holders of all outstanding preferred shares, voting as a separate class, would be entitled to elect a majority of the Fund's trustees until all dividends in arrears have been paid or declared and set apart for payment. In order for the Fund to take certain actions or enter into certain transactions, a separate class vote of holders of preferred shares would be required, in addition to the single class vote of the holders of preferred shares and Common Shares. See Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust and By-Laws and the SAI under Description of Shares Preferred Shares Voting Rights.

*Redemption, Purchase and Sale of Preferred Shares.* The terms of the preferred shares may provide that they may be redeemed by the issuer at certain times, in whole or in part, at the original purchase price per share plus accumulated dividends. Any redemption or purchase of preferred shares by the Fund would reduce the leverage applicable to Common Shares, while any issuance of such shares by the Fund would increase such leverage.

In the event of any future issuance of preferred shares, the Fund likely would apply for ratings from a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO). In such event, as long as preferred shares are outstanding, the composition of the Fund's portfolio would reflect guidelines established by such NRSRO. Based on previous guidelines established by such NRSROs for the securities of other issuers, the Fund anticipates that the guidelines may impose asset coverage or portfolio composition requirements that are more stringent than



those imposed on the Fund by the 1940 Act. However, at this time, no assurance can be given as to the nature or extent of the guidelines that may be imposed in connection with obtaining a rating of any preferred shares.

### **Borrowings**

As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund will not leverage its capital structure by issuing senior securities such as preferred shares or debt instruments. However, the Declaration authorizes the Fund, without approval of the Common Shareholders, to borrow money. In this connection, the Fund may issue notes or other evidence of indebtedness (including bank borrowings or commercial paper) and may secure any such borrowings by mortgaging, pledging or otherwise subjecting as security the Fund's assets. In connection with such borrowing, the Fund may be required to maintain minimum average balances with the lender or to pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit. Any such requirements would increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate. Under the requirements of the 1940 Act, the Fund, immediately after any such borrowings, must have an asset coverage of at least 300%. With respect to any such borrowings, asset coverage means the ratio that the value of the total assets of the Fund, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities (as defined in the 1940 Act), bears to the aggregate amount of such borrowing represented by senior securities issued by the Fund. As with the issuance of preferred shares, certain types of borrowing may result in the Fund being subject to certain restrictions imposed by guidelines of one or more rating agencies that may issue ratings for commercial paper or notes issued by the Fund. Such restrictions may be more stringent than those imposed by the 1940 Act.

The rights of lenders to the Fund to receive interest on and repayment of principal of any such borrowings would be senior to those of the Common Shareholders, and the terms of any such borrowings may contain provisions that limit certain activities of the Fund, including the payment of dividends to Common Shareholders in certain circumstances. Further, the 1940 Act would (in certain circumstances) grant to the lenders to the Fund certain voting rights in the event of default in the payment of interest on or repayment of principal. In the event that such provisions would impair the Fund's status as a RIC under the Code, the Fund would repay the borrowings. Any borrowing will likely be ranked senior or equal to all other existing and future borrowings of the Fund. The Fund may borrow up to 7.5% of its Managed Assets for cash management purposes. See "Investment Restrictions" in the SAI.

### **CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE DECLARATION OF TRUST AND BY-LAWS**

Under Massachusetts law, shareholders could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. However, the Declaration contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for debts or obligations of the Fund and requires that notice of such limited liability be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Fund or the trustees. The Declaration further provides for indemnification out of the assets and property of the Fund for all loss and expense 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 would be unable to meet its obligations. The Fund believes that the likelihood of such circumstances is remote.

The Declaration and By-laws include provisions that could limit the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund or to convert the Fund to open-end status. Specifically, the Declaration requires a vote by holders of at least two-thirds of the Common Shares and, if issued, preferred shares, voting together as a single class, except as described below, to authorize (1) a conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company, (2) a merger or consolidation of the Fund, or a series or class of the Fund, with any corporation, association, trust or other organization or a reorganization of the Fund, or a series or class of the Fund, (3) a sale, lease or transfer of all or substantially all of the Fund's assets (other than in the regular course of the Fund's investment activities), (4) in certain circumstances, a termination of the Fund, or a series or class of the Fund or (5) a removal of trustees by shareholders, and then only for cause, unless, with respect to (1) through





(4), such transaction has already been authorized by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of trustees fixed in accordance with the Declaration or the By-laws, in which case the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the Fund's Common Shares and, if issued, preferred shares outstanding at the time, voting together as a single class, would be required; provided, however, that where only a particular class or series is affected (or, in the case of removing a trustee, when the trustee has been elected by only one class), only the required vote by the applicable class or series would be required. Approval of shareholders would not be required, however, for any transaction, whether deemed a merger, consolidation, reorganization or otherwise whereby the Fund issues shares in connection with the acquisition of assets (including those subject to liabilities) from any other investment company or similar entity. In the case of the conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company, or in the case of any of the foregoing transactions constituting a plan of reorganization that adversely affects the holders of any outstanding preferred shares, the action in question would also require the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the preferred shares outstanding at the time, voting as a separate class, or, if such action has been authorized by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of trustees fixed in accordance with the Declaration or the By-laws, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the preferred shares outstanding at the time, voting as a separate class. None of the foregoing provisions may be amended except by the vote of at least two-thirds of the Common Shares and, if issued, preferred shares, voting together as a single class. The votes required to approve the conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company or to approve transactions constituting a plan of reorganization that adversely affects the holders of any outstanding preferred shares are higher than those required by the 1940 Act. The Board believes that the provisions of the Declaration relating to such higher votes are in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. The Board is divided into three classes, with each class serving a different term. This staggered Board structure could delay for up to two years the replacement of a majority of the Board. See the SAI under Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust.

The Declaration provides that the obligations of the Fund are not binding upon the trustees of the Fund individually, but only upon the assets and property of the Fund, and that the trustees shall not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law. Nothing in the Declaration, however, protects a trustee against any liability to which he would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office.

The provisions of the Declaration and By-laws described above could have the effect of depriving the Common Shareholders of opportunities to sell their Common Shares at a premium over the then current market price of the Common Shares by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control of the Fund in a tender offer or similar transaction. The overall effect of these provisions is to render more difficult the accomplishment of a merger or the assumption of control by a third party. They provide, however, the advantage of potentially requiring persons seeking control of the Fund to negotiate with its management regarding the price to be paid and facilitating the continuity of the Fund's investment objectives and policies. The Fund's Board has considered the foregoing anti-takeover provisions and concluded that they are in the best interests of the Fund and its Common Shareholders.

Reference should be made to the Declaration and By-laws on file with the SEC for the full text of these provisions.

#### **REPURCHASE OF FUND SHARES; CONVERSION TO OPEN-END FUND**

The Fund is a closed-end investment company and as such its shareholders will not have the right to cause the Fund to redeem their shares. Instead, the Common Shares will trade in the open market at a price that will be a function of several factors, including distribution levels (which are in turn affected by expenses), NAV, distribution stability, relative demand for and supply of such shares in the market, general market and economic conditions and other factors. Because shares of closed-end investment companies may frequently trade at prices lower than NAV, the Fund's Board has currently determined that, at least annually, it will consider action that

might be taken to reduce or eliminate any material discount from NAV in respect of Common Shares, which may include the repurchase of such shares in the open market or in private transactions, the making of a tender offer for such shares at NAV, or the conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company. The Fund cannot assure you that its Board will decide to take any of these actions, or that share repurchases or tender offers will actually reduce market discount. On August 7, 2018, the Fund's Board renewed the Fund's open market share repurchase program under which the Fund may repurchase up to 10% of its Common Shares. Since the inception of the Fund's share repurchase program through February 13, 2019, the Fund has repurchased 449,800 Common Shares under the program.

If the Fund converted to an open-end investment company, it would be required to redeem all Preferred Shares then outstanding (requiring in turn that it liquidate a portion of its investment portfolio), and the Common Shares would no longer be listed on the NYSE or elsewhere. In contrast to a closed-end investment company, shareholders of an open-end investment company may require the company to redeem their shares at any time (except in certain circumstances as authorized by the 1940 Act or the rules thereunder) at their NAV, less any redemption charge that is in effect at the time of redemption. As a result, conversion to open-end status may require changes in the management of the Fund's portfolio in order to meet the liquidity requirements applicable to open-end funds. Because portfolio securities may have to be liquidated to meet redemptions, conversion could affect the Fund's ability to meet its investment objective or to use certain investment policies and techniques described above. If converted to an open-end fund, the Fund expects to pay all redemptions in cash, but intends to reserve the right to pay redemption requests in a combination of cash or securities. If such partial payment in securities were made, investors may incur brokerage costs in converting such securities to cash. If the Fund were converted to an open-end fund, it is likely that new Common Shares would be sold at NAV plus a sales load. See the SAI under "Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust" for a discussion of the voting requirements applicable to the conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company.

Before deciding whether to take any action if the Common Shares trade below NAV, the Board would consider all relevant factors, including the extent and duration of the discount, the liquidity of the Fund's portfolio, the impact of any action that might be taken on the Fund or its shareholders, and market considerations. Based on these considerations, even if the Fund's shares should trade at a discount, the Board may determine that, in the interest of the Fund and its shareholders, no action should be taken. See the SAI under "Repurchase of Fund Shares; Conversion to Open-End Fund" for a further discussion of possible action to reduce or eliminate such discount to NAV.

## TAX MATTERS

The following is a general summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to a shareholder that acquires, holds and/or disposes of shares of the Fund. This discussion only addresses U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. shareholders who hold their shares as capital assets and does not address all of the U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to particular shareholders in light of their individual circumstances. This discussion also does not address the tax consequences to shareholders who are subject to special rules, including, without limitation, shareholders with large positions in the Fund, financial institutions, insurance companies, dealers in securities or foreign currencies, foreign holders, persons who hold their shares as or in a hedge against currency risk, a constructive sale, or conversion transaction, holders who are subject to the federal alternative minimum tax, or tax-exempt or tax-deferred plans, accounts, or entities. In addition, the discussion does not address any state, local, or foreign tax consequences. The discussion reflects applicable tax laws of the United States as of the date of this Prospectus, which tax laws may be changed or subject to new interpretations by the courts or the IRS retroactively or prospectively. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of all U.S. federal income tax concerns affecting the Fund and its shareholders, and the discussion set forth herein does not constitute tax advice. **Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers to determine the specific tax consequences to them of investing in the Fund, including the applicable federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences to them and the effect of possible changes in tax laws.**

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the Tax Act) makes significant changes to the U.S. federal income tax rules for taxation of individuals and corporations, generally effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. Many of the changes applicable to individuals are temporary and would apply only to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026. There are only minor changes with respect to the specific rules only applicable to a RIC, such as the Fund. The Tax Act, however, makes numerous other changes to the tax rules that may affect shareholders and the Fund. You are urged to consult with your own tax advisor regarding how the Tax Act affects your investment in the Fund.

The Fund has elected to be treated, and intends to qualify each year as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. In order to qualify as a RIC, the Fund must satisfy certain requirements regarding the sources of its income, the diversification of its assets and the distribution of its income. As a RIC, the Fund is not expected to be subject to federal income tax on the income and gains it timely distributes to its shareholders.

The Fund invests primarily in equity securities. The Fund may distribute to its shareholders amounts that are treated as long-term capital gain or ordinary income (which may include short-term capital gains). These distributions may be subject to federal, state and local taxation, depending on a shareholder's situation. If so, they are taxable whether or not such distributions are reinvested. Net capital gain distributions (the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) are generally taxable at rates applicable to long-term capital gains regardless of how long a shareholder has held its shares. Long-term capital gains are currently taxable to non-corporate shareholders at a maximum federal income tax rate of 20%. In addition, certain individuals, estates and trusts are subject to a 3.8% Medicare tax on net investment income, including net capital gains and other taxable dividends. Corporate shareholders are taxed on capital gain at the same rate that applies to ordinary income, which the Tax Act has reduced to 21%. The Fund expects that a portion of its distributions to shareholders from its investments will qualify for the dividends-received deduction available to corporate shareholders and as qualified dividend income to non-corporate shareholders; provided certain holding period and other requirements are satisfied. Distributions in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits will represent a return of capital for federal income tax purposes to the extent of the shareholder's basis in the shares and thus will generally not be taxable to the shareholder. To the extent such distributions exceed the shareholder's basis in the shares, they will be treated as gain from the sale of such shares and will be treated as capital gain (assuming the shares are held as a capital asset).

In order for some portion of the dividends received by a Fund shareholder to be qualified dividend income, the Fund must meet certain holding period and other requirements with respect to some portion of the dividend-paying stocks in its portfolio and the shareholder must meet the same holding period and other requirements with respect to the shareholder's Fund shares. A dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income (at either the Fund or shareholder level) (i) if the dividend is received with respect to any share of stock held (or treated as held) for fewer than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date which is 60 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (or, in the case of certain preferred stock, 91 days during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date), (ii) to the extent that the recipient is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (iii) if the recipient elects to have the dividend income treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest, or (iv) if the dividend is received from a foreign corporation that is (a) not eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (with the exception of dividends paid on stock of such a foreign corporation that is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States) or (b) treated as a passive foreign investment company.

In general, dividends of net investment income received by corporate shareholders of the Fund will qualify for the 50% dividends-received deduction generally available to corporations to the extent of the amount of eligible dividends received by the Fund from domestic corporations for the taxable year. A dividend received by the Fund will not be treated as a qualifying dividend (i) if it has been received with respect to any share of stock that the Fund has held (or is treated as holding) for less than 46 days (91 days in the case of certain preferred

stock) during the 91-day period beginning on the date which is 45 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date in the case of certain preferred stock) or (ii) to the extent that the Fund is under an obligation (pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Moreover, the dividends-received deduction may be disallowed or reduced (i) if a corporate shareholder fails to satisfy the foregoing requirements with respect to its shares of the Fund or (ii) by application of various provisions of the Code (for instance, the dividends-received deduction is reduced in the case of a dividend received on debt-financed portfolio stock (generally, stock acquired with borrowed funds)). For purposes of determining the holding period for stock on which a dividend is received, such holding period is reduced for any period the recipient has an option to sell, is under a contractual obligation to sell or has made (and not closed) a short sale of substantially identical stock or securities, and in certain other circumstances.

The straddle rules discussed below could cause distributions that would otherwise qualify for the dividends-received deduction or constitute qualified dividend income to fail to satisfy the applicable holding period requirements.

As a RIC, the Fund will not be subject to federal income tax in any taxable year provided that it meets certain distribution requirements. The Fund may retain for investment some (or all) of its net capital gain. If the Fund retains any net capital gain or investment company taxable income, it will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on the amount retained. If the Fund retains any net capital gain, it may designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its shareholders who, if subject to federal income tax on long-term capital gains, (i) will be required to include in income for federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, their share of such undistributed amount; (ii) will be entitled to credit their proportionate shares of the federal income tax paid by the Fund on such undistributed amount against their federal income tax liabilities, if any; and (iii) may claim refunds to the extent the credit exceeds such liabilities. For federal income tax purposes, the basis of shares owned by a shareholder of the Fund will be increased by an amount equal to the difference between the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the shareholder's gross income and the tax deemed paid by the shareholder under clause (ii) of the preceding sentence.

Distributions declared by the Fund to shareholders of record in October, November or December and paid during the following January will be treated as having been paid by the Fund and received by shareholders in the year the distributions were declared.

Amounts not distributed on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% federal excise tax. To prevent imposition of the excise tax, the Fund must distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (i) 98% of its ordinary income (not taking into account any capital gains or losses) for the calendar year, (ii) 98.2% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for the one-year period ending October 31 of the calendar year, and (iii) any ordinary taxable income and capital gains for previous years that were not distributed during those years and on which the Fund paid no U.S. federal income tax. To prevent application of the excise tax, the Fund intends to make distributions in accordance with the calendar year distribution requirement.

Each shareholder will receive an annual statement summarizing the shareholder's distributions.

The Fund's investments may be subject to special provisions of the Code that may, among other things, (i) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, (ii) convert lower taxed long-term capital gains into higher taxed short-term capital gains or ordinary income, (iii) convert an ordinary loss or a deduction into a capital loss, (iv) cause the Fund to recognize income or gain without a corresponding receipt of cash, (v) adversely alter the characterization of certain Fund investments or distributions and/or (vi) affect the Fund's ability to qualify as a RIC.

Some of the Fund's index call options may be considered section 1256 contracts. Code section 1256 generally will require any gain or loss arising from the lapse, closing out or exercise of such positions to be treated as 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. In addition, the Fund generally will be required to mark to market (*i.e.*, treat as sold for fair market value) each outstanding index option position that is a section 1256 contract at the close of each taxable year (and on October 31 of each year for excise tax purposes). If a section 1256 contract held by the Fund at the end of a taxable year is sold in the following year, the amount of any gain or loss realized on such sale will be adjusted to reflect the gain or loss previously taken into account under the mark to market rules. In addition to most index call options, section 1256 contracts under the Code include certain other options contracts, certain regulated futures contracts, and certain other financial contracts.

The Fund's index call options that do not qualify as section 1256 contracts under the Code generally will be treated as equity options governed by Code section 1234. Pursuant to Code section 1234, if a written option expires unexercised, the premium received is short-term capital gain to the Fund. If the Fund enters into a closing transaction, the difference between the premium received for writing the option, and the amount paid to close out its position generally is short-term capital gain or loss.

Offsetting positions held by the Fund involving certain derivative instruments, such as options, forward, and futures, as well as its long and short positions in portfolio securities, may be considered, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, to constitute straddles. Straddles are defined to include offsetting positions in actively traded personal property. For instance, a straddle can arise if the Fund writes a certain covered call option on a stock (*i.e.*, a call on a stock owned by the Fund), or writes a call option on a stock index to the extent the Fund's stock holdings (and any subset thereof) and the index on which it has written a call overlap sufficiently to constitute a straddle under applicable Treasury Regulations. The tax treatment of straddles is governed by section 1092 of the Code which, in certain circumstances, overrides or modifies the provisions of section 1256 described above. If the Fund is treated as entering into a straddle and at least one (but not all) of the Fund's positions in derivative contracts comprising a part of such straddle is a section 1256 contract, described above, then such straddle could be characterized as a mixed straddle. The Fund may make one or more elections with respect to mixed straddles. Depending upon which election is made, if any, the results with respect to the Fund may differ. Generally, to the extent the straddle rules apply to positions established by the Fund, losses realized by the Fund may be deferred to the extent of unrealized gain in any offsetting positions. Moreover, as a result of the straddle rules, short-term capital loss on straddle positions may be recharacterized as long-term capital loss, and long-term capital gain may be characterized as short-term capital gain. In addition, the existence of a straddle can cause the holding periods to be tolled on the offsetting positions. As a result, the straddle rules could cause distributions that would otherwise constitute qualified dividend income or qualify for the dividends-received deduction to fail to satisfy the applicable holding period requirements described above. Furthermore, the Fund may be required to capitalize, rather than deduct currently, any interest expense and carrying charges applicable to a position that is part of a straddle, including any interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry any positions that are part of a straddle. The application of the straddle rules to certain offsetting Fund positions can therefore affect the amount, timing and/or character of distributions to shareholders, and may result in significant differences from the amount, timing and/or character of distributions that would have been made by the Fund if it had not entered into offsetting positions in respect of certain of its portfolio securities.

If the Fund enters into a constructive sale of any appreciated financial position in its portfolio, the Fund will be treated as if it had sold and immediately repurchased the property and must recognize gain (but not loss) with respect to that position. A constructive sale of an appreciated financial position occurs when the Fund enters into certain offsetting transactions with respect to the same or substantially identical property, including, but not limited to: (i) a short sale; (ii) an offsetting notional principal contract; (iii) a futures or forward contract; or (iv) other transactions identified in future Treasury Regulations. The character of the gain from constructive sales will depend upon the Fund's holding period in the appreciated financial position. Losses realized from a sale of a position that was previously the subject of a constructive sale will be recognized when the position is subsequently disposed of. The character of such losses will depend upon the Fund's holding period in the position beginning with the date the constructive sale was deemed to have occurred and the application of various

loss deferral provisions in the Code. Constructive sale treatment does not apply to certain closed transactions, including if such a transaction is closed on or before the 30th day after the close of the Fund's taxable year and the Fund holds the appreciated financial position unhedged throughout the 60-day period beginning with the day such transaction was closed.

The redemption, sale or exchange of shares normally will result in capital gain or loss to shareholders who hold their shares as capital assets. Generally, a shareholder's gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year. The gain or loss on shares held for one year or less will generally be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. Present law taxes both long-term and short-term capital gains of corporations at the same rates applicable to ordinary income. For non-corporate taxpayers, however, long-term capital gains are currently taxed at a maximum federal income tax rate of 20%, while short-term capital gains and other ordinary income are currently taxed at ordinary income rates. An additional 3.8% Medicare tax may also apply to certain individual, estate or trust shareholders' capital gain from the sale or other disposition of their shares. Any loss on the sale or disposition of shares held for six months or less will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any net capital gain distributions received by the shareholder on such shares. Any loss realized on a sale or exchange of shares of the Fund will be disallowed to the extent those shares of the Fund are replaced by other substantially identical shares of the Fund or other substantially identical stock or securities (including through reinvestment of dividends) within a period of 61 days beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the date of disposition of the original shares. In that event, the basis of the replacement shares will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

The Fund may be required to withhold U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 24% from all distributions and redemption proceeds payable to a shareholder if the shareholder fails to provide the Fund with his, her or its correct taxpayer identification number or to make required certifications, or if the shareholder has been notified by the IRS (or the IRS notifies the Fund) that he, she or it is subject to backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax; rather, it is a way in which the IRS ensures it will collect taxes otherwise due. Any amounts withheld may be credited against a shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability.

#### **CUSTODIAN AND TRANSFER AGENT**

The custodian of the Fund's assets is State Street Bank and Trust Company, One Lincoln Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 (the Custodian). The Custodian performs custodial, fund accounting and portfolio accounting services. The Fund's transfer, shareholder services and dividend paying agent is Computershare Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (the Transfer Agent). The Transfer Agent is located at 250 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021.

#### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, provides auditing services to the Fund. The principal business address of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is located at 1 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60606.

#### **LEGAL OPINION**

Certain legal matters in connection with the Common Shares will be passed upon for the Fund by Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, Washington, DC.



#### OTHER MATTERS

Standard & Poor<sup>®</sup> s, S&P, Standard & Poor s 500 , S&P 500 500 are trademarks of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. and the Fund has the right to use such trademarks pursuant to a licensing agreement. The Fund is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Standard & Poor s, a division of the McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ( S&P ), and S&P makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in the Fund.

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 Index to track general stock market performance. S&P s only relationship to the Fund is the licensing of certain trademarks and trade names of S&P and of the Index which is determined, composed and calculated by S&P without regard to the Fund. S&P has no obligation to take the needs of the Fund or the owners of the Fund into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the 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 determination or 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 Product.

S&P DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE 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 LICENSEE, OWNERS OF THE FUND, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE 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 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.

#### AVAILABLE INFORMATION

The Fund is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the 1934 Act ) and the 1940 Act and is required to file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Reports, proxy statements, and other information about the Fund can be inspected at the offices of the NYSE.

This Prospectus does not contain all of the information in the Fund s Registration Statement, including amendments, exhibits, and schedules.

Additional information about the Fund and the Common Shares can be found in the Fund s Registration Statement (including amendments, exhibits, and schedules) on Form N-2 filed with the SEC. The SEC maintains a web site (<http://www.sec.gov>) that contains the Fund s Registration Statement, other documents incorporated by reference, and other information the Fund has filed electronically with the SEC, including proxy statements and reports filed under the Exchange Act.



**TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THE  
STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	1
<u>Investment Objective and Policies</u>	1
<u>Investment Restrictions</u>	1
<u>Portfolio Composition</u>	3
<u>Hedging Transactions</u>	7
<u>Management of the Fund</u>	13
<u>Investment Adviser, Sub-Advisers and Portfolio Managers</u>	32
<u>Code of Ethics</u>	40
<u>Proxy Voting Policies</u>	40
<u>Portfolio Transactions and Brokerage</u>	41
<u>Net Asset Value</u>	42
<u>Distributions</u>	43
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	45
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	46
<u>Description of Shares</u>	47
<u>Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust and By-Laws</u>	50
<u>Repurchase of Fund Shares; Conversion to Open-End Fund</u>	51
<u>Tax Matters</u>	53
<u>Financial Statements</u>	61
<u>Custodian and Transfer Agent</u>	62
<u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	62
<u>Legal Opinion</u>	62
<u>Other Matters</u>	62
<u>Additional Information</u>	63
<u>Appendix A Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures of Nuveen Asset Management</u>	A-1
<u>Appendix B ISS Proxy Voting Guidelines</u>	B-1

**1.6 Million Common Shares**

**Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund**

PROSPECTUS

[        ], 2019

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LPR-JCE-0219

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

The information in this Statement of Additional Information is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This Statement of Additional Information is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer and sale is not permitted.

**1.6 MILLION COMMON SHARES**

**NUVEEN CORE EQUITY ALPHA FUND**

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (the Fund) is a diversified, closed-end management investment company.

This Statement of Additional Information (the SAI) relating to common shares of the Fund (Common Shares) does not constitute a prospectus, but should be read in conjunction with the Fund's prospectus relating thereto dated [ ], 2019 (the Prospectus). This SAI does not include all information that a prospective investor should consider before purchasing Common Shares. Investors should obtain and read the Fund's Prospectus prior to purchasing such shares. In addition, the Fund's financial statements and the independent registered public accounting firm's report therein included in the Fund's annual report dated December 31, 2017, are incorporated herein by reference. The information with respect to the six months ended June 30, 2018 is unaudited and is included in the Fund's 2018 Semi-Annual Report which also is incorporated herein by reference. A copy of the Fund's Prospectus, Annual and Semi-Annual reports to shareholders, and other information about the Fund may be obtained without charge by calling (800) 257-8787, by writing to the Fund or from the Fund's website (<http://www.nuveen.com>). You may also obtain a copy of the Fund's Prospectus on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's (the SEC) website (<http://www.sec.gov>). Capitalized terms used but not defined in this SAI have the meanings ascribed to them in the Prospectus.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	1
<u>Investment Objective and Policies</u>	1
<u>Investment Restrictions</u>	1
<u>Portfolio Composition</u>	3
<u>Hedging Transactions</u>	7
<u>Management of the Fund</u>	13
<u>Investment Adviser, Sub-Advisers and Portfolio Managers</u>	32
<u>Code of Ethics</u>	40
<u>Proxy Voting Policies</u>	40
<u>Portfolio Transactions and Brokerage</u>	41
<u>Net Asset Value</u>	42
<u>Distributions</u>	43
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	45
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	46
<u>Description of Shares</u>	47
<u>Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust and By-Laws</u>	50
<u>Repurchase of Fund Shares: Conversion to Open-End Fund</u>	51
<u>Tax Matters</u>	53
<u>Financial Statements</u>	61
<u>Custodian and Transfer Agent</u>	62
<u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	62
<u>Legal Opinion</u>	62
<u>Other Matters</u>	62
<u>Additional Information</u>	63
<u>Appendix A Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures of Nuveen Asset Management</u>	A-1
<u>Appendix B ISS Proxy Voting Guidelines</u>	B-1

### USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from the issuance of Common Shares hereunder will be invested in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies as stated below. Pending investment, the timing of which may vary depending on the size of the investment but in no case is expected to exceed 30 days, it is anticipated that the proceeds will be invested in short-term or long-term securities issued by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities or in high-quality, short-term money market instruments.

### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES

The Fund's investment objective, which is considered fundamental and may not be changed without shareholder approval, is to provide an attractive level of total return. The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective primarily through long-term capital appreciation and secondarily through income and gains. The Fund invests in a portfolio of common stocks selected from among the stocks comprising the S&P 500® Index (the Index) employing a proprietary mathematical process that seeks to produce risk-adjusted excess returns over the Index (commonly referred to as alpha) over extended periods of time with an equal or lesser amount of investment risk compared to the Index. In addition, to seek to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted returns through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the Index over extended periods of time, the Fund writes (sells) index call options and call options on custom baskets of securities.

A more complete description of the Fund's investment objective and policies is set forth in the Fund's Prospectus.

### INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

Except as described below, the Fund, as a fundamental policy, may not, without the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding Common Shares and, if applicable, preferred shares voting together as a single class, and of the holders of a majority of the outstanding preferred shares voting as a separate class, if applicable:

(1) Issue senior securities, as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act), other than (i) preferred shares that immediately after issuance will have asset coverage of at least 200%, (ii) indebtedness that immediately after issuance will have asset coverage of at least 300% or (iii) the borrowings permitted by investment restriction (2) set forth below;

(2) Borrow money, except as permitted by the 1940 Act and exemptive orders granted under the 1940 Act;

(3) Act as underwriter of another issuer's securities, except to the extent that the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the 1933 Act), in connection with the purchase and sale of portfolio securities or acting as an agent or one of a group of co-agents in originating adjustable rate senior loans;

(4) Invest more than 25% of its total assets in securities of issuers in any one industry, provided, however, that such limitation shall not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or by its agencies or instrumentalities, and provided further that for purposes of this limitation, the term issuer shall not include a lender selling a participation to the Fund together with any other person interpositioned between such lender and the Fund with respect to a participation;

(5) Purchase or sell real estate, except that this shall not prevent the Fund from investing in securities of companies that deal in real estate or are engaged in the real estate business, including real estate investment trusts, and securities secured by real estate or interests therein and the Fund may hold and sell real estate or mortgages on real estate acquired through default, liquidation or other distributions of an interest in real estate as a result of the Fund's ownership of such securities;

(6) Purchase or sell physical commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments except that this shall not prevent the Fund from purchasing or selling options, futures contracts or derivative instruments or from investing in securities or other instruments backed by physical commodities;

(7) Make loans, except as permitted by the 1940 Act and exemptive orders granted under the 1940 Act; and

(8) With respect to 75% of the value of the Fund's total assets, purchase any securities (other than obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or by its agencies or instrumentalities), if, as a result, more than 5% of the Fund's total assets would then be invested in securities of a single issuer or if, as a result, the Fund would hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any single issuer.

For purposes of the foregoing, majority of the outstanding, when used with respect to particular shares of the Fund, means (i) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the shares are present or represented by proxy, or (ii) more than 50% of the shares, whichever is less.

Notwithstanding the limitation set forth in subparagraph (4) above, both the institution selling the loan and the ultimate borrower would be considered issuers for purposes of this concentration policy unless the participation shifts to the Fund the direct debtor-creditor relationship with the borrower.

For the purpose of applying the limitation set forth in subparagraph (8) above, a governmental issuer shall be deemed the single issuer of a security when its assets and revenues are separate from other governmental entities and its securities are backed only by its assets and revenues. Similarly, in the case of a non-governmental issuer, if the security is backed only by the assets and revenues of the non-governmental issuer, then such non-governmental issuer would be deemed to be the single issuer. Where a security is also backed by the enforceable obligation of a superior or unrelated governmental or other entity (other than a bond insurer), it shall also be included in the computation of securities owned that are issued by such governmental or other entity. Where a security is guaranteed by a governmental entity or some other facility, such as a bank guarantee or letter of credit, such a guarantee or letter of credit would be considered a separate security and would be treated as an issue of such government, other entity or bank.

Under the 1940 Act, the Fund may invest only up to 10% of its total assets in the aggregate in shares of other investment companies and only up to 5% of its total assets in any one investment company, provided the investment does not represent more than 3% of the voting stock of the acquired investment company at the time such shares are purchased. As a stockholder in any investment company, the Fund will bear its ratable share of that investment company's expenses, and will remain subject to payment of the Fund's management, advisory and administrative fees with respect to assets so invested. Holders of Common Shares (Common Shareholders) would therefore be subject to duplicative expenses to the extent the Fund invests in other investment companies. In addition, the securities of other investment companies may be leveraged and therefore will be subject to the same leverage risks described herein. The Fund will consider the investments of underlying investment companies when determining compliance with Rule 35d-1 under the 1940 Act and when determining compliance with its own concentration policy, in each case to the extent the Fund has sufficient information about such investments after making a reasonable effort to obtain current information about the investments of underlying companies.

In addition to the foregoing fundamental investment policies, the Fund is also subject to the following non-fundamental restrictions and policies, which may be changed by the Fund's Board of Trustees (the Board). The Fund may not:

(1) sell securities short, except that the Fund may make short sales of securities if, at all times when a short position is open, the Fund owns at least an equal amount of such securities or securities convertible into or exchangeable for, without payment of any further consideration, securities of the same issuer as, and equal in amount to, the securities sold short, and provided that transactions in options, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, or other derivative instruments are not deemed to constitute selling securities short.

(2) purchase securities of open-end or closed-end investment companies except in compliance with the 1940 Act or any exemptive relief obtained thereunder.

(3) purchase securities of companies for the purpose of exercising control.

The restrictions and other limitations set forth above will apply only at the time of purchase of securities and will not be considered violated unless an excess or deficiency occurs or exists immediately after and as a result of an acquisition of securities.

Although the Fund has no current intention to issue preferred shares or incur borrowings, the Fund may be subject to certain restrictions imposed by either guidelines of one or more nationally recognized statistical rating organizations ( NRSROs ) that may issue ratings for preferred shares, if any, commercial paper or notes, or, if the Fund borrows from a lender, by the lender. These guidelines may impose asset coverage or portfolio composition requirements that are more stringent than those imposed on the Fund by the 1940 Act. If these restrictions were to apply, it is not anticipated that these covenants or guidelines would impede Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC ( Nuveen Fund Advisors or the Adviser ) Nuveen Asset Management, LLC ( Nuveen Asset Management ), or Intech Investment Management LLC ( Intech and together with Nuveen Asset Management, the Sub-Advisers ), as applicable, from managing the Fund's portfolio in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

### PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

In addition to the investments and securities described in the Fund's Prospectus section The Fund's Investments Portfolio Composition and Other Information, the Fund may invest in other securities as described below:

*U.S. Government Debt Securities.* The Fund may invest in U.S. Government debt securities, U.S. local government debt securities and U.S. Government Agency securities of any maturity, including U.S. Government mortgage-backed securities. U.S. Government securities are debt securities issued and/or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. Government that are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States. U.S. Government Agency securities, as used herein, include debt securities issued and/or guaranteed as to principal and interest by U.S. Government Agencies, U.S. Government-sponsored enterprises and U.S. Government instrumentalities that are not direct obligations of the United States. These securities may not be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. U.S. Government-sponsored enterprises and instrumentalities are not agencies of the U.S. Government. Government sponsored enterprises are private corporations sponsored by the federal government. U.S. Government agency securities include securities issued by (a) the Federal Housing Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Small Business Administration and the Government National Mortgage Association, whose securities are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States; (b) the Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, whose securities are supported by the right of the agency to borrow from the U.S. Treasury; (c) the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, whose securities are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase certain obligations of the agency or instrumentality; and (d) the Student Loan Marketing Association, whose securities are supported only by its credit. While the U.S. Government provides financial support to such U.S. Government-sponsored agencies or instrumentalities, no assurance can be given that it always will do so since it is not so obligated by law. Securities issued by these entities are generally not supported by the full faith and credit of the United States. Because the U.S. Government is not obligated to provide support to its instrumentalities, the Fund will invest in obligations issued by these instrumentalities only where the Fund is satisfied that the credit risk with respect to the issuers is minimal. The U.S. Government, its agencies, and instrumentalities do not guarantee the market value of their securities. Consequently, the value of such securities may fluctuate.

Certificates of Deposit issued against funds deposited in a bank or a savings and loan association. Such certificates are for a definite period of time, earn a specified rate of return, and are normally negotiable. The issuer of a certificate of deposit agrees to pay the amount deposited plus interest to the bearer of the certificate on the date specified thereon. Under current Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regulations, the maximum insurance payable as to any one certificate of deposit is \$250,000; therefore, certificates of deposit purchased by the Fund may not be fully insured.

*Total Return Swaps.* The Fund may invest in total return swaps for hedging purposes. The Fund will enter into swap agreements only with counterparties that meet certain standards of creditworthiness.

In a total return swap, the Fund exchanges with another party their respective commitments to pay or receive the total return of an underlying asset and a floating LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) rate. The Fund usually will enter into total return swaps on a net basis (*i.e.*, the two payment streams are netted out with the Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments). The net amount of the excess, if any, of the Fund's obligations over its entitlements with respect to each interest rate swap will be accrued on a daily basis, and an amount of cash or liquid securities having an aggregate net asset value ( NAV ) at least equal to the accrued excess will be segregated by the Fund.

The use of swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions, including the risk that the counterparty may be unable to fulfill the transaction. If there is a default by the other party to such a transaction, the Fund will have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction. If Nuveen Asset Management is incorrect in their forecasts of market values, interest rates and other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund would be unfavorably affected.

*Repurchase agreements.* At the time the Fund purchases securities pursuant to a repurchase agreement, it simultaneously agrees to resell and redeliver such securities to the seller, who also simultaneously agrees to purchase back the securities at a fixed price and time. This assures a predetermined yield for the Fund during its holding period, since the resale price is always greater than the purchase price and reflects an agreed-upon market rate. Such actions afford an opportunity for the Fund to invest temporarily available cash. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements only with respect to obligations of the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities; certificates of deposit; or bankers' acceptances in which the Fund may invest. The Fund will only enter into repurchase agreements with registered securities dealers or domestic banks that, in Nuveen Asset Management's opinion, present minimal credit risk. Repurchase agreements may be considered loans to the seller, collateralized by the underlying securities. The risk to the Fund is limited to the ability of the seller to pay the agreed-upon sum on the repurchase date; in the event of default, the repurchase agreement provides that the Fund is entitled to sell the underlying collateral. If the seller defaults under a repurchase agreement when the value of the underlying collateral is less than the repurchase price, the Fund could incur a loss of both principal and interest. The Fund's repurchase agreements will provide that the value of the collateral underlying the repurchase agreement will always be at least equal to the repurchase price, including any accrued interest earned on the agreement, and will be marked-to-market daily. Nuveen Asset Management monitors the value of the collateral at the time the action is entered into and at all times during the term of the repurchase agreement. Nuveen Asset Management does so in an effort to determine that the value of the collateral always equals or exceeds the agreed-upon repurchase price to be paid to the Fund. In the event the value of the collateral declines below the repurchase price, Nuveen Asset Management will demand additional collateral from the issuer to increase the collateral to at least that of the repurchase price, including interest. If the seller were to be subject to a federal bankruptcy proceeding, the ability of the Fund to liquidate the collateral could be delayed or impaired because of certain provisions of the bankruptcy laws.

*Illiquid Securities.* The Fund may invest in equity securities that, at the time of investment, are illiquid (*i.e.*, securities that are not readily marketable). The Fund's Equity Portfolio will be invested in liquid equity securities selected from the Index. However, certain over-the-counter ( OTC ) options that the Fund may sell



may be deemed to be illiquid. For this purpose, illiquid securities may include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities the disposition of which is restricted under the federal securities laws), securities that may only be resold pursuant to Rule 144A under the 1933 Act, that are deemed to be illiquid and certain repurchase agreements. The Board or its delegate has the ultimate authority to determine which securities are liquid or illiquid. The Board has delegated to Nuveen Asset Management the day-to-day determination of the illiquidity of any security held by the Fund, although it has retained oversight and ultimate responsibility for such determinations. No definitive liquidity criteria are used. The Board has directed Nuveen Asset Management when making liquidity determinations to look for such factors as (i) the nature of the market for a security (including the institutional private resale market; the frequency of trades and quotes for the security; the number of dealers willing to purchase or sell the security; the amount of time normally needed to dispose of the security; and the method of soliciting offers and the mechanics of transfer), (ii) the terms of certain securities or other instruments allowing for the disposition to a third party or the issuer thereof (*e.g.*, certain repurchase obligations and demand instruments) and (iii) other relevant factors.

Restricted securities may be sold only in privately negotiated transactions or in a public offering with respect to which a registration statement is in effect under the 1933 Act. Where registration is required, the Fund may be obligated to pay all or part of the registration expenses and a considerable period may elapse between the time of the decision to sell and the time the Fund may be permitted to sell a security under an effective registration statement. If, during such a period, adverse market conditions were to develop, the Fund might obtain a less favorable price than that which prevailed when it decided to sell. Illiquid securities will be priced at fair value as determined in good faith by the Board or its delegate.

*When-Issued And Delayed Delivery Transactions.* The Fund may purchase and sell securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis, making payment or taking delivery at a later date, normally within 15 to 45 days of the trade date. On such transactions the payment obligation and the interest rate are fixed at the time the purchaser enters into the commitment. Beginning on the date the Fund enters into a commitment to purchase securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis, the Fund is required under rules of the SEC to maintain in a separate account liquid assets, consisting of cash, cash equivalents or liquid securities having a market value at all times of at least equal to the amount of any delayed payment commitment. Income generated by any such assets that provide taxable income for U.S. federal income tax purposes is includable in the taxable income of the Fund. The Fund may enter into contracts to purchase securities on a forward basis (*i.e.*, where settlement will occur more than 60 days from the date of the transaction) only to the extent that the Fund specifically collateralizes such obligations with a security that is expected to be called or mature within 60 days before or after the settlement date of the forward transaction. The commitment to purchase securities on a when-issued, delayed delivery or forward basis may involve an element of risk because no interest accrues on the bonds prior to settlement and at the time of delivery the market value may be less than their cost.

*Preferred Stocks.* Preferred stocks with predominantly equity investment characteristics, like common stocks, represent an equity ownership in an issuer. Generally, preferred stocks have a priority of claim over common stocks in dividend payments and upon liquidation of the issuer. Unlike common stocks, preferred stocks do not usually have voting rights. Preferred stocks in some instances are convertible into common stock. Although they are equity securities, preferred stocks have certain characteristics of both debt securities and common stocks. They are debt-like in that their promised income is contractually fixed. They are common stock-like in that they do not have rights to precipitate bankruptcy proceedings or collection activities in the event of missed payments. Furthermore, they have many of the key characteristics of equity due to their subordinated position in an issuer's capital structure and because their quality and value are heavily dependent on the profitability of the issuer rather than on any legal claims to specific assets or cash flows.

In order to be payable, dividends on preferred stock must be declared by the issuer's board of directors or trustees. In addition, distributions on preferred stock may be subject to deferral and thus may not be automatically payable. Income payments on some preferred stocks are cumulative, causing dividends and

distributions to accrue even if not declared by the board of directors or trustees or otherwise made payable. Other preferred stocks are non-cumulative, meaning that skipped dividends and distributions do not continue to accrue. There is no assurance that dividends on preferred stocks in which the Fund invests will be declared or otherwise made payable. The Fund may invest in non-cumulative preferred stock, although Nuveen Asset Management would consider, among other factors, their non-cumulative nature in making any decision to purchase or sell such securities.

Shares of preferred stock have a liquidation value that generally equals their original purchase price at the date of issuance. The market values of preferred stocks may be affected by favorable and unfavorable changes impacting the issuers' industries or sectors. They also may be affected by actual and anticipated changes or ambiguities in the tax status of the security and by actual and anticipated changes or ambiguities in tax laws, such as changes in corporate and individual income tax rates or the characterization of dividends as tax-advantaged.

Because the claim on an issuer's earnings represented by preferred stock may become disproportionately large when interest rates fall below the rate payable on the stock or for other reasons, the issuer may redeem preferred stock, generally after an initial period of call protection in which the stock is not redeemable. Thus, in declining interest rate environments in particular, the Fund's holdings of higher dividend-paying preferred stocks may be reduced and the Fund may be unable to acquire securities paying comparable rates with the redemption proceeds.

Preferred stocks that have predominantly fixed-income characteristics are typically issued by corporations or by an affiliated business trust of a corporation. The market for these preferred stocks consists of both fixed and adjustable coupon rate securities that are either perpetual in nature or have stated maturity dates. These preferred stocks are typically junior and fully subordinated liabilities of an issuer or the beneficiary of a guarantee that is junior and fully subordinated to the other liabilities of the guarantor. In addition, these types of preferred stocks typically permit an issuer to defer the payment of income for eighteen months or more without triggering an event of default. Generally, the deferral period is five years or more. In certain instances, a final maturity date may be extended and/or the final payment of principal may be deferred at the issuer's option for a specified time without any adverse consequence to the issuer. No redemption can typically take place unless all cumulative payment obligations have been met, although issuers may be able to engage in open-market repurchases without regard to any cumulative dividends payable.

*Convertible Securities.* Convertible securities are bonds, debentures, notes, preferred securities or other securities that may be converted or exchanged (by the holder or 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 general characteristics similar to both debt securities and common stocks. The interest paid on convertible securities may be fixed or floating rate. Although to a lesser extent than with debt 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 stocks and, therefore, will also react to the variations in the general market for common stocks. Depending upon the relationship of the conversion price to the market value of the underlying common stock, a convertible security may trade more like a common stock than a debt instrument.

*Warrants.* A warrant is a certificate that gives the holder of the warrant the right to buy, at a specified time or specified times, from the issuer of the warrant, the common stock of the issuer at a specified price.

*Depository Receipts ADRs, EDRs, and GDRs.* The Fund may purchase depository receipts such as American Depositary Receipts ( "ADRs" ), European Depositary Receipts ( "EDRs" ) and Global Depositary Receipts ( "GDRs" ). ADRs, EDRs and GDRs are certificates evidencing ownership of shares of foreign issuers and are alternatives to purchasing directly the underlying foreign securities in their national markets and currencies.

*Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).* REITs are companies that own and manage real estate, including apartment buildings, offices, shopping centers, industrial buildings and hotels. By investing in REITs, the Fund may gain exposure to the real estate market with greater liquidity and diversification than through direct ownership of property, which can be costly and require ongoing management and maintenance, and which can be difficult to convert into cash when needed.

*Corporate Bonds.* Corporate bonds generally are used by corporations to borrow money from investors. The issuer pays the investor a fixed or variable rate of interest and normally must repay the amount borrowed on or before maturity. Certain bonds are perpetual in that they have no maturity date.

*Structured Notes.* The Fund may utilize structured notes and similar instruments for investment purposes and also for hedging purposes. Structured notes are privately negotiated debt obligations where the principal and/or interest is determined by reference to the performance of a benchmark asset, market or interest rate ( embedded index ), such as selected securities, an index of securities or specified interest rates or the differential performance of two assets or markets. The terms of such structured instruments normally provide that their principal and/or interest payments are to be adjusted upwards or downwards (but not ordinarily below zero) to reflect changes in the embedded index while the structured instruments are outstanding. As a result, the interest and/or principal payments that may be made on a structured product may vary widely, depending on a variety of factors, including the volatility of the embedded index and the effect of changes in the embedded index on principal and/or interest payments. The rate of return on structured notes may be determined by applying a multiplier to the performance or differential performance of the referenced index(es) of other asset(s). Application of a multiplier involves leverage that will serve to magnify the potential for gain and the risk of loss.

*Swaptions.* The Fund may enter into swaptions in order to enhance the Fund's total return or for hedging purposes. A swaption is an OTC traded option that gives the seller the right, but not the obligation, to enter into an interest rate swap at a set rate on an agreed upon future date. Although the typical swaption is an option on an interest rate swap, a swaption could be an option on any type of swap. In return for this flexibility, the purchaser of the swaption pays a premium determined by taking into account the duration of the option period, the term and strike rate of the swap and the volatility of interest rates. If interest rates fall, the purchaser of the swaption will let the swaption expire and transact an interest rate swap at the prevailing market rate. Nuveen Asset Management believes that swaptions confer all the benefits of an interest rate swap as well as being a useful tool where there is uncertainty of outcome. There is currently a liquid swaption market on the LIBOR rates of all the world's major currencies. There are three styles of swaptions: American, in which the holder is allowed to enter the swap on any day that falls within a range of two dates; Bermudian, in which the holder is allowed to enter the swap on a sequence of dates; and European, in which the holder is allowed to enter the swap on one specified date.

*Commercial Paper.* Commercial paper represents short-term unsecured promissory notes issued in bearer form by corporations such as banks or bank holding companies and finance companies. Commercial paper may include variable rate master demand notes issued by corporations to finance their current operations. Master demand notes are direct lending arrangements between the Fund and a corporation. There is no secondary market for such notes. However, they are redeemable by the Fund at any time. Nuveen Asset Management will consider the financial condition of the corporation (e.g., earning power, cash flow, and other liquidity measures) and will continuously monitor the corporation's ability to meet all of its financial obligations, because the Fund's liquidity might be impaired if the corporation were unable to pay principal and interest on demand. Investments in commercial paper will be limited to commercial paper rated in the highest categories by a NRSRO and that mature within one year of the date of purchase or carry a variable or floating rate of interest.

## HEDGING TRANSACTIONS

*Options on Securities.* The Fund may purchase put and call options on stock, bonds or other securities to hedge against adverse market shifts.

As a holder of a put option, the Fund will have the right to sell the securities underlying the option and as the holder of a call option, the Fund will have the right to purchase the securities underlying the option, in each case at their exercise price at any time during the option period prior to the option's expiration date. The Fund may choose to exercise the options it holds, permit them to expire or terminate them prior to their expiration by entering into closing sale or purchase transactions. In entering into a closing sale or purchase transaction, the Fund would sell an option of the same series as the one it has purchased. The ability of the Fund to enter into a closing sale transaction with respect to options purchased and to enter into a closing purchase transaction with respect to options sold depends on the existence of a liquid secondary market.

In purchasing a put option, the Fund will seek to benefit from a decline in the market price of the underlying security, while in purchasing a call option, the Fund will seek to benefit from an increase in the market price of the underlying security. If an option purchased is not sold or exercised when it has remaining value, or if the market price of the underlying security remains equal to or greater than the exercise price, in the case of a put, or remains equal to or below the exercise price, in the case of a call, during the life of the option, the option will expire worthless. For the purchase of an option to be profitable, the market price of the underlying security must decline sufficiently below the exercise price, in the case of a put, and must increase sufficiently above the exercise price, in the case of a call, to cover the premium and transaction costs. Because option premiums paid by the Fund are small in relation to the market value of the instruments underlying the options, purchasing options can result in amounts of leverage to the Fund. The leverage caused by trading in options could cause the Fund's NAV to be subject to more frequent and wider fluctuation than would be the case if the Fund did not invest in options.

The Fund will receive a premium when it writes put and call options, which increases the Fund's return on the underlying security in the event the option expires unexercised or is closed out at a profit. By writing a call, the Fund will limit its opportunity to profit from an increase in the market value of the underlying security above the exercise price of the option for as long as the Fund's obligation as the seller of the option continues. Upon the exercise of a put option written by the Fund, the Fund may suffer an economic loss equal to the difference between the price at which the Fund is required to purchase the underlying security and its market value at the time of the option exercise, less the premium received for writing the option. Upon the exercise of a call option written by the Fund, the Fund may suffer an economic loss equal to an amount not less than the excess of the security's market value at the time of the option exercise over the Fund's acquisition cost of the security, less the sum of the premium received for writing the option and the difference, if any, between the call price paid to the Fund and the Fund's acquisition cost of the security. Thus, in some periods the Fund might receive less total return and in other periods greater total return from its hedged positions than it would have received from its underlying securities unhedged.

*Options on Stock and Bond Indexes.* The Fund may purchase put and call options on stock indexes and bond indexes to hedge against risks of market-wide price movements affecting its assets. In addition, the Fund may write covered put and call options on stock and bond indexes. The advisability of using stock or bond index options to hedge against the risk of market-wide movements will depend on the extent of diversification of the Fund's investments and the sensitivity of its investments to factors influencing the underlying index. The effectiveness of purchasing or writing stock or bond index options as a hedging technique will depend upon the extent to which price movements in the Fund's investments correlate with price movements in the stock or bond index selected. In addition, successful use by the Fund of options on stock or bond indexes will be subject to the ability of the adviser to predict correctly changes in the relationship of the underlying index to the Fund's portfolio holdings. No assurance can be given that Nuveen Asset Management's judgment in this respect will be correct.

When the Fund writes an option on a stock or bond index, it will establish a segregated account with its custodian in which the Fund will deposit liquid securities in an amount equal to the market value of the option, and will maintain the account while the option is open.

*Stock and Bond Index Futures Contracts.* The Fund may purchase and sell stock or bond index futures as a hedge against movements in the equity or bond markets. Stock and bond index futures contracts are agreements in which one party agrees to deliver to the other an amount of cash equal to a specific dollar amount times the difference between the value of a specific stock or bond index at the close of the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the agreement is made. No physical delivery of securities is made.

For example, if Nuveen Asset Management expects general stock or bond market prices to decline, they might sell a futures contract on a particular stock or bond index. If that index does in fact decline, the value of some or all of the securities in the Fund's portfolio may also be expected to decline, but that decrease would be offset in part by the increase in the value of the Fund's position in such futures contract. If, on the other hand, Nuveen Asset Management expects general stock or bond market prices to rise, they might purchase a stock or bond index futures contract as a hedge against an increase in prices of particular securities they want ultimately to purchase. If in fact the stock or bond index does rise, the price of the particular securities intended to be purchased may also increase, but that increase would be offset in part by the increase in the value of the Fund's futures contract resulting from the increase in the index. The Fund may purchase futures contracts on a stock or bond index to enable Nuveen Asset Management to gain immediate exposure to the underlying securities market pending the investment in individual securities of the Fund's portfolio.

Under regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) currently in effect, which may change from time to time, with respect to futures contracts purchased by the Fund, the Fund will set aside in a segregated account liquid securities with a value at least equal to the value of instruments underlying such futures contracts less the amount of initial margin on deposit for such contracts. The current view of the staff of the SEC is that the Fund's long and short positions in futures contracts must be collateralized with cash or certain liquid assets held in a segregated account or covered in order to counter the impact of any potential leveraging.

Parties to a futures contract must make initial margin deposits to secure performance of the contract. There are also requirements to make variation margin deposits from time to time as the value of the futures contract fluctuates.

The Fund and Nuveen Fund Advisors have claimed, respectively, an exclusion from registration as a commodity pool operator and as commodity trading advisors under the Commodity Exchange Act (the CEA) and, therefore, neither the Fund, Nuveen Fund Advisors, nor their officers and directors, are subject to the registration requirements of the CEA or regulation as a commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor under the CEA. The Fund reserves the right to engage in transactions involving futures and options thereon to the extent allowed by CFTC regulations in effect from time to time and in accordance with the Fund's policies. In addition, certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code) may limit the extent to which the Fund may enter into futures contracts or engage in options transactions. See Tax Matters.

The potential loss related to the purchase of an option on a futures contract is limited to the premium paid for the option (plus transaction costs).

With respect to options purchased by the Fund, there are no daily cash payments made by the Fund to reflect changes in the value of the underlying contract; however, the value of the option does change daily and that change would be reflected in the NAV of the Fund.

*Other Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts.* The Fund's use of derivative instruments also may include (i) U.S. Treasury security or U.S. Government Agency security futures contracts and (ii) options on U.S. Treasury security or U.S. Government Agency security futures contracts. All such futures contracts and options thereon must be traded and listed on an exchange. U.S. Treasury and U.S. Government Agency futures contracts are standardized contracts for the future delivery of a U.S. Treasury Bond or U.S. Treasury Note or a U.S. Government Agency security or their equivalent at a future date at a price set at the time of the contract. An option on a U.S. Treasury or U.S. Government Agency futures contract, as contrasted with the direct investment

in such a contract, gives the purchaser of the option the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a U.S. Treasury or U.S. Government Agency futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time on or before the expiration date of the option. Upon exercise of an option, the delivery of the futures position by the seller of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated balance in the seller's future margin account, which represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract exceeds the exercise price of the option on the futures contract.

*Risks Associated with Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts.* Futures prices are affected by many factors, such as current and anticipated short-term interest rates, changes in volatility of the underlying instrument and the time remaining until expiration of the contract. A purchase or sale of a futures contract may result in losses in excess of the amount invested in the futures contract. While the Fund may enter into futures contracts and options on futures contracts for hedging purposes, the use of futures contracts and options on futures contracts might result in a poorer overall performance for the Fund than if it had not engaged in any such transactions. If, for example, the Fund had insufficient cash, it might have to sell a portion of its underlying portfolio of securities in order to meet daily variation margin requirements on its futures contracts or options on futures contracts at a time when it might be disadvantageous to do so. There may be an imperfect correlation between the Fund's portfolio holdings and futures contracts or options on futures contracts entered into by the Fund, which may prevent the Fund from achieving the intended hedge or expose the Fund to risk of loss. The degree of imperfection of correlation depends on circumstances such as: variations in speculative market demand for futures, futures options and the related securities, including technical influences in futures and futures options trading and differences between the securities markets and the securities underlying the standard contracts available for trading. Futures prices are affected by many factors, such as current and anticipated short-term interest rates, changes in volatility of the underlying instrument and the time remaining until the expiration of the contract. Further, the Fund's use of futures contracts and options on futures contracts to reduce risk involves costs and will be subject to Nuveen Asset Management's ability to predict correctly changes in interest rate relationships or other factors. A decision as to whether, when and how to use futures contracts involves the exercise of skill and judgment, and even a well-conceived transaction may be unsuccessful to some degree because of market behavior or unexpected stock price or interest rate trends. No assurance can be given that Nuveen Asset Management's judgment in this respect will be correct.

The Fund's futures transactions will ordinarily be entered into for traditional hedging purposes. There is, however, no limit on the amount of the Fund's assets that can be put at risk through the use of futures contracts and options thereon and the value of the Fund's futures contracts and options thereon may equal or exceed 100% of the value of the Fund's total assets.

Futures exchanges may limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in certain futures contract prices during a single trading day. The daily limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day's settlement price at the end of the current trading session. Once the daily limit has been reached in a futures contract subject to the limit, no more trades may be made on that day at a price beyond that limit. The daily limit governs only price movements during a particular trading day and therefore does not limit potential losses because the limit may work to prevent the liquidation of unfavorable positions. For example, futures prices have occasionally moved to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of positions and subjecting some holders of futures contracts to substantial losses. Stock index futures contracts are not normally subject to such daily price change limitations.

*The Fund may invest in other options.* An option is an instrument that gives the holder of the instrument the right, but not the obligation, to purchase or sell a predetermined number of specific securities (*i.e.*, preferred stocks, common stocks or bonds) at a stated price within the expiration period of the instrument, which is generally less than 12 months from its issuance. If the right is not exercised after a specified period but prior to the expiration, the option expires. Both put and call options may be used by the Fund.

The Fund may purchase and sell various other kinds of financial futures contracts and options thereon. Futures contracts may be based on various debt securities and securities indexes. Such transactions involve a risk of loss or depreciation due to unanticipated adverse changes in securities prices, which may exceed the Fund's initial investment in these contracts. The Fund will only purchase or sell futures contracts or related options in compliance with the rules of the CFTC. These transactions involve transaction costs. There can be no assurance that the Fund's use of futures will be advantageous to the Fund.

*Credit-Linked Notes.* The Fund may invest in credit-linked notes ( CLN ) for risk management purposes, including diversification. A CLN is a derivative instrument that is a synthetic obligation between two or more parties where the payment of principal and/or interest is based on the performance of some obligation (a reference obligation). In addition to credit risk of the reference obligation and interest rate risk, the purchaser/seller of the CLN is subject to counterparty risk.

*Interest Rate Caps.* The Fund may use an interest rate cap, which would require it to pay a premium to the cap counterparty and would entitle it, to the extent that a specified variable rate index exceeds a predetermined fixed rate, to receive from the counterparty payment of the difference based on the notional amount. The Fund would use interest rate caps only with the intent to reduce or eliminate the risk that an increase in short-term interest rates could have on Common Share net earnings as a result of leverage.

The Fund will usually enter into caps on a net basis; that is, the two payment streams will be netted out in a cash settlement on the payment date or dates specified in the instrument, with the Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments.

Depending on the state of interest rates in general, the Fund's use of interest rate caps could enhance or harm the overall performance on the Common Shares. To the extent there is a decline in interest rates, the value of the interest rate cap could decline, and could result in a decline in the NAV of the Common Shares. Purchasing interest rate caps could enhance the performance of the Common Shares by providing a maximum leverage expense. Purchasing interest rate caps could also decrease the net earnings of the Common Shares in the event that the premium paid by the Fund to the counterparty exceeds the additional amount the Fund would have been required to pay had it not entered into the cap agreement. The Fund has no current intention of selling an interest rate cap. The Fund will monitor its interest rate cap transactions with a view to insuring that it remains in compliance with all applicable tax requirements.

Interest rate caps do not involve the delivery of securities or other underlying assets or principal. Accordingly, the risk of loss with respect to interest rate caps is limited to the net amount of interest payments that the Fund is contractually obligated to make. The net amount of the excess, if any, of the Fund's obligations over its entitlements will be maintained in a segregated account by the Fund's custodian. If the counterparty defaults, the Fund would not be able to use the anticipated net receipts under the cap to offset the interest payments or dividend payments due. Depending on whether the Fund would be entitled to receive net payments from the counterparty on the cap, which in turn would depend on the general state of short-term interest rates at that point in time, such a default could negatively impact the performance of the Common Shares.

Although this will not guarantee that the counterparty does not default, the Fund will not enter into an interest rate cap transaction with any counterparty that Nuveen Asset Management believes does not have the financial resources to honor its obligation under the interest rate cap transaction. Further, Nuveen Asset Management will continually monitor the financial stability of a counterparty to an interest rate cap transaction in an effort to proactively protect the Fund's investments.

In addition, at the time the interest rate cap transaction reaches its scheduled termination date, there is a risk that the Fund would not be able to obtain a replacement transaction or that the terms of the replacement would not be as favorable as on the expiring transaction. If this occurs, it could have a negative impact on the performance of the Common Shares.

The Fund may choose or be required to terminate early all or a portion of any cap transaction. An early termination of a cap could result in a termination payment to the Fund.

*Other Hedging Transactions.* The Fund may invest in relatively new instruments without a significant trading history for purposes of hedging the Fund's portfolio risks. As a result, there can be no assurance that an active secondary market will develop or continue to exist.

*Risks associated with hedging transactions.* The Fund may use derivatives or other instruments for purposes of hedging the Equity Portfolio against declining equity markets. There may be an imperfect correlation between the Equity Portfolio's holdings and such derivatives, which may prevent the Fund from achieving the intended consequences of the applicable hedging transaction or expose the Fund to risk of loss. Further, the Fund's use of derivatives and other instruments to reduce risk involves costs and will be subject to Nuveen Asset Management's ability to predict correctly changes in the relationships of such hedging instruments to the Equity Portfolio or other factors. No assurance can be given that Nuveen Asset Management's judgment in this respect will be correct. Consequently, the use of hedging transactions might result in a poorer overall performance for the Fund, whether or not adjusted for risk, than if the Fund had not hedged the Equity Portfolio. In addition, no assurance can be given that the Fund will enter into hedging transactions at times or under circumstances in which it would be advisable to do so.

*Portfolio Trading and Turnover Rate.* Portfolio trading may be undertaken to accomplish the investment objective of the Fund. In addition, a security may be sold and another with similar characteristics purchased at approximately the same time to take advantage of what the Sub-Advisers believe to be a temporary price disparity between the two securities. Temporary price disparities between two comparable securities may result from supply and demand imbalances where, for example, a temporary oversupply of certain securities may cause a temporarily low price for such securities, as compared with other securities of like quality and characteristics. A security may also be sold when the Sub-Advisers anticipate a change in the price of such security, the Sub-Advisers believe the price of a security has reached or is near a realistic maximum, or there are other securities that the Sub-Advisers believe are more attractive given the Fund's investment objective.

The Fund may engage in portfolio trading when considered appropriate, but short-term trading in the Fund's equity portfolio will not be used as the primary means of achieving the Fund's investment objective. While there can be no assurance thereof, the Fund anticipates that its annual portfolio turnover rate will generally not exceed 50% under normal circumstances. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 159%. For the six months ended June 30, 2018, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 72%. However, there are no limits on the rate of portfolio turnover, and investments may be sold without regard to length of time held when, in the opinion of the Sub-Advisers, investment considerations warrant such action. Therefore, depending upon market conditions, the annual portfolio turnover rate of the Fund may exceed 50% in particular years. A higher portfolio turnover rate results in correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other transactional expenses that are borne by the Fund. High portfolio turnover may result in the realization of net short-term capital gains by the Fund which, when distributed to shareholders, will be taxable as ordinary income for federal income tax purposes.



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**MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND**

**TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS**

The management of the Fund, including general supervision of the duties performed for the Fund under the Investment Management Agreement (as defined under Investment Adviser, Sub-Advisers and Portfolio Managers Investment Management Agreement and Related Fees ), is the responsibility of the Board. The number of trustees of the Fund is ten, one of whom is an interested person (as the term interested person is defined in the 1940 Act) and nine of whom are not interested persons (referred to herein as independent trustees ). None of the independent trustees has ever been a director, trustee or employee of, or consultant to, Nuveen, LLC ( Nuveen ), Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, Intech, or their affiliates. The Board is divided into three classes, Class I, Class II and Class III, the Class I trustees serving until the 2019 annual meeting, the Class II trustees serving until the 2020 annual meeting and the Class III trustees serving until the 2021 annual meeting, in each case until their respective successors are elected and qualified, as described below. Currently, William C. Hunter, Judith M. Stockdale, Carole E. Stone and Margaret L. Wolff are slated in Class I, John K. Nelson, Terence J. Toth and Robert L. Young are slated in Class II, and Margo L. Cook, Jack B. Evans and Albin F. Moschner are slated in Class III. If the Fund has Preferred Shares outstanding, two of the Fund s trustees will be elected by the holders of such preferred shares, voting separately as a class. The remaining trustees of the Fund are elected by holders of Common Shares and Preferred Shares, voting separately as a class. In the event that the Fund fails to pay dividends on outstanding Preferred Shares for two years, holders of Preferred Shares are entitled to elect a majority of trustees of the Fund. The officers of the Fund serve annual terms through August of each year and are elected on an annual basis. The names, business addresses and years of birth of the trustees and officers of the Fund, their principal occupations and other affiliations during the past five years, the number of portfolios each oversees and other directorships they hold are set forth below. Except as noted in the table below, the trustees of the Fund are directors or trustees, as the case may be, of 168 Nuveen-sponsored registered investment companies (the Nuveen Funds ), which includes 83 open-end mutual funds (the Nuveen Mutual Funds ), 74 closed-end funds and 11 Nushares ETFs.

Name, Business Address	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with Funds in the Fund Complex	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past Five Years
<b>Independent Trustees:</b> Terence J. Toth  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1959)	Chairman of the Board and Trustee	Term Class II Length of Service Since 2008	Formerly, Co-Founding Partner, Promus Capital (2008-2017); Director of Fulcrum IT Service LLC (since 2010) and Quality Control Corporation (since 2012); formerly, Director, LogicMark LLC (2012-2016); formerly, Director, Legal & General Investment Management America, Inc. (2008-2013); formerly, CEO and President, Northern Trust Global Investments (2004-2007); Executive Vice President, Quantitative Management & Securities Lending (2000-2004); prior thereto, various positions with Northern Trust Company (since 1994); Member of Catalyst Schools of Chicago Board (since 2008) and Mather Foundation Board (since 2012) and is Chair of its Investment Committee; formerly, Member, Chicago Fellowship Board (2005-2016); formerly, Member, Northern Trust Mutual Funds Board (2005-2007), Northern Trust Global Investments Board (2004-2007), Northern Trust Japan Board (2004-2007), Northern Trust Securities Inc. Board (2003-2007) and Northern Trust Hong Kong Board (1997-2004).	168	None.

Name, Business Address	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past Five Years
Jack B. Evans  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1948)	Trustee	Funds in the Fund Complex Term Class III Length of Service Since 1999	Chairman (since 2019), formerly, President (1996-2019), The Hall-Perrine Foundation, a private philanthropic corporation; Director, Public Member, American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (since 2015); Life Trustee of Coe College and the Iowa College Foundation; formerly, Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; formerly, President and Chief Operating Officer, SCI Financial Group, Inc., a regional financial services firm; formerly, Member and President Pro Tem of the Board of Regents for the State of Iowa University System; formerly, Director, The Gazette Company.	168	Director and Chairman, United Fire Group, a publicly held company; formerly, Director, Alliant Energy.
William C. Hunter  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1948)	Trustee	Term Class I Length of Service Since 2003	Dean Emeritus, formerly, Dean (2006-2012), Tippie College of Business, University of Iowa; past Director (2005-2015) and past President (2010-2014) of Beta Gamma Sigma, Inc., The International Business Honor Society; formerly, Director (1997-2007), Credit Research Center at Georgetown University; formerly, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Finance (2003-2006), School of Business at the University of Connecticut; previously, Senior Vice President and Director of Research (1995-2003) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.	168	Director of Wellmark, Inc. (since 2009); Director of Xerox Corporation (2004-2018).

Name, Business Address	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past Five Years
Albin F. Moschner  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1952)	Trustee	Funds in the Fund Complex Term Class III  Length of Service Since 2016	Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Northcroft Partners, LLC, a management consulting firm (since 2012); previously, held positions at Leap Wireless International, Inc., including Consultant (2011-2012), Chief Operating Officer (2008-2011) and Chief Marketing Officer (2004-2008); formerly, President, Verizon Card Services division of Verizon Communications, Inc. (2000-2003); formerly, President, One Point Services at One Point Communications (1999-2000); formerly, Vice Chairman of the Board, Diba, Incorporated (1996-1997); formerly, various executive positions and Chief Executive Officer of Zenith Electronics Corporation (1991-1996).	168	Chairman (since 2019), Director (since 2012), USA Technologies, Inc., a provider of solutions and services to facilitate electronic payment transactions; formerly, Director, Wintrust Financial Corporation (1996-2016).

Name, Business Address	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with Funds in the Fund Complex	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past Five Years
John K. Nelson  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1962)	Trustee	Term Class II Length of Service Since 2013	Member of Board of Directors of Core12 LLC (since 2008), a private firm which develops branding, marketing and communications strategies for clients; Serves on The President s Council, Fordham University (since 2010) and previously was a Director of The Curran Center for Catholic American Studies (2009-2018); formerly, senior external advisor to the financial services practice of Deloitte Consulting LLP (2012- 2014); former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Marian University (2010-2014 as trustee, 2011-2014 as Chairman); formerly, Chief Executive Officer of ABN AMRO N.V. North America, and Global Head of its Financial Markets Division (2007-2008); prior senior positions held at ABN AMRO include Corporate Executive Vice President and Head of Global Markets the Americas (2006-2007), CEO of Wholesale Banking North America and Global Head of Foreign Exchange and Futures Markets (2001-2006), and Regional Commercial Treasurer and Senior Vice President Trading North America (1996- 2001); formerly, Trustee at St. Edmund Preparatory School in New York City.	168	None.
Judith M. Stockdale  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1947)	Trustee	Term Class I Length of Service Since 1997	Board Member of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (since 2013); Board Member of the Land Trust Alliance; formerly, Executive Director (1994-2012), Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; prior thereto, Executive Director, Great Lakes Protection Fund (1990-1994).	168	None.

Name, Business Address and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with Funds in the Fund Complex	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past Five Years
Carole E. Stone 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1947)	Trustee	Term Class I Length of Service Since 2007	Former Director, Chicago Board Options Exchange (2006-2017); and C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated (2009-2017); formerly, Commissioner, New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform (2005-2010).	168	Director, Cboe Global Markets, Inc., formerly, CBOE Holdings, Inc. (since 2010).
Margaret L. Wolff 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1955)	Trustee	Term Class I Length of Service Since 2016	Formerly, Of Counsel (2005-2014), Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (Mergers & Acquisitions Group); Member of the Board of Trustees of New York-Presbyterian Hospital (since 2005); Member (since 2004) and Chair (since 2015) of the Board of Trustees of The John A. Hartford Foundation (a philanthropy dedicated to improving the care of older adults); formerly, Member (2005-2015) and Vice Chair (2011- 2015) of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Holyoke College.	168	Formerly Member of the Board of Directors (2013-2017) of Travelers Insurance Company of Canada and The Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company (each, a part of Travelers Canada, the Canadian operation of The Travelers Companies, Inc.).
Robert L. Young* 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1963)	Trustee	Term Class II Length of Service Since 2017	Formerly, Chief Operating Officer and Director, J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. (2010-2016); formerly, President and Principal Executive Officer (2013-2016), and Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (2005-2010), of J.P. Morgan Funds; formerly, Director and various officer positions for J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. (formerly, JPMorgan Funds Management, Inc. and formerly, One Group Administrative Services) and JPMorgan Distribution Services, Inc. (formerly, One Group Dealer Services, Inc.) (1999-2017).	166	None.

Name, Business Address and Year of Birth Interested Trustee:	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with		Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past Five Years
		Funds in the Fund Complex	Length of Service Since			
Margo L. Cook**  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1964)	Trustee	Term Class III	Length of Service Since 2016	President (since 2017), formerly, Co-President (2016-2017), formerly, Senior Executive Vice President of Nuveen Investments, Inc.; Executive Vice President (since February 2017) of Nuveen, LLC; President (since August 2017), formerly, Co-President (October 2016-August 2017), formerly, Senior Executive Vice President (2015-2016), and formerly, Executive Vice President (2011-2015) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; President, Global Products and Solutions (since July 2017), and Co-Chief Executive Officer (since 2015), formerly, Co-President, and formerly, Executive Vice President (2013-2015), of Nuveen Securities, LLC; President (since 2017), Nuveen Alternative Investments, LLC; Chartered Financial Analyst.	168	None.

\* Effective July 1, 2017, Mr. Young was appointed as a director or trustee, as the case may be, of each of the Nuveen Funds except Nuveen Diversified Dividend and Income Fund and Nuveen Real Estate Income Fund.

\*\* Ms. Cook is an interested person of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act, by reason of her positions with Nuveen and certain of its subsidiaries.

**OFFICERS OF THE FUND:**

Name, Business Address and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served		Principal Occupations Including Other Directorships During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer
		with Funds in the Fund Complex	Length of Service Since		
Cedric H. Antosiewicz  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1962)	Chief Administrative Officer	Term Until	August 2019 Length of Service Since 2007	Senior Managing Director (since January 2017), formerly, Managing Director (2004-2017) of Nuveen Securities LLC; Senior Managing Director (since January 2017), formerly, Managing Director (2014-2017) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC.	74

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Name, Business Address	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with Funds in the Fund Complex	Principal Occupations Including Other Directorships During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer
Stephen D. Foy 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1954)	Vice President and Controller	Term Until August 2019 Length of Service Since 1993	Managing Director (since 2014), formerly, Senior Vice President (2013-2014) and Vice President (2005-2013) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director (since 2016) of Nuveen Securities, LLC; Managing Director (since 2016) of Nuveen Alternative Investments, LLC; Certified Public Accountant.	168
Nathaniel T. Jones 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1979)	Vice President and Treasurer	Term Until August 2019 Length of Service Since 2016	Managing Director (since 2017), formerly, Senior Vice President (2016-2017), formerly, Vice President (2011-2016) of Nuveen; Chartered Financial Analyst.	168
Walter M. Kelly 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1970)	Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer	Term Until August 2019 Length of Service Since 2003	Managing Director (since 2017), formerly, Senior Vice President (2008-2017) of Nuveen.	168
David J. Lamb 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1963)	Vice President	Term Until August 2019 Length of Service Since 2015	Managing Director (since 2017), formerly, Senior Vice President of Nuveen (2006-2017), Vice President prior to 2006.	74
Tina M. Lazar 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1961)	Vice President	Term Until August 2019 Length of Service Since 2002	Managing Director (since 2017), formerly, Senior Vice President (2014-2017) of Nuveen Securities, LLC.	168



Name, Business Address	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with Funds in the Fund Complex	Principal Occupations Including Other Directorships	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer
and Year of Birth Kevin J. McCarthy  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1966)	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	Term Until  August 2019 Length of Service Since 2007	During Past Five Years Senior Managing Director (since 2017) and Secretary and General Counsel (since 2016) of Nuveen Investments, Inc., formerly, Executive Vice President (2016-2017) and Managing Director and Assistant Secretary (2008-2016); Senior Managing Director (since 2017) and Assistant Secretary (since 2008) of Nuveen Securities, LLC, formerly Executive Vice President (2016-2017) and Managing Director (2008-2016); Senior Managing Director (since 2017), Secretary (since 2016) and Co-General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC, formerly, Executive Vice President (2016-2017), Managing Director, (2008-2016) and Assistant Secretary (2007-2016); Senior Managing Director (since 2017), Secretary (since 2016) and Associate General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC, formerly Executive Vice President (2016-2017) and Managing Director and Assistant Secretary (2011-2016); Senior Managing Director (since 2017) and Secretary (since 2016) of Nuveen Investments Advisers, LLC, formerly Executive Vice President (2016-2017); Vice President (since 2007) and Secretary (since 2016), formerly, Assistant Secretary, of NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC, Symphony Asset Management LLC, Santa Barbara Asset Management, LLC and Winslow Capital Management, LLC (since 2010); Senior Managing Director (since 2017) and Secretary (since 2016) of Nuveen Alternative Investments, LLC.	168

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Name, Business Address and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with Funds in the Fund Complex		Principal Occupations	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer
		Term	Until	Including Other Directorships During Past Five Years	
William T. Meyers 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1966)	Vice President	Term	Until August 2019	Senior Managing Director (since 2017), formerly, Managing Director (2016-2017), Senior Vice President (2010-2016) of Nuveen Securities, LLC and Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Senior Managing Director (since 2017), formerly, Managing Director (2016-2017), Senior Vice President (2010-2016) of Nuveen, has held various positions with Nuveen since 1991.	74
Michael A. Perry 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1967)	Vice President	Term	Until August 2019	Executive Vice President (since 2017), previously, Managing Director (October 2016-2017), of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Executive Vice President (since 2017), formerly, Managing Director (2015-2017) of Nuveen Securities and Nuveen Alternative Investments, LLC; formerly, Managing Director (2010-2015) of UBS Securities LLC.	74
Christopher M. Rohrbacher 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1971)	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	Term	Until August 2019	Managing Director (since 2017), formerly, Senior Vice President and Assistant Secretary (since 2016) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director (since 2017) of Nuveen Securities, LLC.	168
William A. Siffermann 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1975)	Vice President	Term	Until August 2019	Managing Director (since 2017), formerly, Senior Vice President (2016-2017) and Vice President (2011-2016) of Nuveen.	168
Joel T. Slager 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (1978)	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	Term	Until August 2019	Fund Tax Director for Nuveen Funds (since 2013); previously, Vice President of Morgan Stanley Investment Management, Inc., Assistant Treasurer of the Morgan Stanley Funds (2010-2013).	168

Name, Business Address	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served with Funds in the Fund Complex	Principal Occupations Including Other Directorships During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer
Mark L. Winget  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1968)	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	Term Until August 2019  Length of Service Since 2008	Vice President and Assistant Secretary of Nuveen Securities, LLC (since 2008); Vice President (since 2010) and Associate General Counsel (since 2008) of Nuveen.	168
Gifford R. Zimmerman  333 West Wacker Drive  Chicago, IL 60606  (1956)	Vice President and Secretary	Term Until August 2019  Length of Service Since 1988	Managing Director (since 2002) and Assistant Secretary of Nuveen Securities, LLC; Managing Director (since 2002), Assistant Secretary (since 1997) and Co-General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director (since 2004) and Assistant Secretary (since 1994) of Nuveen Investments, Inc.; Managing Director, Assistant Secretary and Associate General Counsel of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC (since 2011); Vice President (since February 2017) Managing Director (2003-2017) and Assistant Secretary (since 2003) of Symphony Asset Management LLC; Managing Director and Assistant Secretary (since 2002) of Nuveen Investments Advisers, LLC; Vice President and Assistant Secretary of NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC, Santa Barbara Asset Management, LLC (since 2006) and of Winslow Capital Management, LLC (since 2010); Chartered Financial Analyst.	168

**Board Leadership Structure and Risk Oversight**

The Board of Directors or the Board of Trustees (as the case may be, each is referred to hereafter as the Board and the trustees or directors of the Nuveen Funds, as applicable, are referred to herein as Trustees ) oversees the operations and management of the Nuveen Fund (the Nuveen Funds ), including the duties performed for the Nuveen Funds by Nuveen Fund Advisors and each Nuveen Fund s sub-adviser(s), as applicable. The Board has adopted a unitary board structure. A unitary board consists of one group of trustees who serve on the board of every Nuveen Fund in the fund complex. In adopting a unitary board structure, the Trustees seek to provide effective governance through establishing a board, the overall composition of which, will, as a body, possess the appropriate skills, independence and experience to oversee the Nuveen Funds business. With this overall framework in mind, when the Board, through its Nominating and Governance

Committee discussed below, seeks nominees for the Board, the Trustees consider, not only the candidate's particular background, skills and experience, among other things, but also whether such background, skills and experience enhance the Board's diversity and at the same time complement the Board given its current composition and the mix of skills and experiences of the incumbent Trustees.

The Board believes the unitary board structure enhances good and effective governance, particularly given the nature of the structure of the investment company complex. Funds in the same complex generally are served by the same service providers and personnel and are governed by the same regulatory scheme which raises common issues that must be addressed by the trustees across the fund complex (such as compliance, valuation, liquidity, brokerage, trade allocation or risk management). The Board believes it is more efficient to have a single board review and oversee common policies and procedures which increases the Board's knowledge and expertise with respect to the many aspects of fund operations that are complex-wide in nature. The unitary structure also enhances the Board's influence and oversight over Nuveen Fund Advisors and other service providers.

In an effort to enhance the independence of the Board, the Board also has a Chairman that is an independent trustee. The Board recognizes that a chairman can perform an important role in setting the agenda for the Board, establishing the boardroom culture, establishing a point person on behalf of the Board for fund management, and reinforcing the Board's focus on the long-term interests of shareholders. The Board recognizes that a chairman may be able to better perform these functions without any conflicts of interests arising from a position with fund management. Terence J. Toth currently serves as the Independent Chairman of the Board. Specific responsibilities of the Chairman include: (i) presiding at all meetings of the Board and of the shareholders; (ii) seeing that all orders and resolutions of the Trustees are carried into effect; and (iii) maintaining records of and, whenever necessary, certifying all proceedings of the Trustees and the shareholders.

Although the Board has direct responsibility over various matters (such as advisory contracts, underwriting contracts and Fund performance), the Board also exercises certain of its oversight responsibilities through several committees that it has established and which report back to the full Board. The Board believes that a committee structure is an effective means to permit Trustees to focus on particular operations or issues affecting the Nuveen Funds, including risk oversight. More specifically, with respect to risk oversight, the Board has delegated matters relating to valuation and compliance to certain committees (as summarized below) as well as certain aspects of investment risk. In addition, the Board believes that the periodic rotation of Trustees among the different committees allows the Trustees to gain additional and different perspectives of the Fund's operations. The Board has established six standing committees: the Executive Committee, the Dividend Committee, the Closed-End Funds Committee, the Audit Committee, the Compliance, Risk Management and Regulatory Oversight Committee, and the Nominating and Governance Committee. The Board also may from time to time create ad hoc committees to focus on particular issues as the need arises. The membership and functions of the standing committees are summarized below.

The Executive Committee, which meets between regular meetings of the Board, is authorized to exercise all of the powers of the Board. The members of the Executive Committee are Terence J. Toth (Chair), Albin F. Moschner and Margo L. Cook. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Executive Committee did not meet.

The Dividend Committee is authorized to declare distributions on each Nuveen Fund's shares including, but not limited to, regular and special dividends, capital gains and ordinary income distributions. The members of the Dividend Committee are William C. Hunter (Chair), Albin F. Moschner, Margaret L. Wolff and Robert L. Young. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Dividend Committee met four (4) times.

The Compliance, Risk Management and Regulatory Oversight Committee (the Compliance Committee) is responsible for the oversight of compliance issues, risk management and other regulatory matters affecting the Nuveen Funds that are not otherwise the jurisdiction of the other committees. The Board has adopted and periodically reviews policies and procedures designed to address the Nuveen Funds' compliance and risk matters.

As part of its duties, the Compliance Committee reviews the policies and procedures relating to compliance matters and recommends modifications thereto as necessary or appropriate to the full Board; develops new policies and procedures as new regulatory matters affecting the Nuveen Funds arise from time to time; evaluates or considers any comments or reports from examinations from regulatory authorities and responses thereto; and performs any special reviews, investigations or other oversight responsibilities relating to risk management, compliance and/or regulatory matters as requested by the Board.

In addition, the Compliance Committee is responsible for risk oversight, including, but not limited to, the oversight of risks related to investments and operations. Such risks include, among other things, exposures to particular issuers, market sectors, or types of securities; risks related to product structure elements, such as leverage; and techniques that may be used to address those risks, such as hedging and swaps. In assessing issues brought to the committee's attention or in reviewing a particular policy, procedure, investment technique or strategy, the Compliance Committee evaluates the risks to the Nuveen Funds in adopting a particular approach or resolution compared to the anticipated benefits to the Nuveen Funds and their shareholders. In fulfilling its obligations, the Compliance Committee meets on a quarterly basis, and at least once a year in person. The Compliance Committee receives written and oral reports from the Nuveen Funds' Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) and meets privately with the CCO at each of its quarterly meetings. The CCO also provides an annual report to the full Board regarding the operations of the Nuveen Funds and other service providers' compliance programs as well as any recommendations for modifications thereto. The Compliance Committee also receives reports from the investment services group of Nuveen Investments regarding various investment risks. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the full Board also participates in discussions with management regarding certain matters relating to investment risk, such as the use of leverage and hedging. The investment services group therefore also reports to the full Board at its quarterly meetings regarding, among other things, Fund performance and the various drivers of such performance. Accordingly, the Board directly and/or in conjunction with the Compliance Committee oversees matters relating to investment risks. Matters not addressed at the committee level are addressed directly by the full Board. The committee operates under a written charter adopted and approved by the Board. The members of the Compliance Committee are Albin F. Moschner, John K. Nelson (Chair), Judith M. Stockdale, Margaret L. Wolff and Robert L. Young. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Compliance Committee met eight (8) times.

The Audit Committee assists the Board in the oversight and monitoring of the accounting and reporting policies, processes and practices of the Nuveen Funds, and the audits of the financial statements of the Nuveen Funds; the quality and integrity of the financial statements of the Nuveen Funds; the Nuveen Funds' compliance with legal and regulatory requirements relating to the Nuveen Funds' financial statements; the independent auditors' qualifications, performance and independence; and the pricing procedures of the Nuveen Funds and the internal valuation group of Nuveen. It is the responsibility of the Audit Committee to select, evaluate and replace any independent auditors (subject only to Board and, if applicable, shareholder ratification) and to determine their compensation. The Audit Committee is also responsible for, among other things, overseeing the valuation of securities comprising the Nuveen Funds' portfolios. Subject to the Board's general supervision of such actions, the Audit Committee addresses any valuation issues, oversees the Nuveen Funds' pricing procedures and actions taken by Nuveen's internal valuation group which provides regular reports to the committee, reviews any issues relating to the valuation of the Nuveen Funds' securities brought to its attention and considers the risks to the Nuveen Funds in assessing the possible resolutions to these matters. The Audit Committee also may consider any financial risk exposures for the Nuveen Funds in conjunction with performing its functions.

To fulfill its oversight duties, the Audit Committee receives annual and semi-annual reports and has regular meetings with the external auditors for the Nuveen Funds and Nuveen Fund Advisors' internal audit group at Nuveen Investments. The Audit Committee also may review in a general manner the processes the Board or other Board committees have in place with respect to risk assessment and risk management as well as compliance with legal and regulatory matters relating to the Nuveen Funds' financial statements. The committee operates under a written charter adopted and approved by the Board. Members of the Audit Committee shall be independent (as set forth in the charter) and free of any relationship that, in the opinion of the trustees, would

interfere with their exercise of independent judgment as an Audit Committee member. The members of the Audit Committee are Jack B. Evans, William C. Hunter, John K. Nelson, Carole E. Stone (Chair) and Terence J. Toth, each of whom is an Independent Trustee of the Nuveen Funds. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Audit Committee met four (4) times.

The Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for seeking, identifying and recommending to the Board qualified candidates for election or appointment to the Board. In addition, the Nominating and Governance Committee oversees matters of corporate governance, including the evaluation of Board performance and processes, the assignment and rotation of committee members, and the establishment of corporate governance guidelines and procedures, to the extent necessary or desirable, and matters related thereto. Although the unitary and committee structure has been developed over the years and the Nominating and Governance Committee believes the structure has provided efficient and effective governance, the committee recognizes that as demands on the Board evolve over time (such as through an increase in the number of funds overseen or an increase in the complexity of the issues raised), the committee must continue to evaluate the Board and committee structures and their processes and modify the foregoing as may be necessary or appropriate to continue to provide effective governance. Accordingly, the Nominating and Governance Committee has a separate meeting each year to, among other things, review the Board and committee structures, their performance and functions, and recommend any modifications thereto or alternative structures or processes that would enhance the Board's governance over the Nuveen Funds' business.

In addition, the Nominating and Governance Committee, among other things, makes recommendations concerning the continuing education of trustees; monitors performance of legal counsel and other service providers; establishes and monitors a process by which security holders are able to communicate in writing with members of the Board; and periodically reviews and makes recommendations about any appropriate changes to Trustee compensation. In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the Nominating and Governance Committee receives suggestions from various sources, including suggestions from fund security holders, as to suitable candidates. Suggestions should be sent in writing to William Siffermann, Manager of Fund Board Relations, Nuveen, 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606. The Nominating and Governance Committee sets appropriate standards and requirements for nominations for new Trustees and reserves the right to interview any and all candidates and to make the final selection of any new Trustees. In considering a candidate's qualifications, each candidate must meet certain basic requirements, including relevant skills and experience, time availability (including the time requirements for due diligence site visits to internal and external sub-advisers and service providers) and, if qualifying as an Independent Trustee candidate, independence from Nuveen Fund Advisor, subadvisors, underwriters or other service providers, including any affiliates of these entities. These skill and experience requirements may vary depending on the current composition of the Board, since the goal is to ensure an appropriate range of skills, diversity and experience, in the aggregate. Accordingly, the particular factors considered and weight given to these factors will depend on the composition of the Board and the skills and backgrounds of the incumbent Trustees at the time of consideration of the nominees. All candidates, however, must meet high expectations of personal integrity, independence, governance experience and professional competence. All candidates must be willing to be critical within the Board and with management and yet maintain a collegial and collaborative manner toward other Board members. The committee operates under a written charter adopted and approved by the Board. This committee is composed of the Independent Trustees of the Nuveen Funds. The members of the Nominating and Governance Committee are Terence J. Toth (Chair), Jack B. Evans, William C. Hunter, Albin F. Moschner, John K. Nelson, Judith M. Stockdale, Carole E. Stone, Margaret L. Wolff and Robert L. Young. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Nominating and Governance Committee met five (5) times.

The Closed-End Funds Committee is responsible for assisting the Board in the oversight and monitoring of the Nuveen Funds that are registered as closed-end management investment companies (the "Closed-End Funds"). The committee may review and evaluate matters related to the formation and the initial presentation to the Board of new Closed-End Funds and may review and evaluate any matters relating to existing Closed-End Funds. The committee operates under a written charter adopted and approved by the Board. The members of the

Closed-End Funds Committee are Carole E. Stone, Jack B. Evans (Chair), Albin F. Moschner, Terence J. Toth and Robert L. Young. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Closed-End Funds Committee met four (4) times.

### Board Diversification and Trustee Qualifications

In determining that a particular Trustee was qualified to serve on the Board, the Board has considered each Trustee's background, skills, experience and other attributes in light of the composition of the Board with no particular factor controlling. The Board believes that the Fund's Trustees 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, and the Board believes each Trustee satisfies this standard. An effective Trustee may achieve this ability through his or her educational background; business, professional training or practice; public service or academic positions; experience from service as a board member or executive of investment funds, public companies or significant private or not-for-profit entities or other organizations; and/or other life experiences. Accordingly, set forth below is a summary of the experiences, qualifications, attributes, and skills that led to the conclusion, as of the date of this document, that each Trustee should continue to serve in that capacity. References to the experiences, qualifications, attributes and skills of Trustees are pursuant to requirements of the SEC, do not constitute holding out of the Board or any Trustee as having any special expertise or experience and shall not impose any greater responsibility or liability on any such person or on the Board by reason thereof.

*Margo L. Cook.* Ms. Cook, an interested Trustee of the Nuveen Funds, is President (since 2017), formerly, Co-President of Nuveen Investments (2016-2017), prior to which she had been Senior Executive Vice President of Nuveen Investments (2015-2016). Ms. Cook is a member of the Senior Leadership Team and Executive Vice President (since February 2017) of Nuveen, LLC. She is President (since August 2017), formerly, Co-president, prior to which she had been Senior Executive Vice President (2015-2016), of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC and President, and Co-Chief Executive Officer of Nuveen Securities, LLC (Nuveen Securities). Since joining in 2008, she has held various leadership roles at Nuveen Investments, including as Head of Investment Services, responsible for investment-related efforts across the firm. Ms. Cook also serves on the Board of Nuveen Global Fund Investors. Before joining Nuveen Investments, she was the Global Head of Bear Stearns Asset Management's institutional business. Prior to that, she spent over 20 years within BNY Mellon's asset management business; including as Chief Investment Officer for Institutional Asset Management and Head of Institutional Fixed Income. Ms. Cook earned her bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Rhode Island, her Executive MBA from Columbia University, and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. She serves on The University of Rhode Island Foundation Board of Trustees and is Chair of the All Stars Project of Chicago Board.

*Jack B. Evans.* Mr. Evans has served as Chairman (since 2019), formerly, President (1996-2019), of the Hall-Perrine Foundation, a private philanthropic corporation. Mr. Evans was formerly President and Chief Operating Officer of the SCI Financial Group, Inc., a regional financial services firm headquartered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was a member of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago as well as a Director of Alliant Energy and President Pro Tem of the Board of Regents for the State of Iowa University System. Mr. Evans is Chairman of the Board of United Fire Group, sits on the Board as a Public Member of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and is a Life Trustee of Coe College. He has a Bachelor of Arts from Coe College and a M.B.A. from the University of Iowa.

*William C. Hunter.* Mr. Hunter became Dean Emeritus of the Henry B. Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa on June 30, 2012. He was appointed Dean of the College on July 1, 2006. He had been Dean and Distinguished Professor of Finance at the University of Connecticut School of Business since 2003-2006. From 1995 to 2003, he was the Senior Vice President and Director of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. While there he served as the Bank's Chief Economist and was an Associate Economist on the Federal Reserve System's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). In addition to serving as a Vice President in charge of financial markets and basic research at the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta, he held faculty positions at Emory University, Atlanta University, the University of Georgia and Northwestern University. A past Director of

the Credit Research Center at Georgetown University, SS&C Technologies, Inc. (2005) and past President of the Financial Management Association International, he has consulted with numerous foreign central banks and official agencies in Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, Central America and South America. From 1990 to 1995, he was a U.S. Treasury Advisor to Central and Eastern Europe. He has been a Director of Wellmark, Inc. since 2009 and was a Director of the Xerox Corporation from 2004-2018. He is a past Director and a past President of Beta Gamma Sigma, Inc., the International Business Honor Society.

*Albin F. Moschner.* Mr. Moschner is a consultant in the wireless industry and, in July 2012, founded Northcroft Partners, LLC, a management consulting firm that provides operational, management and governance solutions. Prior to founding Northcroft Partners, LLC, Mr. Moschner held various positions at Leap Wireless International, Inc., a provider of wireless services, where he was a consultant from February 2011 to July 2012, Chief Operating Officer from July 2008 to February 2011, and Chief Marketing Officer from August 2004 to June 2008. Before he joined Leap Wireless International, Inc., Mr. Moschner was President of the Verizon Card Services division of Verizon Communications, Inc. from 2000 to 2003, and President of One Point Services at One Point Communications from 1999 to 2000. Mr. Moschner also served at Zenith Electronics Corporation as Director, President and Chief Executive Officer from 1995 to 1996, and as Director, President and Chief Operating Officer from 1994 to 1995. Mr. Moschner has been Chairman of the Board (since 2019) and a member of the Board of Directors (since 2012) of USA Technologies, Inc. and, from 1996 until 2016, he was a member of the Board of Directors of Wintrust Financial Corporation. In addition, he currently serves on the Advisory Boards of the Kellogg School of Management (since 1995) and the Archdiocese of Chicago Financial Council (since May 2012). Mr. Moschner received a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electrical Engineering from The City College of New York in 1974 and a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Syracuse University in 1979.

*John K. Nelson.* Mr. Nelson is currently on the Board of Directors of Core12 LLC (since 2008), a private firm which develops branding, marketing, and communications strategies for clients. Mr. Nelson has served in several senior executive positions with ABN AMRO Holdings N.V. and its affiliated entities and predecessors, including LaSalle Bank Corporation from 1996 to 2008. From 2007 to 2008, Mr. Nelson was Chief Executive Officer of ABN AMRO N.V. North America, and Global Head of its Financial Markets Division. He was a member of the Foreign Exchange Committee of the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States, and during his tenure with ABN AMRO, served as the bank's representative on various committees of the Bank of Canada, European Central Bank, and the Bank of England. At Fordham University, he currently serves on The President's Council and previously was a director of The Curran Center for Catholic American Studies (2009-2018). He is also a member of The Economic Club of Chicago. He was formerly a senior external advisor to the financial services practice of Deloitte Consulting LLP, formerly a member of the Hyde Park Angels, and was formerly a Trustee at St. Edmund Preparatory School in New York City. He formerly served as the Chairman of The Board of Trustees of Marian University. Mr. Nelson graduated and received his MBA from Fordham University.

*Judith M. Stockdale.* Ms. Stockdale retired in 2012 as Executive Director of the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, a private foundation working in land conservation and artistic vitality in the Chicago region and the Low Country of South Carolina. She is currently a board member of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (since November 2013) and rejoined the board of the Land Trust Alliance in June 2013. Her previous positions include Executive Director of the Great Lakes Protection Fund, Executive Director of Openlands, and Senior Staff Associate at the Chicago Community Trust. She has served on the Advisory Councils of the National Zoological Park, the Governor's Science Advisory Council (Illinois) and the Nancy Ryerson Ranney Leadership Grants Program. She has served on the boards of Brushwood Center and the Donors Forum. Ms. Stockdale, a native of the United Kingdom, has a Bachelor of Science degree in geography from the University of Durham (UK) and a Master of Forest Science degree from Yale University.

*Carole E. Stone.* Ms. Stone is currently on the Board of Directors of the Cboe Global Markets, Inc. (formerly, CBOE Holdings, Inc.), having previously served on the Boards of the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated. Ms. Stone retired from the New York State Division of the Budget in 2004, having



served as its Director for nearly five years and as Deputy Director from 1995 through 1999. She has also served as the Chair of the New York Racing Association Oversight Board, as a Commissioner on the New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform and as a member of the Boards of Directors of several New York State public authorities. Ms. Stone has a Bachelor of Arts from Skidmore College in Business Administration.

*Terence J. Toth.* Mr. Toth, the Nuveen Fund's Independent Chairman, was a Co-Founding Partner of Promus Capital (2008-2017). From 2012 to 2016, he was a Director of LogicMark LLC. From 2008 to 2013, he was a Director of Legal & General Investment Management America, Inc. From 2004 to 2007, he was Chief Executive Officer and President of Northern Trust Global Investments, and Executive Vice President of Quantitative Management & Securities Lending from 2000 to 2004. He also formerly served on the Board of the Northern Trust Mutual Funds. He joined Northern Trust in 1994 after serving as Managing Director and Head of Global Securities Lending at Bankers Trust (1986 to 1994) and Head of Government Trading and Cash Collateral Investment at Northern Trust from 1982 to 1986. He currently serves on the Board of Fulcrum IT Service LLC (since 2010), Quality Control Corporation (since 2012) and Catalyst Schools of Chicago. He is on the Mather Foundation Board (since 2012) and is the Chair of its Investment Committee. Mr. Toth graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois, and received his M.B.A. from New York University. In 2005, he graduated from the CEO Perspectives Program at Northwestern University.

*Margaret L. Wolff.* Ms. Wolff retired from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in 2014 after more than 30 years of providing client service in the Mergers & Acquisitions Group. During her legal career, Ms. Wolff devoted significant time to advising boards and senior management on U.S. and international corporate, securities, regulatory and strategic matters, including governance, shareholder, fiduciary, operational and management issues. Ms. Wolff has been a trustee of New York-Presbyterian Hospital since 2005 and, since 2004, she has served as a trustee of The John A. Hartford Foundation (a philanthropy dedicated to improving the care of older adults) where she currently is the Chair. From 2013-2017, she was a Board member of Travelers Insurance Company of Canada and The Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company (each of which is a part of Travelers Canada, the Canadian operation of The Travelers Companies, Inc.). From 2005 to 2015, she was a trustee of Mt. Holyoke College and served as Vice Chair of the Board from 2011 to 2015. Ms. Wolff received her Bachelor of Arts from Mt. Holyoke College and her Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

*Robert L. Young.* Mr. Young has more than 30 years of experience in the investment management industry. From 1997 to 2017, he held various positions with J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. ( J.P. Morgan Investment ) and its affiliates (collectively, J.P. Morgan ). Most recently, he served as Chief Operating Officer and Director of J.P. Morgan Investment (from 2010 to 2016) and as President and Principal Executive Officer of the J.P. Morgan Funds (from 2013 to 2016). As Chief Operating Officer of J.P. Morgan Investment, Mr. Young led service, administration and business platform support activities for J.P. Morgan's domestic retail mutual fund and institutional commingled and separate account businesses, and co-led these activities for J.P. Morgan's global retail and institutional investment management businesses. As President of the J.P. Morgan Funds, Mr. Young interacted with various service providers to these funds, facilitated the relationship between such funds and their boards, and was directly involved in establishing board agendas, addressing regulatory matters, and establishing policies and procedures. Before joining J.P. Morgan, Mr. Young, a former Certified Public Accountant (CPA), was a Senior Manager (Audit) with Deloitte & Touche LLP (formerly, Touche Ross LLP), where he was employed from 1985 to 1996. During his tenure there, he actively participated in creating, and ultimately led, the firm's midwestern mutual fund practice. Mr. Young holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting from the University of Dayton and, from 2008 to 2011, he served on the Investment Committee of its Board of Trustees.

#### **Independent Chairman**

Terence J. Toth currently serves as the independent Chairman of the Board. Specific responsibilities of the Chairman include (a) presiding at all meetings of the Board and of the shareholders; (b) seeing that all orders and

resolutions of the Trustees are carried into effect; and (c) maintaining records of and, whenever necessary, certifying all proceedings of the Trustees and the shareholders.

Class I Trustees will serve until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2019; Class II Trustees will serve until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2020; and Class III Trustees will serve until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2021. As each Trustee's term expires, shareholders will be asked to elect trustees and such trustees shall be elected for a term expiring at the time of the third succeeding annual meeting subsequent to their election or thereafter in each case when their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. These provisions could delay for up to two years the replacement of a majority of the Board. See Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust in the Prospectus.

## SHARE OWNERSHIP

The following table sets forth the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by each Trustee as of December 31, 2018:

Name of Trustee	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies
Margo L. Cook	None	Over \$ 100,000
Jack B. Evans	None	Over \$ 100,000
William C. Hunter	None	Over \$ 100,000
Albin F. Moschner	None	Over \$ 100,000
John K. Nelson	None	Over \$ 100,000
Judith M. Stockdale	None	Over \$ 100,000
Carole E. Stone	None	Over \$ 100,000
Terence J. Toth	None	Over \$ 100,000
Margaret L. Wolff	None	Over \$ 100,000
Robert L. Young	None	Over \$ 100,000

As of February 19, 2019, the officers and Trustees as a group beneficially owned less than 1% of any class of the Fund's outstanding securities.

As of February 19, 2019, none of the disinterested Trustees or their immediate family members owned, beneficially, or of record, any securities in (i) an investment adviser or principal underwriter of the Fund or (ii) a person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with an investment adviser or principal underwriter of the Fund.

## 5% Shareholders

The following table sets forth the percentage ownership of each person who, as of February 19, 2019, owned of record, or was known by the Fund to own of record or beneficially, 5% or more of any class of the Fund's equity securities:

Name of Equity Security	Name and Address of Owner	% of Beneficial Ownership
Common Shares	Advisors Asset Management, Inc.  18952 Base Camp Road  Monument, Colorado 80132	5.70%

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Name of Equity Security	Name and Address of Owner	% of Beneficial Ownership
	First Trust Portfolios L.P.	20.56%
	120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400	
	Wheaton, Illinois 60187	
	First Trust Advisors L.P.	
	120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400	
	Wheaton, Illinois 60187	
	The Charger Corporation	
	120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400	
	Wheaton, Illinois 60187	

\* The information contained in this table is based on Schedule 13G filings made February 11, 2019.

**COMPENSATION**

The following table shows, for each independent Trustee, (1) the aggregate compensation paid to each Trustee by the Fund for its fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, (2) the amount of total compensation paid to each Trustee by the Fund that has been deferred, and (3) the total compensation paid to each Trustee by the Nuveen Funds during the calendar year ended December 31, 2018. The Fund does not have a retirement or pension plan. The officers and Trustees affiliated with Nuveen Investments serve without any compensation from the Fund. Certain of the Nuveen Funds have a deferred compensation plan (the Compensation Plan) that permits any Trustee who is not an interested person of certain funds to elect to defer receipt of all or a portion of his or her compensation as a Trustee. The deferred compensation of a participating trustee is credited to the book reserve account of a fund when the compensation would otherwise have been paid to the trustee. The value of the Trustee's deferral account at any time is equal to the value that the account would have had if contributions to the account had been invested and reinvested in shares of one or more of the eligible Nuveen Funds. At the time for commencing distributions from a Trustee's deferral account, the Trustee may elect to receive distributions in a lump sum or over a period of five years. The Fund will not be liable for any other fund's obligations to make distributions under the Compensation Plan.

	Aggregate Compensation from Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	Amount of Total Compensation From the Fund That Has Been Deferred <sup>(2)</sup>	Total Compensation from Fund and Fund Complex <sup>(3)</sup>
Jack B. Evans	\$ 609	\$ 52	\$ 336,797
William C. Hunter	634		357,875
Albin F. Moschner	584		323,375
John K. Nelson	654		366,875
William J. Schneider <sup>(4)</sup>	543	543	303,797
Judith M. Stockdale	574	68	322,350
Carole E. Stone	547	241	303,864
Terence J. Toth	635		354,650
Margaret L. Wolff	558	165	309,919
Robert L. Young	486	486	286,650

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- (1) The compensation paid, including deferred amounts, to the independent trustees for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 for services to the Fund.
- (2) Pursuant to a deferred compensation agreement with certain of the Nuveen Funds, deferred amounts are treated as though an equivalent dollar amount has been invested in shares of one or more eligible Nuveen Funds. Total deferred fees for the Fund (including the return from the assumed investment in the eligible Nuveen Funds) payable are stated above.

(3) Based on the compensation paid (including any amounts deferred) for the calendar year ended December 31, 2018 for services to the Nuveen open-end and closed-end funds. Because the funds in the Fund Complex have different fiscal year ends, the amounts shown in this column are presented on a calendar year basis.

(4) Mr. Schneider retired from the Board, effective December 31, 2018.

Effective January 1, 2019, the independent Trustees receive a \$190,000 annual retainer, increased from \$185,000 as of January 1, 2018 and \$177,500 as of January 1, 2017, plus (a) a fee of \$6,500 per day, which was increased from \$6,000 per day as of January 1, 2018, for attendance in person or by telephone at regularly scheduled meetings of the Board; (b) a fee of \$3,000 per meeting for attendance in person or by telephone at special, non-regularly scheduled Board meetings where in-person attendance is required and \$2,000 per meeting for attendance by telephone or in person at such meetings where in-person attendance is not required; (c) a fee of \$2,500 per meeting for attendance in person or by telephone at Audit Committee meetings where in-person attendance is required and \$2,000 per meeting for attendance by telephone or in person at such meetings where in-person attendance is not required; (d) a fee of \$2,500 per meeting for attendance in person or by telephone at Compliance Committee meetings where in-person attendance is required and \$2,000 per meeting for attendance by telephone or in person at such meetings where in-person attendance is not required; (e) a fee of \$1,000 per meeting for attendance in person or by telephone at Dividend Committee meetings; (f) a fee of \$500 per meeting for attendance in person or by telephone at all other committee meetings (\$1,000 for shareholder meetings) where in person attendance is required and \$250 per meeting for attendance by telephone or in person at such committee meetings (excluding shareholder meetings) where in-person attendance is not required and \$100 per meeting when the Executive Committee acts as pricing committee for initial public offerings, plus, in each case, expenses incurred in attending such meetings, provided that no fees are received for meetings held on days on which regularly scheduled Board meetings are held and; (g) a fee of \$2,500 per meeting for attendance in person or by telephone at Closed-End Funds Committee meetings where in-person attendance is required and \$2,000 per meeting for attendance by telephone or in person at such meetings where in-person attendance is not required; provided that no fees are received for meetings held on days on which regularly scheduled Board meetings are held. In addition to the payments described above, the Chairman of the Board receives \$90,000, and the chairpersons of the Audit Committee, the Dividend Committee, the Compliance Committee, the Closed-End Funds Committee and the Nominating and Governance Committee receive \$12,500, increased to \$15,000 as of January 1, 2019, each as additional retainers. The independent trustees also receive a fee of \$3,000 per day for site visits to entities that provide services to the Nuveen Funds on days on which no board meeting is held. When ad hoc committees are organized, the Nominating and Governance Committee will at the time of formation determine compensation to be paid to the members of such committee; however, in general, such fees will be \$1,000 per meeting for attendance in person or by telephone at ad hoc committee meetings where in-person attendance is required and \$500 per meeting for attendance by telephone or in person at such meetings where in-person attendance is not required. The annual retainer, fees and expenses are allocated among the Nuveen Funds on the basis of relative net assets, although management may, in its discretion, establish a minimum amount to be allocated to each fund. In certain instances fees and expenses will be allocated only to those Nuveen Funds that are discussed at a given meeting.

The Fund has no employees. The officers of the Fund and the trustees of the Fund who are not independent trustees serve without any compensation from the Fund.

#### **INVESTMENT ADVISER, SUB-ADVISERS AND PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

**Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC.** Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC, the Fund's investment adviser, is responsible for overseeing the Fund's overall investment strategy and its implementation. Nuveen Fund Advisors offers advisory and investment management services to a broad range of investment company clients. Nuveen Fund Advisors has overall responsibility for management of the Fund, oversees the management of the Fund's portfolio, manages the Fund's business affairs and provides certain clerical, bookkeeping and other administrative services. Nuveen Fund Advisors is located at 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Nuveen Fund Advisors is an indirect

subsidiary of Nuveen, the investment management arm of Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America ( TIAA ). TIAA is a life insurance company founded in 1918 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and is the companion organization of College Retirement Equities Fund. As of December 31, 2018, Nuveen managed approximately \$930.5 billion in assets, of which approximately \$135.3 billion was managed by Nuveen Fund Advisors.

**Investment Management Agreement and Related Fees.** Pursuant to an investment management agreement between Nuveen Fund Advisors and the Fund (the Investment Management Agreement ), the Fund has agreed to pay an annual management fee for the overall advisory and administrative services and general office facilities provided by Nuveen Fund Advisors. The Fund's management fee is separated into two components – a complex-level component, based on the aggregate amount of all fund assets managed by Nuveen Fund Advisors, and a specific fund-level component, based only on the amount of assets within the Fund. This pricing structure enables Nuveen fund shareholders to benefit from growth in the assets within each individual fund as well as from growth in the amount of complex-wide assets managed by Nuveen Fund Advisors.

**Fund-Level Fee.** The annual fund-level fee for the Fund, payable monthly, is calculated according to the following schedule:

Average Daily Managed Assets*	Fund-Level Fee Rate
For the first \$500 million	0.7500%
For the next \$500 million	0.7250%
For the next \$500 million	0.7000%
For the next \$500 million	0.6750%
For over \$2 billion	0.6500%

**Complex-Level Fee.** The annual complex-level fee for the Fund, payable monthly, is calculated by multiplying the current complex-wide fee rate, determined according to the following schedule, by the Fund's daily Managed Assets:

Complex-Level Eligible Asset Breakpoint Level*	Effective Complex-Level Fee Rate at Breakpoint Level
\$55 billion	0.2000%
\$56 billion	0.1996%
\$57 billion	0.1989%
\$60 billion	0.1961%
\$63 billion	0.1931%
\$66 billion	0.1900%
\$71 billion	0.1851%
\$76 billion	0.1806%
\$80 billion	0.1773%
\$91 billion	0.1691%
\$125 billion	0.1599%
\$200 billion	0.1505%
\$250 billion	0.1469%
\$300 billion	0.1445%

\* For the complex-level fees, managed assets include closed-end fund assets managed by the Adviser that are attributable to certain types of leverage. For these purposes, leverage includes the funds' use of preferred stock and borrowings and certain investments in the residual interest certificates (also called inverse floating rate securities) in tender option bond (TOB) trusts, including the portion of assets held by a TOB trust that has been effectively financed by the trust's issuance of floating rate securities, subject to an agreement by

the Adviser as to certain funds to limit the amount of such assets for determining managed assets in certain circumstances. The complex level fee is calculated based upon the aggregate daily managed assets of all Nuveen open-end and closed-end funds that constitute eligible assets. Eligible assets do not include assets attributable to investments in other Nuveen funds or assets in excess of a determined amount (originally \$2 billion) added to the Nuveen fund complex in connection with the Adviser's assumption of the management of the former First American Funds effective January 1, 2011. As of November 30, 2018, the complex-level fee rate for the Fund was 0.1595%. The following table sets forth the management fee paid by the Fund for the last three fiscal years:

	<b>Management Fee Net of Expense Reimbursement Paid for the Fiscal Year Ended</b>	<b>Expense Reimbursement for the Fiscal Year Ended</b>
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2015	\$ 2,456,633	\$
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2016	\$ 2,114,930	\$
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2017	\$ 2,257,683	\$

In addition to the fee of Nuveen Fund Advisors, the Fund pays all other costs and expenses of its operations, including compensation of its Trustees (other than those affiliated with Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management), custodian, transfer agency and dividend disbursing expenses, legal fees, expenses of independent auditors, expenses of repurchasing shares, expenses of issuing Preferred Shares (if any), expenses of preparing, printing and distributing shareholder reports, notices, proxy statements and reports to governmental agencies and taxes, if any. All fees and expenses are accrued daily and deducted before payment of dividends to investors.

A discussion regarding the Board's most recent decision to renew the Investment Management Agreement for the Fund may be found in the Fund's semi-annual report to shareholders dated June 30 of each year.

**Nuveen Asset Management, LLC.** Nuveen Asset Management, LLC, 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, serves as a sub-adviser to the Fund pursuant to a sub-advisory agreement between Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management (the "Nuveen Asset Management Sub-Advisory Agreement"). Nuveen Asset Management is a registered investment adviser, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nuveen Fund Advisors. Nuveen Asset Management oversees day-to-day investment operations of and provides portfolio management to the Fund. Pursuant to the Nuveen Asset Management Sub-Advisory Agreement, Nuveen Asset Management will be compensated for the services it provides to the Fund with a portion of the management fee Nuveen Fund Advisors receives from the Fund. Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management retain the right to reallocate investment advisory responsibilities and fees between themselves in the future.

Pursuant to the Nuveen Asset Management Sub-Advisory Agreement, Nuveen Asset Management receives from Nuveen Fund Advisors a management fee equal to 10.5263% of the Fund's average daily Managed Assets, payable on a monthly basis.

The following table sets forth the management fee paid by Nuveen Fund Advisors to Nuveen Asset Management for the last three fiscal years:

	<b>Sub-Advisory Fee Paid by Nuveen Fund Advisors to Nuveen Asset Management</b>
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2015	\$ 258,593
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2016	\$ 222,624
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2017	\$ 237,650

A discussion regarding the Board's most recent decision to renew the Nuveen Asset Management Sub-Advisory Agreement for the Fund may be found in the Fund's semi-annual report to shareholders for the period ended June 30 of each year.

**Intech Investment Management LLC.** Intech Investment Management LLC, Harbour Financial Center, 2401 PGA Boulevard, Suite 100, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410, serves as a sub-adviser to the Fund and is responsible for managing the Fund's Equity Portfolio, subject to the oversight of Nuveen Fund Advisors and the Fund's Board.

Founded in 1987, Intech specializes exclusively in providing highly disciplined, mathematical investment strategies designed to seek long term returns in excess of target benchmarks, such as the Index. Their proprietary approach to managing large cap stock portfolios reflects their belief that mathematical, risk controlled stock selection and ongoing portfolio management (focused on the analysis of stock price volatility) can systematically generate alpha for investors' risk-adjusted excess return relative to specified benchmarks over time with lower levels of risk.

Intech is organized as a Delaware limited liability company and is an independently managed direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Janus Capital Management LLC and an indirect subsidiary of Janus Henderson Group plc. Intech is a global asset manager with one of the industry's longest continuous performance records of mathematical equity investment strategies for institutional investors and \$44.4 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2018. Intech's global headquarters is located in West Palm Beach, Florida, with its research headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey, and an international headquarters in London. The business address of Intech is 525 Okeechobee Boulevard, Suite 1800, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401. The business address of Janus Capital Management LLC is 151 Detroit Street, Denver, Colorado 80206. The business address for Janus Henderson Group plc is 201 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3AE UK.

Pursuant to a sub-advisory agreement between Nuveen Fund Advisors and Intech (the "Intech Sub-Advisory Agreement"), Intech receives from Nuveen Fund Advisors a management fee, payable on a monthly, basis, as follows:

Average Daily Managed Assets	Management Fee Rate <sup>(1)</sup>
Up to \$100 million	0.4000%
\$100 million to \$250 million	0.3250%
\$250 million to \$500 million	0.2750%
\$500 million to \$1 billion	0.2500%
\$1 billion and over	0.2000%

- (1) Fee calculated as a percentage of the Fund's assets (including net assets attributable to Preferred Shares and the principal amount of any borrowings, if any) allocated to Intech.

The following table sets forth the management fee paid by Nuveen Fund Advisors to Intech for the last three fiscal years:

	Sub-Advisory Fee Paid by Nuveen Fund Advisors to Intech
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2015	\$ 937,895
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2016	\$ 824,953
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2017	\$ 873,288

A discussion regarding the Board's most recent decision to renew the Intech Sub-Advisory Agreement for the Fund may be found in the Fund's semi-annual report to shareholders for the period ended June 30 of each year.

**Portfolio Managers.** Unless otherwise indicated, the information below is provided as of the date of this SAI.

**Nuveen Asset Management Portfolio Managers.** David Friar and Jody Hrazanek of Nuveen Asset Management oversee Nuveen Asset Management's implementation of the Fund's Option Strategy.



David Friar, Senior Vice President (since 2014) and Portfolio Manager (since 2011) of Nuveen Asset Management, entered the financial services industry in 1998. He joined Nuveen Asset Management in January 2011 following the firm's acquisition of a portion of the asset management business of FAF Advisors. Mr. Friar previously served in various positions with FAF Advisors since 1999 where he served as a member of FAF's Performance Measurement group. Mr. Friar has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since February 2011.

Jody Hrazanek joined Nuveen in May 2018 from Voya Investment Management where she was head of Strategy Design and Implementation from 2005 to 2018. In this role, she was portfolio manager for a number of multi-asset strategies including target date, portable alpha and option overlay strategies. Prior to Voya, Ms. Hrazanek worked at Advent Capital Management from 2003 to 2005 as a convertible bond trader for both long-only and hedge fund portfolios. Ms. Hrazanek has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since September 1, 2018.

Other Accounts. Mr. Friar and Ms. Hrazanek also have responsibility for the day-to-day management of accounts other than the Fund. Information regarding these other accounts is set forth below.

**Number of Other Accounts Managed and Assets by Account Type as of December 31, 2018**

Portfolio Manager	Type of Account Managed	Number of Accounts	Total Assets	Number of Accounts with Performance Based Fees	Assets of Accounts with Performance Based Fees
David Friar	Registered Investment Companies	5	\$1.98 billion	0	0
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	0	0
	Other Accounts	8	\$591 million	0	0
		1*	\$95 million		
Jody Hrazanek	Registered Investment Companies	4	\$1.97 billion	0	0
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	0	0
	Other Accounts	0	\$0	0	0

\* Other Accounts-overlay strategies The portfolio manager is responsible for the management of overlay strategies employed by this account that use derivative instruments either to obtain, offset or substitute for certain portfolio exposures beyond those provided by the account's underlying portfolios.

Conflicts of Interest. Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a portfolio manager has day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to more than one account. More specifically, portfolio managers who manage multiple accounts are presented a number of potential conflicts, including, among others, those discussed below.

The management of multiple accounts may result in a portfolio manager devoting unequal time and attention to the management of each account. Nuveen Asset Management seeks to manage such competing interests for the time and attention of portfolio managers by having portfolio managers focus on a particular investment discipline. Most accounts managed by a portfolio manager in a particular investment strategy are managed using the same investment models.

If a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity which may be suitable for more than one account, an account may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity due to an allocation of filled purchase or sale orders across all eligible accounts. To deal with these situations, Nuveen Asset Management has adopted procedures for allocating limited opportunities across multiple accounts.

With respect to many of its clients' accounts, Nuveen Asset Management determines which broker to use to execute transaction orders, consistent with its duty to seek best execution of the transaction. However, with respect to certain other accounts, Nuveen Asset Management may be limited by the client with respect to the selection of brokers or may be instructed to direct trades through a particular broker. In these cases, Nuveen Asset Management may place separate, non-simultaneous, transactions for a Fund and other accounts which may temporarily affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of the Fund or the other accounts.

Some clients are subject to different regulations. As a consequence of this difference in regulatory requirements, some clients may not be permitted to engage in all the investment techniques or transactions or to engage in these transactions to the same extent as the other accounts managed by the portfolio manager. Finally, the appearance of a conflict of interest may arise where Nuveen Asset Management has an incentive, such as a performance-based management fee, which relates to the management of some accounts, with respect to which a portfolio manager has day-to-day management responsibilities.

Nuveen Asset Management has adopted certain compliance procedures which are designed to address these types of conflicts common among investment managers. However, there is no guarantee that such procedures will detect each and every situation in which a conflict arises.

Compensation. Portfolio manager compensation consists primarily of base pay, an annual cash bonus and long term incentive payments.

*Base pay.* Base pay is determined based upon an analysis of the portfolio manager's general performance, experience, and market levels of base pay for such position.

*Annual cash bonus.* The Fund's portfolio managers are eligible for an annual cash bonus based on investment performance, qualitative evaluation and financial performance of Nuveen Asset Management.

A portion of each portfolio manager's annual cash bonus is based on the Fund's pre-tax investment performance, generally measured over the past one- and three or five-year periods unless the portfolio manager's tenure is shorter. Investment performance for the Fund generally is determined by evaluating the Fund's performance relative to its benchmark(s) and/or Lipper industry peer group.

A portion of the cash bonus is based on a qualitative evaluation made by each portfolio manager's supervisor taking into consideration a number of factors, including the portfolio manager's team collaboration, expense management, support of personnel responsible for asset growth, and his or her compliance with Nuveen Asset Management's policies and procedures.

The final factor influencing a portfolio manager's cash bonus is the financial performance of Nuveen Asset Management based on its operating earnings.

*Long-term incentive compensation.* Certain key employees of Nuveen Asset Management, including certain portfolio managers, have received profits interests in Nuveen Asset Management which entitle their holders to participate in the firm's growth over time.

There are generally no differences between the methods used to determine compensation with respect to the Fund and the Other Accounts shown in the table above.

Fund Shares Owned by the Portfolio Managers. As of December 31, 2018, Mr. Friar and Ms. Hrazanek beneficially owned (as determined pursuant to Rule 16a-1(a)(2) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act")) shares of the Fund having values within the indicated dollar ranges.

Portfolio Manager	Dollar Range of Equity Securities Beneficially Owned in the Fund
David Friar	None
Jody Hrazanek	None

*Intech Portfolio Managers.* With respect to the Equity Portfolio, a team of investment professionals from Intech consisting of Dr. Adrian Banner, Dr. Vassilios Papathanakos, and Joseph Runnels works together to implement the mathematical portfolio management process. No one person of the investment team is primarily responsible for implementing the investment strategy of the portion of the Fund allocated to Intech.

Adrian Banner, Ph.D., is chief executive officer and chief investment officer of Intech. Dr. Banner was named chief executive officer in November 2012 and concurrently is the firm's chief investment officer, a position he has held since January 2012. Previously, Dr. Banner was co-chief investment officer beginning January 2009, senior investment officer from September 2007 to January 2009, and joined Intech in August 2002 as director of research. Since that time, Dr. Banner has been an integral part of the firm's Princeton-based research team. Dr. Banner has extensive knowledge of Intech's trading systems, optimization programs and research initiatives, both on an operational and theoretical basis. Dr. Banner supervises the implementation of the portfolio optimization, management, and trading processes. He conducts mathematical research on the investment process and reviews and recommends improvements. Dr. Banner earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton University and his M.Sc. and B.Sc., also in mathematics, from the University of New South Wales, Australia. Mr. Banner has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since December 31, 2008.

Vassilios Papathanakos, Ph.D., is executive vice president and deputy chief investment officer of Intech. He was named executive vice president in January 2014 and deputy chief investment officer in November 2012. Prior to that, he was the firm's director of research since July 2007, and joined Intech in October 2006 as associate director of research. Dr. Papathanakos is jointly responsible, with Dr. Banner, for the day-to-day implementation of Intech's investment process and trading operations. Dr. Papathanakos received his Ph.D. in Physics from Princeton University in November 2006 and earned a B.S. in Physics from the University of Ioannina, Greece, in July 2001. Dr. Papathanakos has also accumulated a long teaching experience, instructing courses in all undergraduate and graduate levels, assisting in the development of new courses and coaching new teaching assistants. Mr. Papathanakos has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since December 31, 2011.

Joseph W. Runnels, CFA, has been vice president of portfolio management at Intech since March 2003 and joined the firm in 1998. Mr. Runnels holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Murray State University. Mr. Runnels has been a portfolio manager of the Fund since March 1, 2013.

Other Accounts. Dr. Banner, Dr. Papathanakos, and Mr. Runnels also have responsibility for the day-to-day management of accounts other than the Fund. Information regarding these other accounts is set forth below.

Portfolio Manager	Number of Other Accounts Managed and Assets by Account Type as of December 31, 2018		
	Type of Account Managed	Number of Accounts	Total Assets
Adrian Banner	Registered Investment Companies	8	\$3,188,492,844
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles*	39	\$8,302,638,228
	Other Accounts**	117	\$32,867,875,430
Vassilios Papathanakos	Registered Investment Companies	8	\$3,188,492,844
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles*	39	\$8,302,638,228
	Other Accounts**	117	\$32,867,875,430

**Number of Other Accounts Managed and Assets  
by Account Type as of December 31, 2018**

Portfolio Manager	Type of Account Managed	Number of Accounts	Total Assets
Joseph W. Runnels	Registered Investment Companies	8	\$3,188,492,844
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles*	39	\$8,302,638,228
	Other Accounts**	117	\$32,867,875,430

\* 5 of the accounts included in the total, consisting of \$3,174,140,640 of the total assets in the category, have performance-based advisory fees.

\*\* 33 of the accounts included in the total, consisting of \$12,876,707,859 of the total assets in the category, have performance-based advisory fees.

Conflicts of Interest. Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a portfolio manager has day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to more than one account. More specifically, a portfolio manager who manages multiple accounts is presented with the following potential conflicts:

The management of multiple accounts may result in a portfolio manager devoting unequal time and attention to the management of each account. Intech believes its mathematical investment process and the procedures it has in place are reasonably designed to mitigate these potential conflicts and risks. Specifically, Intech's mathematical investment process significantly removes investment discretion.

If a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity that may be suitable for more than one account, an account may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity due to an allocation of filled purchase or sale orders across all eligible accounts. For Intech, all allocations are based on computer-generated target weightings and trades occur simultaneously for all accounts on a rotating basis. Before submission for execution, trades are reviewed by the trader for errors or discrepancies. Trades are submitted to designated brokers in a single electronic file at one time during the day, pre-allocated to individual clients. In the event that an aggregated order is not completely filled, executed shares are allocated to participating client accounts in proportion to the order.

Intech has an established procedure for the selection, approval, management and annual review of broker relationships. Intech gives primary consideration to obtaining the most favorable price and efficient execution. Intech may, however, pay a higher commission than would otherwise be necessary for a particular transaction when, in Intech's opinion, to do so would further the goal of obtaining the best available execution. Intech does not participate in soft dollar or directed brokerage commission arrangements and will not accept directed brokerage instructions. Intech has a policy of paying commissions for execution services only and does not purchase research or other services from or through brokers using commissions.

The Fund is subject to different regulation than the other pooled investment vehicles and other accounts managed by the portfolio manager. As a consequence of this difference in regulatory requirements, the Fund may not be permitted to engage in all the investment techniques or transactions or to engage in these transactions to the same extent as the other accounts managed by the portfolio manager. Intech's mathematical investment process may result in situations in which some of its clients may sell securities when other clients purchase the same securities at or about the same time. In an attempt to reduce the likelihood of the orders matching up in the market and in an effort to maintain the confidentiality of Intech's trading activities for purposes of improved execution, Intech isolates its sale orders from its purchase orders with different brokers handling each order.

Intech has adopted certain compliance procedures that are designed to address these types of conflicts common among investment managers. However, there is no guarantee that such procedures will detect each and every situation in which a conflict arises.

**Compensation.** With respect to Intech, as of December 31, 2018, the compensation structure of the investment personnel is determined by Intech and is summarized below.

*Salary and cash bonus.* For managing the Fund and all other accounts, the investment personnel receive base pay in the form of a fixed annual salary paid and a cash bonus as determined by Intech, which is based on overall corporate performance and each individual's contributions.

*Long-term incentive compensation.* Investment personnel that are part owners of Intech, also receive compensation by virtue of their ownership interest in Intech. They may elect to defer payment of a designated percentage of their fixed compensation and/or up to all of their variable compensation in accordance with Janus Henderson's Executive Income Deferral Program.

**Fund Shares Owned by the Portfolio Managers.** As of December 31, 2018, Dr. Banner, Dr. Papathanakos, and Mr. Runnels beneficially owned (as determined pursuant to Rule 16a-1(a)(2) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act")) shares of the Fund having values within the indicated dollar ranges.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities Beneficially Owned in the Fund</b>
Adrian Banner	None
Vassilios Papathanakos	None
Joseph Runnels	None

#### CODE OF ETHICS

The Fund, Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management, Intech, Nuveen Securities and other related entities have adopted codes of ethics under Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act that essentially prohibit certain of their personnel, including the Fund's Portfolio Managers, from engaging in personal investments that compete or interfere with, or attempt to take advantage of a client's, including the Fund's, anticipated or actual portfolio transactions, and are designed to assure that the interests of clients, including Fund shareholders, are placed before the interests of personnel in connection with personal investment transactions. Personnel subject to a code of ethics may purchase shares of the Fund subject to the restrictions set forth in the code of ethics. Personnel subject to a code of ethics may generally invest in securities in which the Fund may also invest. A text-only version of the codes of ethics of the Fund, can be viewed online or downloaded from the EDGAR Database on the SEC's internet web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

#### PROXY VOTING POLICIES

The Adviser has delegated to the Sub-Advisers the full responsibility for proxy voting on securities held in the Fund's portfolio and related duties in accordance with the Sub-Advisers' policies and procedures. The Adviser periodically monitors the Sub-Advisers' voting to ensure that each Sub-Adviser is carrying out its duties. Nuveen Asset Management's proxy voting policies and procedures are attached to this filing as Appendix A.

Intech has engaged Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS"), to vote Fund proxies in accordance with ISS' Benchmark Proxy Voting Guidelines ("ISS Recommendations"), attached hereto as Appendix B. Intech has engaged the services of the its parent firm, Janus Henderson Group plc's Securities Operations Group to oversee ISS in the administration of its proxy voting. Intech has adopted procedures and controls to avoid conflicts of interest that may arise in connection with proxy voting. In light of such procedures and controls, it is not expected that any conflicts will arise in the proxy voting process. In the unusual circumstance that a particular proxy vote may present a potential conflict, the matter shall be referred to Intech's Proxy Review Group, which is composed of Intech's Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel, Chief Financial Officer and Chief

Compliance Officer. To the extent that a conflict of interest is identified, Intech will vote the proxy according to the ISS recommendation unless otherwise determined by the Proxy Review Group and Intech will report the resolution of the vote to the Fund's Proxy Voting Committee.

Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available without charge, upon request, by calling (800) 257-8787 or from the Fund's website at <http://www.nuveen.com>, and on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

### **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE**

Subject to the supervision of Nuveen Fund Advisors and the Fund's Board, Intech, with respect to the Equity Portfolio, and Nuveen Asset Management, with respect to the Options Strategy, are responsible for decisions to purchase and sell securities for the Fund, the negotiation of the prices to be paid and the allocation of transactions among various dealer firms. Transactions on stock exchanges involve the payment by the Fund of brokerage commissions. There generally is no stated commission in the case of securities traded in the OTC market but the price paid by the Fund usually includes an undisclosed dealer commission or mark-up. Transactions in the OTC market can also be placed with broker-dealers who act as agents and charge brokerage commissions for effecting OTC transactions. The Fund may place its OTC transactions either directly with principal market makers, or with broker-dealers if that is consistent with Nuveen Asset Management's or Intech's, as applicable, obligation to obtain best qualitative execution. In certain instances, the Fund may make purchases of underwritten issues at prices that include underwriting fees.

Portfolio securities may be purchased directly from an underwriter or in the OTC market from the principal dealers in such securities, unless it appears that a better price or execution may be obtained through other means. Portfolio securities will not be purchased from Nuveen or its affiliates or affiliates of Intech except in compliance with the 1940 Act.

It is Nuveen Asset Management's and Intech's policy to seek the best execution under the circumstances of each trade. Nuveen Asset Management and Intech will evaluate price as the primary consideration, with the financial condition, reputation and responsiveness of the dealer considered secondary in determining best execution. Given the best execution obtainable, it will be Nuveen Asset Management's practice to select dealers that, in addition, furnish research information (primarily credit analyses of issuers and general economic reports) and statistical and other services to Nuveen Asset Management. It is not possible to place a dollar value on information and statistical and other services received from dealers. Since it is only supplementary to Nuveen Asset Management's own research efforts, the receipt of research information is not expected to reduce significantly Nuveen Asset Management's expenses. Intech does not consider research services in selecting brokers. While Nuveen Asset Management and Intech will be primarily responsible for the placement of the business of the Fund, Nuveen Asset Management's and Intech's policies and practices in this regard must be consistent with the foregoing and will, at all times, be subject to review by the Board of the Fund.

Nuveen Asset Management and Intech may manage other investment accounts and investment companies for other clients that may invest in the same types of securities as the Fund and that may have investment objectives similar to those of the Fund. Nuveen Asset Management and Intech each seek to allocate portfolio transactions equitably whenever concurrent decisions are made to purchase or sell assets or securities by the Fund and another advisory account. If an aggregated order cannot be filled completely, allocations will generally be made on a pro rata basis. An order may not be allocated on a pro rata basis where, for example (i) consideration is given to portfolio managers who have been instrumental in developing or negotiating a particular investment; (ii) consideration is given to an account with specialized investment policies that coincide with the particulars of a specific investment; (iii) pro rata allocation would result in odd-lot or de minimis amounts being allocated to a portfolio or other client; or (iv) where Nuveen Asset Management or Intech reasonably determines that departure from a pro rata allocation is advisable. There may also be instances where

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the Fund will not participate at all in a transaction that is allocated among other accounts. While these allocation procedures could have a detrimental effect on the price or amount of the securities available to the Fund from time to time, it is the opinion of the Board that the benefits available from Nuveen Asset Management's or Intech's management outweigh any disadvantage that may arise from Nuveen Asset Management's or Intech's larger management activities and their need to allocate securities.

Substantially all of the Fund's trades are effected on a principal basis. The following table sets forth the aggregate amount of brokerage commissions paid by the Fund for the last three fiscal years:

	<b>Brokerage Commissions Paid</b>
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2015	\$ 271,623
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2016	\$ 250,108
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2017	\$ 338,925

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund did not pay commissions to brokers in return for research services or hold any securities of its regular broker-dealers.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund acquired certain securities of its regular brokers or dealers, as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act, or of the parents of the brokers or dealers. The following table sets forth those brokers or dealers and states the value of the Fund's aggregate holdings of the securities of each issuer as of close of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017:

			<b>Aggregate Fund Holdings of Broker/Dealer or Parent (as of December 31, 2017)</b>
<b>Broker/Dealer</b>	<b>Issuer</b>		
Morgan Stanley Co., Inc.	Morgan Stanley	\$	167,904
State Street Bank and Trust Company	State Street Corporation	\$	2,342,640

### NET ASSET VALUE

The Fund's NAV per Common Share is determined as of the close of regular session trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ) is open for business. NAV is computed by dividing the value of all assets of the Fund (including accrued interest and dividends), less all liabilities (including accrued expenses and dividends declared but unpaid), by the total number of Common Shares outstanding. In determining NAV, expenses are accrued and applied daily and securities and other assets for which market quotations are available are valued at market value. Exchange-traded equity securities are generally valued at the last sales price on the securities exchange on which such securities are primarily traded. Exchange-traded equity securities traded on a securities exchange for which there are no transactions on a given day or securities not listed on a securities exchange are valued at closing mid or bid prices. Securities reported on NASDAQ are valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. Exchange-listed option contracts are valued using the prices reported on the exchanges where such instruments are primarily traded as of 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Investors should note that the listed options markets generally close at 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time. Changes in the value of the Fund's options portfolio after 4:00 p.m. generally would not be reflected in that day's NAV. Exchange-traded futures contracts and options on futures contracts are generally valued at the final settlement price or official closing price on the exchange such futures contracts and options on futures contracts are primarily traded. OTC derivatives, including OTC options, are valued based on prices from a third party evaluation service. Temporary investments in securities that have variable rate and demand features qualifying them as short-term investments are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value.

The Fund's securities are valued in accordance with procedures approved by the Board. Where a security is traded on more than one exchange, the security is generally valued at the price on the exchange considered to be

the primary exchange. In the case of securities not traded on an exchange, or if exchange prices are not otherwise available, the prices are typically determined by independent third party pricing services that use a variety of techniques and methodologies.

The valuations for fixed income securities and certain derivative instruments are typically the prices supplied by independent third party pricing services, which may use market prices or broker/dealer quotations or a variety of fair valuation techniques and methodologies. Any independent pricing service determining fair value will do so pursuant to procedures adopted by, or under the supervision of, the Board. If independent third party pricing services are unable to supply prices for a portfolio investment, or if the prices supplied are deemed to be unreliable, the market price may be determined by using quotations from one or more broker/dealers. When such prices or quotations are not available, or when believed to be unreliable, securities may be priced using fair value procedures approved by the Board. These procedures permit, among other things, the use of a matrix, formula or other method that takes into consideration market indexes, yield curves and other specific adjustments to determine fair value. The Fund may also use fair value procedures if it is determined that a significant event has occurred between the time at which a market price is determined and the time at which the fund's NAV is calculated. The effect of using fair value pricing is that the Common Share NAV will be subject to the judgment of the Board or its designee instead of being determined by the market.

### **DISTRIBUTIONS**

The Fund pays quarterly distributions stated in terms of a fixed cents per Common Share dividend rate that will be composed of supplemental amounts generally representing realized capital gains or, possibly, returns of capital representing unrealized capital gains or a return of your original investment. In addition, the Fund intends to distribute any net long-term capital gains to Common Shareholders as long-term capital gain dividends as frequently as quarterly. Quarterly distributions, including such supplemental amounts, are sometimes referred to as managed distributions.

The Fund will seek to establish a distribution rate that roughly corresponds to Nuveen Fund Advisors projections of the total return that could reasonably be expected to be generated by the Fund over an extended period of time, although the distribution rate will not be solely dependent on the amount of income earned or capital gains realized by the Fund. Nuveen Fund Advisors, in making such projections, may consider long-term historical returns and a variety of other factors. Distributions can only be made after paying accrued dividends to preferred shareholders, if any, and interest and required principal payments on borrowings, if any. The distribution policy recognizes that many investors are willing to accept the potentially higher asset volatility of the Fund's equity investments compared to fixed-income investments, but they prefer a consistent level of cash distributions be available each quarter for reinvestment or for other purposes of their choosing.

If, for any quarterly distribution, net investment income and net realized capital gains were less than the amount of the distribution, the difference would be distributed from the Fund's assets. In addition, in order to make such distributions, the Fund might have to sell a portion of its investment portfolio at a time when independent investment judgment might not dictate such action. The Fund's final distribution for each calendar year will include any remaining net investment income undistributed during the year and may include any remaining net realized capital gains undistributed during the year. The Fund's actual financial performance will likely vary significantly from quarter-to-quarter and from year-to-year, and there may be extended periods of up to several years when the distribution rate will exceed the Fund's actual total returns. The Fund's projected or actual distribution rate is not a prediction of what the Fund's actual total returns will be over any specific future period.

As portfolio and market conditions change, the rate of distributions on the Common Shares and the Fund's distribution policy could change. To the extent that the total return of the Fund's overall strategy exceeds the distribution rate for an extended period, the Fund may be in a position to increase the distribution rate or



distribute supplemental amounts to shareholders. Conversely, if the total return of the Fund's overall strategy is less than the distribution rate for an extended period of time, the Fund will effectively be drawing upon its net assets to meet payments prescribed by its distribution policy. Similarly, for tax purposes such distributions by the Fund may consist in part of a return of capital to Common Shareholders. The exact tax characteristics of the Fund's distributions will not be known until after the Fund's fiscal year-end. Common Shareholders should not confuse a return of capital distribution with dividend yield or total return. There is no assurance that the Fund will continue to make quarterly distributions of net long-term capital gains. Under the terms of an exemptive order from the SEC, the Fund's Board is required to determine whether to continue the quarterly distribution of net long-term capital gains if: (i) the Common Shares have traded at an average premium to NAV equal to or greater than 10%, as determined on the basis of the average of the discount or premium to the NAV of the Common Shares as of the close of each trading day over a 12-week rolling period, and (ii) the Fund's distribution rate for that 12-week rolling period, expressed as a percentage of NAV as of the ending date of the 12-week rolling period, is greater than the Fund's average annual total return in relation to the change in NAV over the 2-year period ending on the last day of the 12-week rolling period.

At the same time that it pays a quarterly distribution, the Fund will post on its website ([www.nuveen.com/etf](http://www.nuveen.com/etf)), and make available in written form to Common Shareholders, a written notice of the estimated sources and tax characteristics of the Fund's distributions (i.e., what percentage of the distributions is estimated to constitute ordinary income, short-term capital gains, long-term capital gains, and/or a non-taxable return of capital) on a year-to-date basis, in compliance with a federal securities law requirement that any fund paying a distribution from sources other than net investment income disclose to shareholders the respective portion attributable to such other sources. These estimates may be based on certain assumptions about the Fund's expected investment returns and the realization of net gains, if any, over the remaining course of the year. These estimates may, and likely will, vary over time based on the activities of the Fund and changes in the value of portfolio investments. The Fund expects that it will provide this type of information primarily on a tax basis, instead of on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis, because experience has shown that fund shareholders are most concerned about the tax character of their distributions, and because the Fund expects that the distributions' tax characteristics will fairly reflect the economic basis of the Fund's distributions and returns. The final determination of the source and tax characteristics of all distributions will be made after December 31 in each year, and reported to Common Shareholders on Form 1099-DIV early the following year.

As explained more fully below in Tax Matters, at least annually, the Fund intends to distribute to Common Shareholders any net capital gain (which is the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) for each taxable year through its managed distributions after making interest and required principal payments on Borrowings or paying any accrued dividends or making any redemption or liquidation payments to preferred shareholders or, alternatively, to retain all or a portion of the year's net capital gain and pay U.S. federal income tax on the retained gain. Each Common Shareholder of record as of the end of the Fund's taxable year will include in income for federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, his or her share of any retained gain, will be deemed to have paid his or her proportionate share of the tax paid by the Fund on such retained gain, and will be entitled to an income tax credit or refund for that share of the tax. The Fund may treat any retained capital gain amount as a substitute for equivalent cash distributions. In addition, the Fund may make total distributions during a given calendar year in an amount that exceeds the Fund's net investment income and net capital gain for that calendar year, in which case the excess will generally be treated by shareholders as return of capital for tax purposes. Distributions treated as return of capital will reduce a shareholder's basis in his or her Common Shares, which will generally result in an increase in the amount of gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that the shareholder will recognize on his or her sale or other disposition of such Common Shares.

Distributions will be reinvested in additional Common Shares under the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan unless a Common Shareholder elects to receive cash.

The Fund reserves the right to change its distribution policy and the basis for establishing the rate of its quarterly distributions at any time, subject to a finding by the Fund's Board that such change is in the best interests of the Fund and its Common Shareholders.

#### **DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN**

If your Common Shares are registered directly with the Fund or if you hold your Common Shares with a brokerage firm that participates in the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the Plan) your distributions, including any capital gain distributions, will automatically be reinvested in additional Common Shares under the Plan unless you request otherwise. If you elect not to participate in the Plan, or are not eligible to participate because your brokerage firm does not participate in the Plan, you will receive all distributions in cash paid by check mailed directly to you or your brokerage firm by Computershare Trust Company, N.A. and Computershare Inc. (together, Computershare) as dividend paying agent (the Plan Agent). The tax consequences of a distribution are the same regardless of whether such distribution is reinvested or received in cash. See Tax Matters below.

Under the Plan, the number of Common Shares you will receive will be determined as follows:

(1) If the Common Shares are trading *at or above* NAV at the time of valuation, the Fund will issue new shares at a price equal to the greater of (i) NAV per Common Share on that date or (ii) 95% of the market price on that date.

(2) If Common Shares are trading *below* NAV at the time of valuation, the Plan Agent will receive the dividend or distribution in cash and will purchase Common Shares in the open market, on the NYSE or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts. It is possible that the market price for the Common Shares may increase before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases. Therefore, the average purchase price per share paid by the Plan Agent may exceed the market price at the time of valuation, resulting in the purchase of fewer shares than if the dividend or distribution had been paid in Common Shares issued by the Fund. The Plan Agent will use all dividends and distributions received in cash to purchase Common Shares in the open market within 30 days of the valuation date. Interest will not be paid on any uninvested cash payments. The Plan provides that if the Common Shares start trading at or above NAV before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases, the Plan Agent may cease purchasing Common Shares in the open market, and may invest the uninvested portion in new shares at a price equal to the greater of (i) NAV per Common Share determined on the last business day immediately prior to the purchase date or (ii) 95% of the market price on that date.

You may withdraw from the Plan at any time by giving written notice to the Plan Agent. If you withdraw or the Plan is terminated, you will receive whole shares in your account under the Plan and you will receive a cash payment for any fraction of a share in your account. If you wish, the Plan Agent will sell your shares and send you the proceeds, minus brokerage commissions and a \$2.50 service fee.

The Plan Agent maintains all shareholders' accounts in the Plan and gives written confirmation of all transactions in the accounts, including information you may need for tax records. Common Shares in your account will be held by the Plan Agent in non-certificated form. Any proxy you receive will include all Common Shares you have received under the Plan.

There is no brokerage charge for reinvestment of your dividends or distributions in Common Shares. However, all participants will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred by the Plan Agent when it makes open market purchases.

Automatically reinvesting dividends and distributions does not mean that you do not have to pay income taxes due upon receiving dividends and distributions.

As noted above, if you hold your Common Shares with a brokerage firm that does not participate in the Plan, you will not be able to participate in the Plan and any dividend reinvestment may be effected on different terms than those described above. Consult your financial adviser for more information.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan if in the judgment of the Board the change is warranted. There is no direct service charge to participants in the Plan; however, the Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants. Additional information about the Plan may be obtained from Computershare, P.O. Box 505000, Louisville, Kentucky, 40233-5000 (800) 257-8787.

#### **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The Fund may sell the Common Shares offered under this Prospectus through

at-the-market transactions;

underwriting syndicates; and

privately negotiated transactions.

The Fund will bear the expenses of the offering, including but not limited to, the expenses of preparation of the Prospectus and SAI for the offering and the expense of counsel and auditors in connection with the offering.

#### **Distribution Through At-The-Market Transactions**

The Fund has entered into a distribution agreement with Nuveen Securities (the *Distribution Agreement*), which has been filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Distribution Agreement, the Fund may from time to time issue and sell its Common Shares through Nuveen Securities to certain broker-dealers which have entered into selected dealer agreements with Nuveen Securities. Currently, Nuveen Securities has entered into a selected dealer agreement (the *Selected Dealer Agreement*) with BB&T Capital Markets ( *BB&T* ), a division of BB&T Securities, LLC, pursuant to which BB&T will be acting as Nuveen Securities sub-placement agent with respect to at-the-market offerings of Common Shares. The Selected Dealer Agreement has been filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus forms a part.

Common Shares will only be sold on such days as shall be agreed to by the Fund and Nuveen Securities. Common Shares will be sold at prevailing market prices through the National Market System, subject to a minimum price to be established each day by Nuveen Securities. The minimum price on any day will not be less than the current NAV per Common Share plus the per share amount of the commission to be paid to Nuveen Securities. The Fund, Nuveen Securities, and BB&T will suspend the sale of Common Shares if the per share price of the shares is less than the minimum price.

The Fund will compensate Nuveen Securities with respect to sales of the Common Shares at a commission rate of up to 1.0% of the gross proceeds of the sale of Common Shares. Nuveen Securities will compensate sub-placement agents or other broker-dealers participating in the offering at a rate of up to 0.8% of the gross proceeds of the sale of Common Shares sold by that sub-placement agent or broker-dealer. Settlements of sales of Common Shares will occur on the second business day following the date on which any such sales are made. In connection with the sale of the Common Shares on behalf of the Fund, Nuveen Securities may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the 1933 Act, and the compensation of Nuveen Securities may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. Unless otherwise indicated in a further Prospectus supplement, Nuveen Securities will act as underwriter on a reasonable efforts basis.

The offering of Common Shares pursuant to the Distribution Agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (i) the sale of all Common Shares subject thereto or (ii) termination of the Distribution Agreement. The Fund and

Nuveen Securities each have the right to terminate the Distribution Agreement in its discretion at any time. The Fund currently intends to distribute the shares offered pursuant to this Prospectus through at-the-market transactions, although from time to time it may also distribute shares through an underwriting syndicate or a privately negotiated transaction. To the extent shares are distributed other than through at-the-market transactions, the Fund will file a supplement to this Prospectus describing such transactions.

The Fund's closing price on the NYSE on February 13, 2019 was \$13.82.

#### **Distribution Through Underwriting Syndicates**

The Fund from time to time may issue additional Common Shares through a syndicated secondary offering. In order to limit the impact on the market price of the Fund's Common Shares, underwriters will market and price the offering on an expedited basis (e.g., overnight or similarly abbreviated offering period). The Fund will launch a syndicated offering on a day, and upon terms, mutually agreed upon between the Fund, Nuveen Securities, one of the Fund's underwriters, and the underwriting syndicate.

The Fund will offer its shares at a price equal to a specified discount of up to 5% from the closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares on the day prior to the offering date. The applicable discount will be negotiated by the Fund and Nuveen Securities in consultation with the underwriting syndicate on a transaction-by-transaction basis. The Fund will compensate the underwriting syndicate out of the proceeds of the offering based upon a sales load of up to 4% of the gross proceeds of the sale of Common Shares. The minimum net proceeds per share to the Fund will not be less than the greater of (i) the Fund's latest NAV per share of Common Shares or (ii) 91% of the closing market price of the shares of the Fund's Common Shares on the day prior to the offering date.

#### **Distribution Through Privately Negotiated Transactions**

The Fund from time to time may sell directly to, and solicit offers from, institutional and other sophisticated investors, who may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the 1933 Act for any resale of Common Shares.

The terms of such privately negotiated transactions will be subject to the discretion of the management of the Fund. In determining whether to sell Common Shares through a privately negotiated transaction, the Fund will consider relevant factors including, but not limited to, the attractiveness of obtaining additional funds through the sale of Common Shares, the purchase price to apply to any such sale of Common Shares and the person seeking to purchase the Common Shares.

Common Shares issued by the Fund through privately negotiated transactions will be issued at a price equal to the greater of (i) the NAV per share of the Fund's Common Shares or (ii) at a discount ranging from 0% to 5% of the average daily closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares at the close of business on the ten business days preceding the date upon which Common Shares are sold pursuant to the privately negotiated transaction. The applicable discount will be determined by the Fund on a transaction-by-transaction basis.

The principal business address of Nuveen Securities is 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

### **DESCRIPTION OF SHARES**

#### **COMMON SHARES**

For a description of the Fund's Common Shares, See [Description of Shares - Common Shares](#) in the Fund's Prospectus.

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## PREFERRED SHARES

As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund will not leverage its capital structure by issuing senior securities such as preferred shares or debt instruments. However, the Declaration of Trust (the Declaration) authorizes the issuance of an unlimited number of preferred shares in one or more classes or series, with rights as determined by the Board of the Fund by action of the Board without the approval of the Common Shareholders. The terms of any preferred shares that may be issued by the Fund may be the same as, or different from, the terms described below, subject to applicable law and the Declaration.

**Limited Issuance of Preferred Shares.** Under the 1940 Act, the Fund could issue preferred shares with an aggregate liquidation value of up to one-half of the value of the Fund's total net assets, measured immediately after issuance of the preferred shares. Liquidation value means the original purchase price of the shares being liquidated plus any accrued and unpaid dividends. In addition, the Fund is not permitted to declare any cash dividend or other distribution on its Common Shares unless the liquidation value of the preferred shares is less than one-half of the value of the Fund's total net assets (determined after deducting the amount of such dividend or distribution) immediately after the distribution.

**Distribution Preference.** The preferred shares would have complete priority over the Common Shares as to distribution of assets.

**Liquidation Preference.** In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Fund, holders of preferred shares would be entitled to receive a preferential liquidating distribution (expected to equal the original purchase price per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon, whether or not earned or declared) before any distribution of assets is made to Common Shareholders. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, holders of preferred shares will not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of assets by the Fund. A consolidation or merger of the Fund with or into any Massachusetts business trust or corporation or a sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Fund shall not be deemed to be a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Fund.

**Voting Rights.** In connection with any issuance of preferred shares, the Fund must comply with Section 18(i) of the 1940 Act, which requires, among other things, that preferred shares be voting shares and have equal voting rights with Common Shares. Except as otherwise indicated in this SAI and except as otherwise required by applicable law, holders of preferred shares would vote together with Common Shareholders as a single class.

In connection with the election of the Fund's trustees, holders of preferred shares, voting as a separate class, would be entitled to elect two trustees, and the remaining class of trustees nominated for election would be elected by Common Shareholders and holders of preferred shares, voting together as a single class. In addition, if at any time dividends on the Fund's outstanding preferred shares would be unpaid in an amount equal to two full years' dividends thereon, the holders of all outstanding preferred shares, voting as a separate class, would be entitled to elect a majority of the Fund's trustees until all dividends in arrears have been paid or declared and set apart for payment.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding preferred shares of any class or series, as the case may be, voting as a separate class, would be required to, among other things, (1) take certain actions that would affect the preferences, rights or powers of such class or series or (2) authorize or issue any class or series ranking prior to the preferred shares. Except as may otherwise be required by law, (1) the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the preferred shares outstanding at the time, voting as a separate class, would be required to approve any conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company and (2) the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding Preferred shares, voting as a separate class, would be required to approve any plan of reorganization (as such term is used in the 1940 Act) adversely affecting such shares; provided however, that such separate class vote would be a

majority vote if the action in question has previously been approved, adopted or authorized by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of trustees fixed in accordance with the Declaration or the By-laws. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding preferred shares, voting as a separate class, would be required to approve any action not described in the preceding sentence requiring a vote of security holders under Section 13(a) of the 1940 Act including, among other things, changes in the Fund's investment objective or changes in the investment restrictions described as fundamental policies under Investment Restrictions. The class or series vote of holders of preferred shares described above would in each case be in addition to any separate vote of the requisite percentage of Common Shares and preferred shares necessary to authorize the action in question.

The foregoing voting provisions would not apply with respect to the preferred shares if, at or prior to the time when a vote was required, such shares would have been (1) redeemed or (2) called for redemption and sufficient funds would have been deposited in trust to effect such redemption.

**Redemption, Purchase and Sale of Preferred Shares.** The terms of the preferred shares may provide that they are redeemable by the Fund at certain times, in whole or in part, at the original purchase price per share plus accumulated dividends, that the Fund may tender for or purchase preferred shares and that the Fund may subsequently resell any shares so tendered for or purchased. Any redemption or purchase of preferred shares by the Fund would reduce the leverage applicable to Common Shares, while any resale of such shares by the Fund would increase such leverage.

In the event of any future issuance of preferred shares, the Fund likely would apply for ratings from an NRSRO. In such event, as long as preferred Shares are outstanding, the composition of the Fund's portfolio would reflect guidelines established by such NRSRO. Based on previous guidelines established by such NRSROs for the securities of other issuers, the Fund anticipates that the guidelines may impose asset coverage or portfolio composition requirements that are more stringent than those imposed on the Fund by the 1940 Act. However, at this time, no assurance can be given as to the nature or extent of the guidelines that may be imposed in connection with obtaining a rating of any preferred shares.

## **BORROWINGS**

As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund will not leverage its capital structure by issuing senior securities such as preferred shares or debt instruments. However, the Declaration authorizes the Fund, without approval of the Common Shareholders, to borrow money. Pursuant to this authorization, the Fund may issue notes or other evidence of indebtedness (including bank Borrowings or commercial paper) and may secure any such Borrowings by mortgaging, pledging or otherwise subjecting as security the Fund's assets. In connection with such Borrowings, the Fund may be required to maintain minimum average balances with the lender or to pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit. Any such requirements would increase the cost of Borrowings over the stated interest rate. Under the requirements of the 1940 Act, the Fund, immediately after any Borrowings, must have an asset coverage of at least 300%. With respect to any such Borrowings, asset coverage means the ratio that the value of the total assets of the Fund, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities (as defined in the 1940 Act), bears to the aggregate amount of such Borrowings represented by senior securities issued by the Fund. Certain types of Borrowings may result in the Fund being subject to covenants in credit agreements relating to asset coverages or portfolio composition or otherwise. In addition, as with the issue of preferred shares, the Fund may be subject to certain restrictions imposed by guidelines of one or more ratings agencies that may issue ratings on commercial paper or notes issued by the Fund. Such restrictions may be more stringent than those imposed by the 1940 Act.

The rights of lenders to the Fund to receive interest on and repayment of principal of any such Borrowings would be senior to those of the Common Shareholders, and the terms of any such Borrowings may contain provisions that limit certain activities of the Fund, including the payment of dividends to Common Shareholders in certain circumstances. Further, the 1940 Act would (in certain circumstances) grant to the lenders to the Fund

certain voting rights in the event of default in the payment of interest on or repayment of principal. In the event that such provisions would impair the Fund's status as a regulated investment company ( "RIC" ) under the Code, the Fund would repay the Borrowings. Any Borrowings will likely be ranked senior or equal to all other existing and future Borrowings of the Fund. The Fund may borrow up to 7.5% of its Managed Assets for cash management purposes. The Fund also may borrow up to an additional 5% of its total assets for temporary purposes.

#### **CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE DECLARATION OF TRUST AND BY-LAWS**

Under Massachusetts law, shareholders could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. However, the Declaration contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for debts or obligations of the Fund and requires that notice of such limited liability be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Fund or the trustees. The Declaration further provides for indemnification out of the assets and property of the Fund for all loss and expense 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 would be unable to meet its obligations. The Fund believes that the likelihood of such circumstances is remote.

The Declaration includes provisions that could limit the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund or to convert the Fund to open-end status. Specifically, the Declaration requires a vote by holders of at least two-thirds of the Common Shares and, if issued, Preferred shares, voting together as a single class, except as described below, to authorize (1) a conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company, (2) a merger or consolidation of the Fund, or a series or class of the Fund, with any corporation, association, trust or other organization or a reorganization of the Fund, or a series or class of the Fund, (3) a sale, lease or transfer of all or substantially all of the Fund's assets (other than in the regular course of the Fund's investment activities), (4) in certain circumstances, a termination of the Fund, or a series or class of the Fund or (5) a removal of trustees by shareholders, and then only for cause, unless, with respect to (1) through (4), such transaction has already been authorized by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of trustees fixed in accordance with the Declaration or the By-laws, in which case the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the Fund's Common Shares and, if issued, Preferred shares outstanding at the time, voting together as a single class, would be required, provided, however, that where only a particular class or series is affected (or, in the case of removing a trustee, when the trustee has been elected by only one class), the required vote by only the applicable class or series would be required. Approval of shareholders would not be required, however, for any transaction, whether deemed a merger, consolidation, reorganization or otherwise whereby the Fund issues shares in connection with the acquisition of assets (including those subject to liabilities) from any other investment company or similar entity. In the case of the conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company, or in the case of any of the foregoing transactions constituting a plan of reorganization that adversely affects the holders of any outstanding Preferred shares, the action in question would also require the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the Fund's Preferred shares outstanding at the time, voting as a separate class, or, if such action has been authorized by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of trustees fixed in accordance with the Declaration or the Bylaws, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the Fund's Preferred shares outstanding at the time, voting as a separate class. None of the foregoing provisions may be amended except by the vote of at least two-thirds of the Common Shares and, if issued, Preferred shares, voting together as a single class. The votes required to approve the conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company or to approve transactions constituting a plan of reorganization that adversely affects the holders of any outstanding Preferred shares are higher than those required by the 1940 Act. The Board believes that the provisions of the Declaration relating to such higher votes are in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. The Board is divided into three classes, with each class serving a different term. This staggered Board structure could delay for up to two years the replacement of a majority of the Board.

The Declaration provides that the obligations of the Fund are not binding upon the trustees of the Fund individually, but only upon the assets and property of the Fund, and that the trustees shall not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law. Nothing in the Declaration, however, protects a trustee against any liability to which he would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office.

The provisions of the Declaration described above could have the effect of depriving the Common Shareholders of opportunities to sell their Common Shares at a premium over market value by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control of the Fund in a tender offer or similar transaction. The overall effect of these provisions is to render more difficult the accomplishment of a merger or the assumption of control by a third party. They provide, however, the advantage of potentially requiring persons seeking control of the Fund to negotiate with its management regarding the price to be paid and facilitating the continuity of the Fund's investment objective and policies. The Board of the Fund has considered the foregoing anti-takeover provisions and concluded that they are in the best interests of the Fund and its Common Shareholders.

Reference should be made to the Declaration on file with the SEC for the full text of these provisions.

#### **REPURCHASE OF FUND SHARES; CONVERSION TO OPEN-END FUND**

The Fund is a closed-end investment company and as such its shareholders will not have the right to cause the Fund to redeem their shares. Instead, the Common Shares will trade in the open market at a price that will be a function of several factors, including distribution levels (which are in turn affected by expenses), NAV, distribution stability, relative demand for and supply of such shares in the market, general market and economic conditions and other factors. Because shares of a closed-end investment company may frequently trade at prices lower than NAV, the Board has currently determined that, at least annually, it will consider action that might be taken to reduce or eliminate any material discount from NAV in respect of Common Shares, which may include the repurchase of such shares in the open market or in private transactions, the making of a tender offer for such shares at NAV, or the conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company. There can be no assurance, however, that the Board will decide to take any of these actions, or that share repurchases or tender offers, if undertaken, will reduce market discount. On August 7, 2018, the Fund's Board renewed the Fund's open market share repurchase program under which the Fund may repurchase up to 10% of its Common Shares. Since the inception of the Fund's share repurchase program through February 13, 2019, the Fund has repurchased 449,800 Common Shares under the program.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, at any time when the Fund's preferred shares are outstanding, the Fund may not purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any of its Common Shares unless (1) all accrued preferred shares dividends have been paid and (2) at the time of such purchase, redemption or acquisition, the NAV of the Fund's portfolio (determined after deducting the acquisition price of the Common Shares) is at least 200% of the liquidation value of the outstanding preferred shares (expected to equal the original purchase price per share plus any accrued and unpaid dividends thereon). The staff of the SEC currently requires that any tender offer made by a closed-end investment company for its shares must be at a price equal to the NAV of such shares on the close of business on the last day of the tender offer. Any service fees incurred in connection with any tender offer made by the Fund will be borne by the Fund and will not reduce the stated consideration to be paid to tendering shareholders.

Subject to its investment limitations, the Fund may borrow to finance the repurchase of shares or to make a tender offer. Interest on any borrowings to finance share repurchase transactions or the accumulation of cash by the Fund in anticipation of share repurchases or tenders will reduce the Fund's net income. Any share repurchase, tender offer or borrowings that might be approved by the Board would have to comply with the 1934 Act and the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.



Although the decision to take action in response to a discount from NAV will be made by the Board at the time it considers such issue, it is the Board's present policy, which may be changed by the Board, not to authorize repurchases of Common Shares or a tender offer for such shares if (1) such transactions, if consummated, would (a) result in the delisting of the Common Shares from the NYSE or elsewhere or (b) impair the Fund's status as a RIC under the Code (which would make the Fund a taxable entity, causing the Fund's income to be taxed at the corporate level in addition to the taxation of shareholders who receive dividends from the Fund) or as a registered closed-end investment company under the 1940 Act; (2) the Fund would not be able to liquidate portfolio securities in an orderly manner and consistent with the Fund's investment objectives and policies in order to repurchase shares; or (3) there is, in the Board's judgment, any (a) material legal action or proceeding instituted or threatened challenging such transactions or otherwise materially adversely affecting the Fund, (b) general suspension of or limitation on prices for trading securities on the NYSE or elsewhere, (c) declaration of a banking moratorium by federal or state authorities or any suspension of payment by United States or state banks in which the Fund invests, (d) material limitation affecting the Fund or the issuers of its portfolio securities by federal or state authorities on the extension of credit by lending institutions or on the exchange of non-U.S. currency, (e) commencement of war, armed hostilities or other international or national calamity directly or indirectly involving the United States or (f) other event or condition that would have a material adverse effect (including any adverse tax effect) on the Fund or its shareholders if shares were repurchased. The Board may in the future modify these conditions in light of experience.

Conversion to an open-end investment company would require the approval of the holders of at least two-thirds of the Common Shares and preferred shares outstanding at the time, voting together as a single class, and of the holders of at least two-thirds of the preferred shares outstanding at the time, voting as a separate class, provided however, that such separate class vote shall be a majority vote if the action in question has previously been approved, adopted or authorized by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of trustees fixed in accordance with the Declaration or By-laws. See the Fund's Prospectus under "Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust and By-laws" for a discussion of voting requirements applicable to conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company. If the Fund converted to an open-end investment company, it would be required to redeem all preferred shares then outstanding (requiring in turn that it liquidate a portion of its investment portfolio), and the Common Shares would no longer be listed on the NYSE or elsewhere. Shareholders of an open-end investment company may require the company to redeem their shares on any business day (except in certain circumstances as authorized by or under the 1940 Act or rules thereunder) at their NAV, less such redemption charge, if any, as might be in effect at the time of redemption. In order to avoid maintaining large cash positions or liquidating favorable investments to meet redemptions, open-end investment companies typically engage in a continuous offering of their shares. Open-end investment companies are thus subject to periodic asset in-flows and out-flows that can complicate portfolio management. As a result, conversion to open-end status may require changes in the management of the Fund's portfolio in order to meet the liquidity requirements applicable to open-end funds. Because portfolio securities may have to be liquidated to meet redemptions, conversion could affect the Fund's ability to meet its investment objective or to use certain investment policies and techniques described above. If converted to an open-end fund, the Fund expects to pay all redemptions in cash, but intends to reserve the right to pay redemption requests in a combination of cash or securities. If such partial payment in securities were made, investors may incur brokerage costs in converting such securities to cash. If the Fund were converted to an open-end fund, it is likely that new Common Shares would be sold at NAV plus a sales load. The Board of the Fund may at any time propose conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company depending upon their judgment as to the advisability of such action in light of circumstances then prevailing.

The repurchase by the Fund of its shares at prices below NAV will result in an increase in the NAV of those shares that remain outstanding. However, there can be no assurance that share repurchases or tenders at or below NAV will result in the Fund's shares trading at a price equal to their NAV. Nevertheless, the fact that the Fund's shares may be the subject of repurchase or tender offers at NAV from time to time, or that the Fund may be converted to an open-end company, may reduce any spread between market price and NAV that might otherwise exist.

In addition, a purchase by the Fund of its Common Shares will decrease the Fund's total assets, which would likely have the effect of increasing the Fund's expense ratio. Any purchase by the Fund of its Common Shares at a time when preferred shares are outstanding will increase the leverage applicable to the outstanding Common Shares then remaining.

Before deciding whether to take any action if the Common Shares trade below NAV, the Board would consider all relevant factors, including the extent and duration of the discount, the liquidity of the Fund's portfolio, the impact of any action that might be taken on the Fund or its shareholders, and market considerations. Based on these considerations, even if the Fund's shares should trade at a discount, the Board may determine that, in the interest of the Fund and its shareholders, no action should be taken.

## TAX MATTERS

### FEDERAL INCOME TAX MATTERS

The following is a general summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to a shareholder that acquires, holds and/or disposes of shares of a Fund. This discussion addresses only U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. shareholders who hold their shares as capital assets and does not address all of the U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to particular shareholders in light of their individual circumstances. This discussion also does not address the tax consequences to shareholders who are subject to special rules, including, without limitation, shareholders with large positions in the Fund, financial institutions, insurance companies, dealers in securities or foreign currencies, foreign holders, persons who hold their shares as or in a hedge against currency risk, a constructive sale, or conversion transaction, holders who are subject to the alternative minimum tax, or tax-exempt or tax-deferred plans, accounts, or entities. In addition, the discussion does not address any state, local, or foreign tax consequences. The discussion is based upon present provisions of the Code, the regulations promulgated thereunder, and judicial and administrative ruling authorities, all of which are subject to change, which change may be retroactive. We have not sought and will not seek any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") regarding any matters discussed herein. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to those set forth below. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of all U.S. federal income tax concerns affecting a Fund and its shareholders, and the discussion set forth herein does not constitute tax advice. **Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers to determine the specific tax consequences to them of investing in a Fund, including the applicable federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences to them and the effect of possible changes in tax laws.**

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act") makes significant changes to the U.S. federal income tax rules for taxation of individuals and corporations, generally effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. Many of the changes applicable to individuals are temporary and would apply only to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026. There are only minor changes with respect to the specific rules only applicable to a RIC, such as the Fund. The Tax Act, however, makes numerous other changes to the tax rules that may affect shareholders and the Fund. You are urged to consult with your own tax advisor regarding how the Tax Act affects your investment in the Fund.

The Fund intends to elect to be treated, and the Fund intends to qualify each year, as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. To qualify for the favorable U.S. federal income tax treatment generally accorded to RICs, the Fund must, among other things, (a) derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or non-U.S. currencies, other income derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies, and net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships, as defined in the Code; (b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of each taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's assets is represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S.

government securities, the securities of other RICs and other securities, with such other securities of any one issuer limited for the purposes of this calculation to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not greater than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its total assets is invested, including through corporations in which the Fund owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other RICs) of a single issuer, or two or more issuers that the Fund controls and are engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships; and (c) distribute each year an amount equal to or greater than the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (as that term is defined in the Code, but without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and 90% of its net tax-exempt interest. The requirements for qualification as a RIC may significantly limit the extent to which a Fund may invest in some investments.

If the Fund failed to qualify as a RIC or failed to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement in any taxable year, and was unable to cure such failure the Fund would be taxed in the same manner as a regular corporation on its taxable income (even if such income were distributed to its shareholders) and distributions to shareholders would not be deductible by the Fund in computing its taxable income. Additionally, all distributions out of current and accumulated earnings and profits (including distributions from net capital gain and net tax-exempt interest) would be taxed to shareholders as ordinary dividend income. Such distributions generally would be eligible (i) to be treated as qualified dividend income, as discussed below in the case of non-corporate shareholders and (ii) for the dividends received deduction under Section 243 of the Code (the Dividends Received Deduction) in the case of corporate shareholders. In addition, in order to requalify for taxation as a RIC, the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest, and make certain distributions. In addition, the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions before requalifying as a RIC.

As a RIC, the Fund generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its investment company taxable income (determined without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and net capital gain (the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss), if any, that it distributes to shareholders. The Fund may retain for investment its net capital gain. However, if the Fund retains any net capital gain or any investment company taxable income, it will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on the amount retained. If the Fund retains any net capital gain, it may designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its shareholders who, if subject to U.S. federal income tax on long-term capital gains, (i) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, their share of such undistributed amount, and (ii) will be entitled to credit their proportionate shares of the federal income tax paid by the Fund on such undistributed amount against their U.S. federal income tax liabilities, if any, and to claim refunds to the extent the credit exceeds such liabilities. For U.S. federal income tax purposes, the basis of shares owned by a shareholder of the Fund will be increased by an amount equal to the difference between the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the shareholder's gross income and the federal income tax deemed paid by the shareholder under clause (ii) of the preceding sentence. The Fund intends to distribute to its shareholders, at least annually, substantially all of its investment company taxable income (determined without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and the net capital gain not otherwise retained by the Fund.

Amounts not distributed on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% federal excise tax. To prevent imposition of the excise tax, the Fund must distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98% of its ordinary taxable income (not taking into account any capital gains or losses) for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for the one-year period ending October 31 of the calendar year, and (3) any ordinary taxable income and capital gains for previous years that were not distributed during those years and on which the Fund paid no U.S. federal income tax. To prevent application of the excise tax, the Fund intends to make its distributions in accordance with the calendar year distribution requirement.

The Fund may elect to treat part or all of any qualified late year loss as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in determining the Fund's taxable income, net capital gain, net short-term capital gain, and earnings and profits. The effect of this election is to treat any such qualified late year loss as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in characterizing Fund distributions for any calendar year. A qualified late year loss generally includes net capital loss, net long-term capital loss, or net short-term capital loss incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year (commonly referred to as post-October losses) and certain other late-year losses.

The treatment of capital loss carryovers for the Fund is similar to the rules that apply to capital loss carryovers of individuals, which provide that such losses are carried over indefinitely. If the Fund has a net capital loss (that is, capital losses in excess of capital gains), for a taxable year beginning after December 22, 2010 (a Post-2010 Loss), the excess of the Fund's net short-term capital losses over its net long-term capital gains is treated as a short-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Fund's next taxable year, and the excess (if any) of the Fund's net long-term capital losses over its net short-term capital gains is treated as a long-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Fund's next taxable year. The Fund's unused capital loss carryforwards that arose in taxable years that began on or before December 22, 2010 (Pre-2011 Losses) are available to be applied against future capital gains, if any, realized by the Fund prior to the expiration of those carryforwards, generally eight years after the year in which they arose. The Fund's Post-2010 Losses must be fully utilized before the Fund will be permitted to utilize carryforwards of Pre-2011 Losses. In addition, the carryover of capital losses may be limited under the general loss limitation rules if the Fund experiences an ownership change as defined in the Code.

As of December 31, 2017, the Fund's tax year end, the Fund had no unused capital loss carryforwards available for federal tax purposes to be applied against future capital gains.

### **Distributions**

Except for distributions of qualified dividend income (discussed below), distributions to shareholders of net investment income received by a Fund and of net short-term capital gains realized by the Fund, if any, will be taxable to its shareholders as ordinary income. Distributions by the Fund of net capital gain (*i.e.*, the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss), if any, are taxable as long-term capital gain, regardless of the length of time the shareholder has owned the shares with respect to which such distributions are made. Distributions, if any, in excess of the Fund's earnings and profits will first reduce the adjusted tax basis of a shareholder's shares and, after that basis has been reduced to zero, will constitute capital gain to the shareholder (assuming the shares are held as a capital asset).

Qualified dividend income received by non-corporate shareholders is taxed for federal income tax purpose at rates equivalent to long-term capital gain tax rates, which reach a maximum of 20%. Qualified dividend income generally includes dividends from domestic corporations and dividends from non-U.S. corporations that meet certain specified criteria. In order for some portion of the dividends received by a Fund shareholder to be qualified dividend income, the Fund must meet certain holding period and other requirements with respect to some portion of the dividend-paying stocks in its portfolio and the shareholder must meet the same holding period and other requirements with respect to the shareholder's Fund shares. A dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income (at either the Fund or shareholder level) (i) if the dividend is received with respect to any share of stock held (or treated as held) for fewer than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date which is 60 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (or, in the case of certain preferred stock, 91 days during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date), (ii) to the extent that the recipient is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (iii) if the recipient elects to have the dividend income treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest, or (iv) if the dividend is received from a foreign corporation that is (a) not eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (with the exception of dividends paid on

stock of such a foreign corporation that is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States) or (b) treated as a passive foreign investment company.

In general, dividends of net investment income received by corporate shareholders of a Fund will qualify for the 50% Dividends Received Deduction generally available to corporations to the extent of the amount of eligible dividends received by the Fund from domestic corporations for the taxable year. A dividend received by the Fund will not be treated as a qualifying dividend (i) if it has been received with respect to any share of stock that the Fund has held (or is treated as holding) for less than 46 days (91 days in the case of certain preferred stock) during the 91-day period beginning on the date which is 45 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date in the case of certain preferred stock) or (ii) to the extent that the Fund is under an obligation (pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Moreover, the Dividends Received Deduction may be disallowed or reduced (i) if a corporate shareholder fails to satisfy the foregoing requirements with respect to its shares of the Fund or (ii) by application of various provisions of the Code (for instance, the Dividends Received Deduction is reduced in the case of a dividend received on debt-financed portfolio stock (generally, stock acquired with borrowed funds)). For purposes of determining the holding period for stock on which a dividend is received, such holding period is reduced for any period the recipient has an option to sell, is under a contractual obligation to sell or has made (and not closed) a short sale of substantially identical stock or securities, and in certain other circumstances.

**The straddle rules discussed below could cause distributions that would otherwise qualify for the Dividends Received Deduction or constitute qualified dividend income to fail to satisfy the applicable holding period requirements.**

The tax character of dividends and distributions is the same for federal income tax purposes whether reinvested in additional shares of a Fund or paid in cash.

Although dividends generally will be treated as distributed when paid, dividends declared in October, November or December, payable to shareholders of record on a specified date in one of those months and paid during the following January, will be treated as having been distributed by a Fund (and received by the shareholders) on December 31 of the year declared.

Shareholders will be notified annually as to the U.S. federal tax status of distributions, and shareholders receiving distributions in the form of additional shares will receive a report as to the NAV of those shares.

A dividend or distribution received shortly after the purchase of shares reduces the NAV of the shares by the amount of the dividend or distribution and, although in effect a return of capital, will be taxable to the shareholder. If the NAV of shares were reduced below the shareholder's cost by dividends or distributions representing gains realized on sales of securities, such dividends or distributions, although also in effect returns of capital, would be taxable to the shareholder in the same manner as other dividends or distributions. This is known as "buying a dividend" and should be avoided by taxable investors.

### **Sale, Exchange or Liquidation of Fund Shares**

The sale or exchange of shares of the Fund normally will result in capital gain or loss to shareholders who hold their shares as capital assets. Generally, a shareholder's gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year. The gain or loss on shares held for one year or less will generally be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. Present law taxes both long-term and short-term capital gains of corporations at the same rates applicable to ordinary income. For non-corporate taxpayers, however, long-term capital gains are currently taxed at a maximum federal income tax rate of 20%, while short-term capital gains and other ordinary income are currently taxed at ordinary income rates. If a shareholder sells or otherwise disposes of shares before holding them for more than six months, any loss on the sale or disposition

will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any net capital gain dividends received by the shareholder with respect to such shares. Any loss realized on a sale or exchange of shares of a Fund will be disallowed to the extent those shares of the Fund are replaced by other substantially identical shares of the Fund or other substantially identical stock or securities (including through reinvestment of dividends) within a period of 61 days beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the date of disposition of the original shares. In that event, the basis of the replacement stock or securities will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. The ability to deduct capital losses may be subject to other limitations under the Code.

### **Medicare Tax**

Certain non-corporate shareholders are subject to an additional 3.8% tax on some or all of their net investment income, which includes dividends and net capital gain distributions received from a Fund and net gains from taxable dispositions of Fund shares. This tax generally applies to the extent net investment income, when added to other modified adjusted gross income, exceeds \$200,000 for an unmarried individual, \$250,000 for a married taxpayer filing a joint return (or a surviving spouse), or \$125,000 for a married individual filing a separate return. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers regarding the applicability of this tax in respect of their shares.

### **Nature of Fund's Investments**

The Fund's investments may be subject to special provisions of the Code that may, among other things, (i) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, (ii) convert lower taxed long-term capital gains into higher taxed short-term capital gains or ordinary income, (iii) convert an ordinary loss or a deduction into a capital loss, (iv) cause the Fund to recognize income or gain without a corresponding receipt of cash, (v) adversely alter the characterization of certain Fund investments or distributions and/or (vi) affect the Fund's ability to qualify as a RIC.

Some of the Fund's index call options may be considered section 1256 contracts. Code section 1256 generally will require any gain or loss arising from the lapse, closing out or exercise of such positions to be treated as 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. In addition, the Fund generally will be required to mark to market (*i.e.*, treat as sold for fair market value) each outstanding index option position that is a section 1256 contract at the close of each taxable year (and on October 31 of each year for excise tax purposes). If a section 1256 contract held by the Fund at the end of a taxable year is sold in the following year, the amount of any gain or loss realized on such sale will be adjusted to reflect the gain or loss previously taken into account under the mark to market rules. In addition to most index call options, section 1256 contracts under the Code include certain other options contracts, certain regulated futures contracts, and certain other financial contracts.

The Fund's call options that do not qualify as section 1256 contracts under the Code generally will be governed by Code section 1234. Pursuant to Code section 1234, if a written option expires unexercised, the premium received is short-term capital gain to the Fund. If the Fund enters into a closing transaction, the difference between the premium received for writing the option, and the amount paid to close out its position generally is short-term capital gain or loss.

Offsetting positions held by the Fund involving certain derivative instruments, such as options, forward, and futures, as well as its long and short positions in portfolio securities, may be considered, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, to constitute straddles. Straddles are defined to include offsetting positions in actively traded personal property. For instance, a straddle can arise if the Fund writes a covered call option on a stock (*i.e.*, a call on a stock owned by the Fund), or writes a call option on a stock index to the extent the Fund's stock holdings (and any subset thereof) and the index on which it has written a call overlap sufficiently to constitute a straddle under applicable Treasury Regulations. The tax treatment of straddles is governed by section 1092 of the Code which, in certain circumstances, overrides or modifies the provisions of section 1256 described above. If the Fund is treated as entering into a straddle and at least one (but not all) of the Fund's positions in derivative

contracts comprising a part of such straddle is a section 1256 contract, described above, then such straddle could be characterized as a mixed straddle. The Fund may make one or more elections with respect to mixed straddles. Depending upon which election is made, if any, the results with respect to the Fund may differ. Generally, to the extent the straddle rules apply to positions established by a Fund, losses realized by the Fund may be deferred to the extent of unrealized gain in any offsetting positions. Moreover, as a result of the straddle rules, short-term capital loss on straddle positions may be recharacterized as long-term capital loss, and long-term capital gain may be characterized as short-term capital gain. In addition, the existence of a straddle can cause the holding periods to be tolled on the offsetting positions. As a result, the straddle rules could cause distributions that would otherwise constitute qualified dividend income or qualify for the Dividends Received Deduction to fail to satisfy the applicable holding period requirements described below. Furthermore, the Fund may be required to capitalize, rather than deduct currently, any interest expense and carrying charges applicable to a position that is part of a straddle, including any interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry any positions that are part of a straddle. The application of the straddle rules to certain offsetting Fund positions can therefore affect the amount, timing and/or character of distributions to shareholders, and may result in significant differences from the amount, timing and/or character of distributions that would have been made by the Fund if it had not entered into offsetting positions in respect of certain of its portfolio securities.

The straddle rules described above do not apply if all the offsetting positions making up a straddle consist of one or more qualified covered call options and the stock to be purchased under the options and the straddle is not part of a larger straddle. A qualified covered call option is generally any option granted by the Fund to purchase stock it holds (or stock it acquires in connection with granting the option) if, among other things, (1) the option is traded on a national securities exchange that is registered with the SEC or other market the IRS determined has rules adequate to carry out the purposes of the applicable Code provision, (2) the option is granted more than 30 days before it expires, (3) the option is not a deep-in-the-money option, (4) such option is not granted by an options dealer in connection with his activity of dealing in options, and (5) gain or loss with respect to the option is not ordinary income or loss.

If the Fund enters into a constructive sale of any appreciated financial position in its portfolio, the Fund will be treated as if it had sold and immediately repurchased the property and must recognize gain (but not loss) with respect to that position. A constructive sale of an appreciated financial position occurs when a Fund enters into certain offsetting transactions with respect to the same or substantially identical property, including, but not limited to: (i) a short sale; (ii) an offsetting notional principal contract; (iii) a futures or forward contract; or (iv) other transactions identified in future Treasury Regulations. The character of the gain from constructive sales will depend upon the Fund's holding period in the appreciated financial position. Losses realized from a sale of a position that was previously the subject of a constructive sale will be recognized when the position is subsequently disposed of. The character of such losses will depend upon the Fund's holding period in the position beginning with the date the constructive sale was deemed to have occurred and the application of various loss deferral provisions in the Code. Constructive sale treatment does not apply to certain closed transactions, including if such a transaction is closed on or before the 30th day after the close of the Fund's taxable year and the Fund holds the appreciated financial position unhedged throughout the 60-day period beginning with the day such transaction was closed.

The Fund may acquire debt securities that are market discount bonds. A market discount bond is a security acquired in the secondary market at a price below its redemption value (or its adjusted issue price if it is also an original issue discount bond). If the Fund invests in a market discount bond, it will be required to treat any gain recognized on the disposition of such market discount bond as ordinary taxable income to the extent of the accrued market discount unless the Fund elects (or is otherwise required) to include the market discount in taxable income as it accrues.

The application of certain requirements for qualification as a RIC and the application of certain other federal income tax rules may be unclear in some respects in connection with investments in certain derivatives and other investments. As a result, the Fund may be required to limit the extent to which it invests in such investments and

it is also possible that the IRS may not agree with a Fund's treatment of such investments. In addition, the tax treatment of derivatives and certain other investments may be affected by future legislation, Treasury Regulations and guidance issued by the IRS (which could apply retroactively) that could affect the timing, character and amount of a Fund's income and gains and distributions to shareholders, affect whether the Fund has made sufficient distributions and otherwise satisfied the requirements to maintain its qualification as a RIC and avoid federal income and excise taxes or limit the extent to which a Fund may invest in certain derivatives and other investments in the future.

Generally, the character of the income or gains that the Fund receives from another investment company will pass through to the Fund's shareholders as long as the Fund and the other investment company each qualify as RICs. However, to the extent that another investment company that qualifies as a RIC realizes net losses on its investments for a given taxable year, the Fund will not be able to recognize its share of those losses until it disposes of shares of such investment company. Moreover, even when the Fund does make such a disposition, a portion of its loss may be recognized as a long-term capital loss, which will not be treated as favorably for federal income tax purposes as an ordinary deduction. In particular, the Fund will not be able to offset any capital losses from its dispositions of shares of other investment companies against its ordinary income. As a result of the foregoing rules, and certain other special rules, it is possible that the amounts of net investment income and net capital gains that the Fund will be required to distribute to shareholders will be greater than such amounts would have been had the Fund invested directly in the securities held by the investment companies in which it invests, rather than investing in shares of the investment companies. For similar reasons, the character of distributions from the Fund (*e.g.*, long-term capital gain, qualified dividend income, etc.) will not necessarily be the same as it would have been had the Fund invested directly in the securities held by the investment companies in which it invests.

### **Foreign Taxes**

Income received by the Fund from sources within foreign countries may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries. Tax conventions between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes. The Fund does not expect to be eligible to elect to pass through to the Fund's shareholders the amount of eligible foreign income and similar taxes paid by the Fund.

### **Tax-Exempt Shareholders**

Certain tax-exempt shareholders, including qualified pension plans, individual retirement accounts, salary deferral arrangements, 401(k)s, and other tax-exempt entities, generally are exempt from federal income taxation except with respect to their unrelated business taxable income (UBTI). Under the Tax Act, tax-exempt entities are not permitted to offset losses from one trade or business against the income or gain of another trade or business. Certain net losses incurred prior to January 1, 2018 are permitted to offset gain and income created by an unrelated trade or business, if otherwise available. Under current law, the Fund generally serves to block UBTI from being realized by their tax-exempt shareholders. However, notwithstanding the foregoing, the tax-exempt shareholder could realize UBTI by virtue of an investment in the Fund where, for example: (i) the Fund invests in residual interests of Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits (REMICs), (ii) the Fund invests in a REIT that is a taxable mortgage pool (TMP) or that has a subsidiary that is a TMP or that invests in the residual interest of a REMIC, or (iii) shares in the Fund constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholder within the meaning of section 514(b) of the Code. Charitable remainder trusts are subject to special rules and should consult their tax advisor. The IRS has issued guidance with respect to these issues and prospective shareholders, especially charitable remainder trusts, are strongly encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding these issues.

The Fund's shares held in a tax-qualified retirement account will generally not be subject to federal taxation on income and capital gains distributions from the Fund until a shareholder begins receiving payments from their retirement account. Because each shareholder's tax situation is different, shareholders should consult their tax advisor about the tax implications of an investment in the Fund.



### **Backup Withholding**

The Fund may be required to withhold U.S. federal income tax from all distributions and redemption proceeds payable to shareholders who fail to provide the Fund with their correct taxpayer identification number or to make required certifications, or who have been notified by the IRS that they are subject to backup withholding. The backup withholding percentage is 24%. Corporate shareholders and certain other shareholders specified in the Code generally are exempt from such backup withholding. This withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's federal income tax liability, provided the required information is furnished to the IRS.

### **Foreign Shareholders**

U.S. taxation of a shareholder who, as to the United States, is a nonresident alien individual, a foreign trust or estate, or a foreign corporation ( foreign shareholder ) depends on whether the income of the Fund is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business carried on by the shareholder. If a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds Fund shares, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A partner in a partnership holding Fund shares should consult its tax advisors with respect to the purchase, ownership and disposition of Fund shares.

### **Income not Effectively Connected**

If the income from the Fund is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business carried on by the foreign shareholder, distributions of investment company taxable income will be subject to a U.S. tax of 30% (or lower treaty rate), which tax is generally withheld from such distributions. Distributions which are reported by the Fund as interest-related dividends or short-term capital gain dividends are exempt from the 30% withholding tax. Interest-related dividends and short-term capital gain dividends generally represent distributions of interest or short-term capital gains that would not have been subject to U.S. withholding tax at the source if they had been received directly by a foreign person and satisfy certain other requirements.

Distributions of capital gain dividends (including any amounts retained by the Fund which are reported as undistributed capital gains) and gains recognized on the sale or other disposition of our common stock will not be subject to U.S. tax at the rate of 30% (or lower treaty rate) unless the foreign shareholder is a nonresident alien individual and is physically present in the United States for more than 182 days during the taxable year and meets certain other requirements. However, this 30% tax on capital gains of nonresident alien individuals who are physically present in the United States for more than the 182 day period only applies in exceptional cases because any individual present in the United States for more than 182 days during the taxable year is generally treated as a resident for U.S. income tax purposes; in that case, he or she would be subject to U.S. income tax on his or her worldwide income at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. citizens, rather than the 30% U.S. tax. In the case of a foreign shareholder who is a nonresident alien individual, the Fund may be required to withhold U.S. income tax from distributions of net capital gain unless the foreign shareholder certifies his or her non-U.S. status under penalties of perjury or otherwise establishes an exemption. See Tax-Matters Backup Withholding.

### **Income Effectively Connected**

If the income from the Fund is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business carried on by a foreign shareholder, then distributions of investment company taxable income and capital gain dividends, any amounts retained by the Fund which are reported as undistributed capital gains and any gains realized upon the sale or exchange of shares of the Fund will be subject to U.S. income tax at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. non-corporate citizens and residents or the 21% tax rate applicable to domestic corporations, as appropriate. Foreign corporate shareholders also may be subject to the branch profits tax imposed by the Code. Certain certification and disclosure requirements, including delivery of a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI, must be

satisfied for income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business to be exempt from the 30% withholding described above under Foreign Shareholders Income not Effectively Connected .

The tax consequences to a foreign shareholder entitled to claim the benefits of an applicable tax treaty may differ from those described herein. Foreign shareholders are advised to consult their own tax advisers with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of an investment in the Fund.

#### **FATCA Reporting and Withholding Requirements**

Under legislation known as FATCA (the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act), the Fund will be required to withhold 30% of the ordinary dividends it pays to shareholders that fail to meet prescribed information reporting or certification requirements. In general, no such withholding will be required with respect to a U.S. person or foreign individual that timely provides the certifications required by the Fund or its agent on a valid IRS Form W-9, W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, respectively. Shareholders potentially subject to withholding include foreign financial institutions ( FFIs ), such as foreign investment funds, and non-financial foreign entities ( NFFEs ). To avoid withholding under FATCA, an FFI generally must enter into an information sharing agreement with the IRS in which it agrees to report certain identifying information (including name, address, and taxpayer identification number) with respect to its U.S. account holders (which, in the case of an entity shareholder, may include its direct and indirect U.S. owners), and an NFFE generally must identify itself and may be required to provide other required information to the Fund or other withholding agent regarding its U.S. owners, if any. Such foreign shareholders also may fall into certain exempt, excepted or deemed compliant categories as established by regulations and other guidance. A non-U.S. entity that invests in the Fund will need to provide the Fund with documentation properly certifying the entity's status under FATCA in order to avoid FATCA withholding. A foreign shareholder resident or doing business in a country that has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the U.S. to implement FATCA may be subject to different requirements provided that the shareholder and the applicable foreign government comply with the terms of such agreement. Foreign shareholders are encouraged to consult with their tax advisers regarding the possible implications of these requirements on their investment in Fund shares.

#### **REGULATIONS ON REPORTABLE TRANSACTIONS**

Under Treasury regulations, generally, if a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to Common Shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder in any single taxable year (or a greater loss over a combination of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a RIC are not excepted. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

#### **OTHER TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

Fund shareholders may be subject to state, local and foreign taxes on their Fund distributions. Shareholders are advised to consult their own tax advisers with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of an investment in the Fund.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Financial Statements and the independent registered public accounting firm's report thereon, appearing in the Fund's annual shareholder report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 is incorporated herein by reference in this SAI. The information with respect to the six months ended June 30, 2018 is unaudited and is

included in the Fund's 2018 Semi-Annual Report which is incorporated herein by reference. The Fund's annual and semi-annual shareholder reports may be obtained without charge by calling (800) 257-8787.

#### **CUSTODIAN AND TRANSFER AGENT**

The custodian of the assets of the Fund is State Street Bank and Trust Company, One Lincoln Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 (the Custodian). The custodian performs custodial, fund accounting and portfolio accounting services. The Fund's transfer, shareholder services and dividend paying agent is Computershare Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (the Transfer Agent). The Transfer Agent is located at 250 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021.

#### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, provides auditing services to the Fund. The principal business address of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is located at 1 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

#### **LEGAL OPINION**

Certain legal matters in connection with the Common Shares will be passed upon for the Fund by Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, 1111 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

The Fund is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (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 Index to track general stock market performance. S&P's only relationship to Nuveen Asset Management is the licensing of certain trademarks and trade names of S&P and of the Index which is determined, composed and calculated by S&P without regard to Nuveen Asset Management or the Fund. S&P has no obligation to take the needs of Nuveen Asset Management or the owners of the Fund into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the 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 determination or 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 Fund.

S&P DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE 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 NUVEEN ASSET MANAGEMENT, OWNERS OF THE FUND, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE 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 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.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

A Registration Statement on Form N-2, including amendments thereto, relating to the shares of the Fund offered hereby, has been filed by the Fund with the SEC, Washington, D.C. The Fund's Prospectus and this SAI do not contain all of the information set forth in the Registration Statement, including any exhibits and schedules thereto. For further information with respect to the Fund and the shares offered hereby, reference is made to the Fund's Registration Statement. Copies of the Registration Statement may be inspected without charge at the SEC's principal office in Washington, D.C., and copies of all or any part thereof may be obtained from the SEC upon the payment of certain fees prescribed by the SEC.

APPENDIX A

Nuveen Asset Management, LLC

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

Effective Date: January 1, 2011, as last amended October 24, 2018

I. General Principles

- A. Nuveen Asset Management, LLC ( NAM ) is an investment sub-adviser for certain of the Nuveen Funds (the Funds ) and investment adviser for institutional and other separately managed accounts (collectively, with the Funds, Accounts ). As such, Accounts may confer upon NAM complete discretion to vote proxies.<sup>1</sup>
- B. When NAM has proxy voting authority, it is NAM's duty to vote proxies in the best interests of its clients (which may involve affirmatively deciding that voting the proxies may not be in the best interests of certain clients on certain matters). In voting proxies, NAM also seeks to enhance total investment return for its clients.
- C. If NAM contracts with another investment adviser to act as a sub-adviser for an Account, NAM may delegate proxy voting responsibility to the sub-adviser. Where NAM has delegated proxy voting responsibility, the sub-adviser will be responsible for developing and adhering to its own proxy voting policies, subject to oversight by NAM.
- D. NAM's Proxy Voting Committee ( PVC ) provides oversight of NAM's proxy voting policies and procedures, including (1) providing an administrative framework to facilitate and monitor the exercise of such proxy voting and to fulfill the obligations of reporting and recordkeeping under the federal securities laws; and (2) approving the proxy voting policies and procedures.

II. Policies

The PVC after reviewing and concluding that such policies are reasonably designed to vote proxies in the best interests of clients, has approved and adopted the proxy voting policies ( Policies ) of Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. ( ISS ), a leading national provider of proxy voting administrative and research services.<sup>1</sup> As a result, such Policies set forth NAM's positions on recurring proxy issues and criteria for addressing non-recurring issues. These Policies are reviewed periodically by ISS, and therefore are subject to change. Even though it has adopted the Policies as drafted by ISS, NAM maintains the fiduciary responsibility for all proxy voting decisions.

III. Procedures

- A. **Supervision of Proxy Voting.** Day-to-day administration of proxy voting may be provided internally or by a third-party service provider, depending on client type, subject to the ultimate oversight of the PVC. The PVC shall supervise the relationships with NAM's proxy voting services, ISS. ISS apprises Nuveen Global Operations ( NGO ) of shareholder meeting dates, and casts the actual proxy votes. ISS also provides research on proxy proposals and voting recommendations. ISS serves as NAM's proxy voting record keepers and generate reports on how proxies were voted. NGO periodically

<sup>1</sup> NAM does not vote proxies where a client withholds proxy voting authority, and in certain non-discretionary and model programs NAM votes proxies in accordance with its Policies in effect from time to time. Clients may opt to vote proxies themselves, or to have proxies voted by an independent third party or other named fiduciary or agent, at the client's cost. ISS has separate policies for Taft Hartley plans and it is NAM's policy to apply the Taft Hartley policies to accounts that are Taft Hartley plans and have requested the application of such policies.



reviews communications from ISS to determine whether ISS voted the correct amount of proxies, whether the votes were cast in a timely manner, and whether the vote was in accordance with the Policies or NAM's specific instructions

**B. General Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest.**

1. NAM believe that most conflicts of interest faced by NAM in voting proxies can be avoided by voting in accordance with the Policies. Examples of such conflicts of interest are as follows:<sup>2</sup>
  - a. The issuer or proxy proponent (e.g., a special interest group) is TIAA-CREF, the ultimate principal owner of NAM, or any of its affiliates.
  - b. The issuer is an entity in which an executive officer of NAM or a spouse or domestic partner of any such executive officer is or was (within the past three years of the proxy vote) an executive officer or director.
  - c. The issuer is a registered or unregistered fund or other client for which NAM or another affiliated adviser has a material relationship as investment adviser or sub-adviser (e.g., Nuveen Funds and TIAA Funds) or an institutional separate account.
  - d. Any other circumstances that NAM is aware of where NAM's duty to serve its clients' interests, typically referred to as its duty of loyalty, could be materially compromised.
2. To further minimize this risk, Compliance will review ISS' conflict avoidance policy at least annually to ensure that it adequately addresses both the actual and perceived conflicts of interest ISS may face.
3. In the event that ISS faces a material conflict of interest with respect to a specific vote, the PVC shall direct ISS how to vote. The PVC shall receive voting direction from appropriate investment personnel. Before doing so, the PVC will consult with Legal to confirm that NAM faces no material conflicts of its own with respect to the specific proxy vote.
4. Where ISS is determined to have a conflict of interest, or NAM determines to override the Policies and is determined to have a conflict, the PVC will recommend to NAM's Compliance Committee or designee a course of action designed to address the conflict. Such actions could include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Obtaining instructions from the affected client(s) on how to vote the proxy;
  - b. Disclosing the conflict to the affected client(s) and seeking their consent to permit NAM to vote the proxy;
  - c. Voting in proportion to the other shareholders;
  - e. Recusing the individual with the actual or potential conflict of interest from all discussion or consideration of the matter, if the material conflict is due to such person's actual or potential conflict of interest; or

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f. Following the recommendation of a different independent third party.

5. In addition to all of the above-mentioned and other conflicts, the Head of Equity Research, NGO and any member of the PVC must notify NAM's Chief Compliance Officer ( CCO ) of any direct, indirect or perceived improper influence exerted by any employee, officer or director of

<sup>2</sup> A conflict of interest shall not be considered material for the purposes of these Policies and Procedures with respect to a specific vote or circumstance if the matter to be voted on relates to a restructuring of the terms of existing securities or the issuance of new securities or a similar matter arising out of the holding of securities, other than common equity, in the context of a bankruptcy or threatened bankruptcy of the issuer.

A-2



TIAA or its subsidiaries with regard to how NAM should vote proxies. NAM Compliance will investigate any such allegations and will report the findings to the PVC and, if deemed appropriate, to NAM's Compliance Committee. If it is determined that improper influence was attempted, appropriate action shall be taken. Such appropriate action may include disciplinary action, notification of the appropriate senior managers, or notification of the appropriate regulatory authorities. In all cases, NAM will not consider any improper influence in determining how to vote proxies, and will vote in the best interests of clients.

- C. Proxy Vote Override.** From time to time, a portfolio manager of an account (a Portfolio Manager) may initiate action to override the Policies' recommendation for a particular vote. Any such override by a NAM Portfolio Manager (but not a sub-adviser Portfolio Manager) shall be reviewed by NAM's Legal Department for material conflicts. If the Legal Department determines that no material conflicts exist, the approval of one member of the PVC shall authorize the override. If a material conflict exists, the conflict and, ultimately, the override recommendation will be rejected and will revert to the original Policies recommendation or will be addressed pursuant to the procedures described above under Conflicts of Interest.

In addition, the PVC may determine from time to time that a particular recommendation in the Policies should be overridden based on a determination that the recommendation is inappropriate and not in the best interests of shareholders. Any such determination shall be reflected in the minutes of a meeting of the PVC at which such decision is made.

**D. Securities Lending.**

1. In order to generate incremental revenue, some clients may participate in a securities lending program. If a client has elected to participate in the lending program then it will not have the right to vote the proxies of any securities that are on loan as of the shareholder meeting record date. A client, or a Portfolio Manager, may place restrictions on loaning securities and/or recall a security on loan at any time. Such actions must be affected prior to the record date for a meeting if the purpose for the restriction or recall is to secure the vote.
2. Portfolio Managers and/or analysts who become aware of upcoming proxy issues relating to any securities in portfolios they manage, or issuers they follow, will consider the desirability of recalling the affected securities that are on loan or restricting the affected securities prior to the record date for the matter. If the proxy issue is determined to be material, and the determination is made prior to the shareholder meeting record date the Portfolio Manager(s) will contact the Securities Lending Agent to recall securities on loan or restrict the loaning of any security held in any portfolio they manage, if they determine that it is in the best interest of shareholders to do so.

- E. Proxy Voting Records.** As required by Rule 204-2 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, NAM shall make and retain five types of records relating to proxy voting; (1) NAM's Policies; (2) proxy statements received for securities in client accounts; (3) records of proxy votes cast by NAM on behalf of clients accounts; (4) records of written requests from clients about how NAM voted their proxies, and written responses from NAM to either a written or oral request by clients; and (5) any documents prepared by the adviser that were material to making a proxy voting decision or that memorialized the basis for the decision. NAM relies on ISS to make and retain on NAM's behalf certain records pertaining to Rule 204-2.

- F. Fund of Funds Provision.** In instances where NAM provides investment advice to a fund of funds that acquires shares of affiliated funds or three percent or more of the outstanding voting securities of an unaffiliated fund, the acquiring fund shall vote the shares in the same proportion as the vote of all other shareholders of the acquired fund. If compliance with this procedure results in a vote of any shares in a manner different than the Policies' recommendation, such vote will not require compliance with the Proxy Vote Override procedures set forth above.

**G. Legacy Securities.** To the extent that NAM receives proxies for securities that are transferred into an account's portfolio that were not recommended or selected by it and are sold or expected to be sold promptly in an orderly manner ( legacy securities ), NAM will generally refrain from voting such proxies. In such circumstances, since legacy securities are expected to be sold promptly, voting proxies on such securities would not further NAM's interest in maximizing the value of client investments. NAM may agree to an account's special request to vote a legacy security proxy, and would vote such proxy in accordance with the Policies.

**H. Terminated Accounts.** Proxies received after the termination date of an account generally will not be voted. An exception will be made if the record date is for a period in which an account was under NAM's discretionary management or if a separately managed account ( SMA ) custodian failed to remove the account's holdings from its aggregated voting list.

**I. Non-votes.** NGO shall be responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance from ISS that it voted proxies on NAM's behalf, and that any special instructions from NAM about a given proxy or proxies are submitted to ISS in a timely manner. It should not be considered a breach of this responsibility if NGO or NAM does not receive a proxy from ISS or a custodian with adequate time to analyze and direct to vote or vote a proxy by the required voting deadline.

NAM may determine not to vote proxies associated with the securities of any issuer if as a result of voting such proxies, subsequent purchases or sales of such securities would be blocked. However, NAM may decide, on an individual security basis that it is in the best interests of its clients to vote the proxy associated with such a security, taking into account the loss of liquidity. In addition, NAM may determine not to vote proxies where the voting would in NAM's judgment result in some other financial, legal, regulatory disability or burden to the client (such as imputing control with respect to the issuer) or to NAM or its affiliates.

NAM may determine not to vote securities held by SMAs where voting would require the transfer of the security to another custodian designated by the issuer. Such transfer is generally outside the scope of NAM's authority and may result in significant operational limitations on NAM's ability to conduct transactions relating to the securities during the period of transfer. From time to time, situations may arise (operational or otherwise) that prevent NAM from voting proxies after reasonable attempts have been made.

**J. Review and Reports.**

1. The PVC shall maintain a review schedule. The schedule shall include reviews of the Policies and the policies of any Sub-adviser engaged by NAM, the proxy voting record, account maintenance, and other reviews as deemed appropriate by the PVC. The PVC shall review the schedule at least annually.
2. The PVC will report to NAM's Compliance Committee with respect to all identified conflicts and how they were addressed. These reports will include all accounts, including those that are sub-advised. NAM also shall provide the Funds that it sub-advises with information necessary for preparing Form N-PX.

**K. Vote Disclosure to Clients.** NAM's institutional and SMA clients can contact their relationship manager for more information on NAM's Policies and the proxy voting record for their account. The information available includes name of issuer, ticker/CUSIP, shareholder meeting date, description of item and NAM's vote.

**IV. Responsible Parties**

PVC

NGO

NAM Compliance

Legal Department

Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC, f/k/a Nuveen Fund Advisors, Inc. ( Nuveen Fund Advisors ) is the registrant's investment adviser (Nuveen Fund Advisors is also referred to as the Adviser ). Nuveen Fund Advisors is responsible for the selection and on-going monitoring of the Fund's investment portfolio, managing the Fund's business affairs and providing certain clerical, bookkeeping and administrative services. The Adviser has engaged Intech Investment Management LLC ( Intech ) and Nuveen Asset Management, LLC ( Nuveen Asset Management ) (Intech and Nuveen Asset Management are also collectively referred to as Sub-Advisers ), as Sub-Advisers to provide discretionary investment advisory services. As part of these services, the Adviser has also delegated to the Sub-Adviser the full responsibility for proxy voting on securities held in its portfolio and related duties in accordance with the Sub-Adviser's policy and procedures. The Adviser periodically will monitor the Sub-Adviser's voting to ensure that it is carrying out its duties. The Adviser's and the Sub-Adviser's proxy voting policies and procedures are summarized as follows:

Intech

The Fund is responsible for voting proxies on securities held in its portfolio. When the Fund receives a proxy, the decision regarding how to vote such proxy will be made by Intech in accordance with its proxy voting procedures.

Intech has engaged Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ( ISS ), to vote all Fund proxies in accordance with ISS Benchmark Proxy Voting Guidelines ( ISS Recommendations ). Intech has engaged the services of its parent firm, Janus Henderson Group plc's Securities Operations Group to oversee ISS in the administration of its proxy voting. Intech has adopted procedures and controls to avoid conflicts of interest that may arise in connection with proxy voting.

In light of such procedures and controls, it is not expected that any conflicts will arise in the proxy voting process. In the unusual circumstance that a particular proxy vote may present a potential conflict, the matter shall be referred to Intech's Proxy Review Group, which is composed of Intech's Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer. To the extent that a conflict of interest is identified, Intech will vote the proxy according to the ISS recommendation unless otherwise determined by the Proxy Review Group and Intech will report the resolution of the vote to the Fund's Proxy Voting Committee.

United States

## Proxy Voting Guidelines

Benchmark Policy Recommendations

**Effective for Meetings on or after February 1, 2018**

**Published January 4, 2018**

## Table of Contents

<b><u>COVERAGE</u></b>	<b>8</b>
<b><u>1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u></b>	<b>9</b>
<b><u>VOTING ON DIRECTOR NOMINEES IN UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS</u></b>	<b>9</b>
<u>Independence</u>	9
<u>ISS U.S. Categorization of Directors</u>	10
<u>Composition</u>	12
<u>Responsiveness</u>	12
<u>Accountability</u>	13
<b><u>VOTING ON DIRECTOR NOMINEES IN CONTESTED ELECTIONS</u></b>	<b>16</b>
<u>Vote-No Campaigns</u>	16
<u>Proxy Contests/Proxy Access</u> <u>Voting for Director Nominees in Contested Elections</u>	16
<b><u>OTHER BOARD-RELATED PROPOSALS</u></b>	<b>17</b>
<u>Adopt Anti-Hedging/Pledging/Speculative Investments Policy</u>	17
<u>Age/Term Limits</u>	17
<u>Board Size</u>	17
<u>Classification/Declassification of the Board</u>	17
<u>CEO Succession Planning</u>	17
<u>Cumulative Voting</u>	17
<u>Director and Officer Indemnification and Liability Protection</u>	18
<u>Establish/Amend Nominee Qualifications</u>	18
<u>Establish Other Board Committee Proposals</u>	18
<u>Filling Vacancies/Removal of Directors</u>	19
<u>Independent Chair (Separate Chair/CEO)</u>	19
<u>Majority of Independent Directors/Establishment of Independent Committees</u>	19
<u>Majority Vote Standard for the Election of Directors</u>	20
<u>Proxy Access</u>	20
<u>Require More Nominees than Open Seats</u>	20
<u>Shareholder Engagement Policy (Shareholder Advisory Committee)</u>	20
<b><u>2. AUDIT-RELATED</u></b>	<b>21</b>
<u>Auditor Indemnification and Limitation of Liability</u>	21
<u>Auditor Ratification</u>	21
<u>Shareholder Proposals Limiting Non-Audit Services</u>	21
<u>Shareholder Proposals on Audit Firm Rotation</u>	22
<b><u>3. SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS &amp; DEFENSES</u></b>	<b>23</b>
<u>Advance Notice Requirements for Shareholder Proposals/Nominations</u>	23
<u>Amend Bylaws without Shareholder Consent</u>	23
<u>Control Share Acquisition Provisions</u>	23
<u>Control Share Cash-Out Provisions</u>	23
<u>Disgorgement Provisions</u>	24
<u>Fair Price Provisions</u>	24

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U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

<u>Freeze-Out Provisions</u>	24
<u>Greenmail</u>	24
<u>Litigation Rights (including Exclusive Venue and Fee-Shifting Bylaw Provisions)</u>	24
<u>Net Operating Loss (NOL) Protective Amendments</u>	25
<b><u>POISON PILLS (SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS PLANS)</u></b>	<b>25</b>
<u>Shareholder Proposals to Put Pill to a Vote and/or Adopt a Pill Policy</u>	25
<u>Management Proposals to Ratify a Poison Pill</u>	26
<u>Management Proposals to Ratify a Pill to Preserve Net Operating Losses (NOLs)</u>	26
<u>Proxy Voting Disclosure, Confidentiality, and Tabulation</u>	26
<u>Reimbursing Proxy Solicitation Expenses</u>	27
<u>Reincorporation Proposals</u>	27
<u>Shareholder Ability to Act by Written Consent</u>	27
<u>Shareholder Ability to Call Special Meetings</u>	28
<u>Stakeholder Provisions</u>	28
<u>State Antitakeover Statutes</u>	28
<u>Supermajority Vote Requirements</u>	28
<b><u>4. CAPITAL/RESTRUCTURING</u></b>	<b>29</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL</u></b>	<b>29</b>
<u>Adjustments to Par Value of Common Stock</u>	29
<u>Common Stock Authorization</u>	29
<u>Dual Class Structure</u>	30
<u>Issue Stock for Use with Rights Plan</u>	30
<u>Preemptive Rights</u>	30
<u>Preferred Stock Authorization</u>	30
<u>Recapitalization Plans</u>	31
<u>Reverse Stock Splits</u>	31
<u>Share Repurchase Programs</u>	31
<u>Stock Distributions: Splits and Dividends</u>	31
<u>Tracking Stock</u>	31
<b><u>RESTRUCTURING</u></b>	<b>32</b>
<u>Appraisal Rights</u>	32
<u>Asset Purchases</u>	32
<u>Asset Sales</u>	32
<u>Bundled Proposals</u>	32
<u>Conversion of Securities</u>	32
<u>Corporate Reorganization/Debt Restructuring/Prepackaged Bankruptcy Plans/Reverse Leveraged Buyouts/Wrap Plans</u>	33
<u>Formation of Holding Company</u>	33
<u>Going Private and Going Dark Transactions (LBOs and Minority Squeeze-outs)</u>	33
<u>Joint Ventures</u>	34
<u>Liquidations</u>	34
<u>Mergers and Acquisitions</u>	34

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<u>Private Placements/Warrants/Convertible Debentures</u>	35
<u>Reorganization/Restructuring Plan (Bankruptcy)</u>	36
<u>Special Purpose Acquisition Corporations (SPACs)</u>	36
<u>Special Purpose Acquisition Corporations (SPACs) - Proposals for Extensions</u>	37
<u>Spin-offs</u>	37
<u>Value Maximization Shareholder Proposals</u>	37
<b>5. COMPENSATION</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE PAY EVALUATION</b>	<b>38</b>
<u>Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation – Management Proposals (Management Say-on-Pay)</u>	38
<u>Pay-for-Performance Evaluation</u>	39
<u>Problematic Pay Practices</u>	39
<u>Compensation Committee Communications and Responsiveness</u>	41
<u>Frequency of Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation ( Say When on Pay )</u>	41
<u>Voting on Golden Parachutes in an Acquisition, Merger, Consolidation, or Proposed Sale</u>	41
<b>EQUITY-BASED AND OTHER INCENTIVE PLANS</b>	<b>42</b>
<u>Shareholder Value Transfer (SVT)</u>	43
<u>Three-Year Burn Rate</u>	43
<u>Egregious Factors</u>	43
<u>Liberal Change in Control Definition</u>	43
<u>Repricing Provisions</u>	43
<u>Problematic Pay Practices or Significant Pay-for-Performance Disconnect</u>	44
<u>Amending Cash and Equity Plans (including Approval for Tax Deductibility (162(m)))</u>	44
<u>Specific Treatment of Certain Award Types in Equity Plan Evaluations</u>	45
<u>Dividend Equivalent Rights</u>	45
<u>Operating Partnership (OP) Units in Equity Plan Analysis of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)</u>	45
<b>OTHER COMPENSATION PLANS</b>	<b>45</b>
<u>401(k) Employee Benefit Plans</u>	45
<u>Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs)</u>	45
<u>Employee Stock Purchase Plans – Qualified Plans</u>	45
<u>Employee Stock Purchase Plans – Non-Qualified Plans</u>	45
<u>Option Exchange Programs/Repricing Options</u>	46
<u>Stock Plans in Lieu of Cash</u>	46
<u>Transfer Stock Option (TSO) Programs</u>	47
<b>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION</b>	<b>47</b>
<u>Shareholder Ratification of Director Pay Programs</u>	47
<u>Equity Plans for Non-Employee Directors</u>	48
<u>Non-Employee Director Retirement Plans</u>	48
<b>SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS ON COMPENSATION</b>	<b>48</b>
<u>Bonus Banking/Bonus Banking – Plus</u>	48
<u>Compensation Consultants – Disclosure of Board or Company’s Utilization</u>	48
<u>Disclosure/Setting Levels or Types of Compensation for Executives and Directors</u>	49
<u>Golden Coffins/Executive Death Benefits</u>	49

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U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

<u>Hold Equity Past Retirement or for a Significant Period of Time</u>	49
<u>Non-Deductible Compensation</u>	49
<u>Pay Disparity</u>	49
<u>Pay for Performance/Performance-Based Awards</u>	50
<u>Pay for Superior Performance</u>	50
<u>Pre-Arranged Trading Plans (10b5-1 Plans)</u>	51
<u>Prohibit CEOs from Serving on Compensation Committees</u>	51
<u>Recoupment of Incentive or Stock Compensation in Specified Circumstances</u>	51
<u>Severance Agreements for Executives/Golden Parachutes</u>	51
<u>Share Buyback Holding Periods</u>	52
<u>Supplemental Executive Retirement Plans (SERPs)</u>	52
<u>Tax Gross-Up Proposals</u>	52
<u>Termination of Employment Prior to Severance Payment/Eliminating Accelerated Vesting of Unvested Equity</u>	52
<b>6. ROUTINE/MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>53</b>
<u>Adjourn Meeting</u>	53
<u>Amend Quorum Requirements</u>	53
<u>Amend Minor Bylaws</u>	53
<u>Change Company Name</u>	53
<u>Change Date, Time, or Location of Annual Meeting</u>	53
<u>Other Business</u>	53
<b>7. SOCIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>GLOBAL APPROACH</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>ENDORSEMENT OF PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>ANIMAL WELFARE</b>	<b>54</b>
<u>Animal Welfare Policies</u>	54
<u>Animal Testing</u>	55
<u>Animal Slaughter</u>	55
<b>CONSUMER ISSUES</b>	<b>55</b>
<u>Genetically Modified Ingredients</u>	55
<u>Reports on Potentially Controversial Business/Financial Practices</u>	55
<u>Pharmaceutical Pricing, Access to Medicines, and Prescription Drug Reimportation</u>	56
<u>Product Safety and Toxic/Hazardous Materials</u>	56
<u>Tobacco-Related Proposals</u>	56
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	<b>57</b>
<u>Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions</u>	57
<u>Energy Efficiency</u>	58
<u>Renewable Energy</u>	58
<b>DIVERSITY</b>	<b>58</b>
<u>Board Diversity</u>	58
<u>Equality of Opportunity</u>	59
<u>Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, and Domestic Partner Benefits</u>	59
<u>Gender Pay Gap</u>	59

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<b><u>ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY</u></b>	<b>59</b>
<u>Facility and Workplace Safety</u>	59
<u>General Environmental Proposals and Community Impact Assessments</u>	60
<u>Hydraulic Fracturing</u>	60
<u>Operations in Protected Areas</u>	60
<u>Recycling</u>	60
<u>Sustainability Reporting</u>	60
<u>Water Issues</u>	61
<b><u>GENERAL CORPORATE ISSUES</u></b>	<b>61</b>
<u>Charitable Contributions</u>	61
<u>Data Security, Privacy, and Internet Issues</u>	61
<u>Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Compensation-Related Proposals</u>	61
<b><u>HUMAN RIGHTS, LABOR ISSUES, AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b>62</b>
<u>Human Rights Proposals</u>	62
<u>Operations in High Risk Markets</u>	62
<u>Outsourcing/Offshoring</u>	63
<u>Weapons and Military Sales</u>	63
<b><u>POLITICAL ACTIVITIES</u></b>	<b>63</b>
<u>Lobbying</u>	63
<u>Political Contributions</u>	63
<u>Political Ties</u>	64
<b><u>8. MUTUAL FUND PROXIES</u></b>	<b>65</b>
<u>Election of Directors</u>	65
<u>Converting Closed-end Fund to Open-end Fund</u>	65
<u>Proxy Contests</u>	65
<u>Investment Advisory Agreements</u>	65
<u>Approving New Classes or Series of Shares</u>	65
<u>Preferred Stock Proposals</u>	65
<u>1940 Act Policies</u>	66
<u>Changing a Fundamental Restriction to a Nonfundamental Restriction</u>	66
<u>Change Fundamental Investment Objective to Nonfundamental</u>	66
<u>Name Change Proposals</u>	66
<u>Change in Fund's Subclassification</u>	66
<u>Business Development Companies – Authorization to Sell Shares of Common Stock at a Price below Net Asset Value</u>	66
<u>Disposition of Assets/Termination/Liquidation</u>	67
<u>Changes to the Charter Document</u>	67
<u>Changing the Domicile of a Fund</u>	67
<u>Authorizing the Board to Hire and Terminate Subadvisers Without Shareholder Approval</u>	67
<u>Distribution Agreements</u>	68
<u>Master-Feeder Structure</u>	68
<u>Mergers</u>	68

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**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

**SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR MUTUAL FUNDS**

<u>Establish Director Ownership Requirement</u>	68
<u>Reimburse Shareholder for Expenses Incurred</u>	68
<u>Terminate the Investment Advisor</u>	68

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## COVERAGE

The U.S. research team provides proxy analyses and voting recommendations for common shareholder meetings of publicly - traded U.S. - incorporated companies that are held in our institutional investor clients' portfolios, and includes all S&P 1500 and Russell 3000 companies that are considered U.S. Domestic Issuers by the SEC. Coverage generally includes corporate actions for common equity holders, such as written consents and bankruptcies. ISS' U.S. coverage includes investment companies (including open-end funds, closed-end funds, exchange-traded funds, and unit investment trusts), limited partnerships ( LPs ), master limited partnerships ( MLPs ), limited liability companies ( LLCs ), and business development companies. ISS reviews its universe of coverage on an annual basis, and the coverage is subject to change based on client need and industry trends.

The U.S. research team also produces, for subscribing clients, research and recommendations for fixed income meetings, and meetings of certain preferred securities, including Auction Rate Preferred Securities ( ARPS ) and Variable Rate Municipal Term Preferred securities ( VMTPs ).

### Foreign-incorporated companies

In addition to U.S. - incorporated companies, U.S. policies are applied to certain foreign-incorporated company analyses. Like the SEC, ISS distinguishes two types of companies that list but are not incorporated in the U.S.:

U.S. Domestic Issuers which have a majority of outstanding shares held in the U.S. and meet other criteria, as determined by the SEC, and are subject to the same disclosure and listing standards as U.S. incorporated companies are generally covered under standard U.S. policy guidelines.

Foreign Private Issuers (FPIs) which do not meet the Domestic Issuer criteria and are exempt from most disclosure requirements (e.g., they do not file DEF14A reports) and listing standards (e.g., for required levels of board and committee independence) are covered under a combination of policy guidelines:

FPI Guidelines (see the Americas Regional Proxy Voting Guidelines), which apply certain minimum independence and disclosure standards in the evaluation of key proxy ballot items, such as the election of directors and approval of financial reports; and

For other issues, guidelines for the market that is responsible for, or most relevant to, the item on the ballot.

In all cases including with respect to other companies with cross-market features that may lead to ballot items related to multiple markets items that are on the ballot solely due to the requirements of another market (listing, incorporation, or national code) may be evaluated under the policy of the relevant market, regardless of the assigned market coverage.

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## 1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Voting on Director Nominees in Uncontested Elections

Four fundamental principles apply when determining votes on director nominees:

**Independence:** Boards should be sufficiently independent from management (and significant shareholders) to ensure that they are able and motivated to effectively supervise management's performance for the benefit of all shareholders, including in setting and monitoring the execution of corporate strategy, with appropriate use of shareholder capital, and in setting and monitoring executive compensation programs that support that strategy. The chair of the board should ideally be an independent director, and all boards should have an independent leadership position or a similar role in order to help provide appropriate counterbalance to executive management, as well as having sufficiently independent committees that focus on key governance concerns such as audit, compensation, and nomination of directors.

**Composition:** Companies should ensure that directors add value to the board through their specific skills and expertise and by having sufficient time and commitment to serve effectively. Boards should be of a size appropriate to accommodate diversity, expertise, and independence, while ensuring active and collaborative participation by all members. Boards should be sufficiently diverse to ensure consideration of a wide range of perspectives.

**Responsiveness:** Directors should respond to investor input, such as that expressed through significant opposition to management proposals, significant support for shareholder proposals (whether binding or non-binding), and tender offers where a majority of shares are tendered.

**Accountability:** Boards should be sufficiently accountable to shareholders, including through transparency of the company's governance practices and regular board elections, by the provision of sufficient information for shareholders to be able to assess directors and board composition, and through the ability of shareholders to remove directors.

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for director nominees, except under the following circumstances:

#### **Independence**

Vote against<sup>1</sup> or withhold from non-independent directors (Executive Directors and Non-Independent Non-Executive Directors per ISS Categorization of Directors) when:

- Independent directors comprise 50 percent or less of the board;
- The non-independent director serves on the audit, compensation, or nominating committee;
- The company lacks an audit, compensation, or nominating committee so that the full board functions as that committee; or
- The company lacks a formal nominating committee, even if the board attests that the independent directors fulfill the functions of such a committee.

<sup>1</sup> In general, companies with a plurality vote standard use "Withhold" as the contrary vote option in director elections; companies with a majority vote standard use "Against". However, it will vary by company and the proxy must be checked to determine the valid contrary vote option for the particular company.

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9 of 69

**ISS U.S. Categorization of Directors**

**1. Executive Director**

- 1.1. Current employee or current officer<sup>1</sup> of the company or one of its affiliates<sup>2</sup>.

**2. Non-Independent Non-Executive Director**

Board Identification

- 2.1. Director identified as not independent by the board.

Controlling/Significant Shareholder

- 2.2. Beneficial owner of more than 50 percent of the company's voting power (this may be aggregated if voting power is distributed among more than one member of a group).

Former CEO/Interim Officer

- 2.3. Former CEO of the company.<sup>3,4</sup>  
2.4. Former CEO of an acquired company within the past five years.<sup>4</sup>  
2.5. Former interim officer if the service was longer than 18 months. If the service was between 12 and 18 months an assessment of the interim officer's employment agreement will be made.<sup>5</sup>

Non-CEO Executives

- 2.6. Former officer<sup>1</sup> of the company, an affiliate<sup>2</sup>, or an acquired firm within the past five years.  
2.7. Officer<sup>1</sup> of a former parent or predecessor firm at the time the company was sold or split off from the parent/predecessor within the past five years.  
2.8. Officer<sup>1</sup>, former officer, or general or limited partner of a joint venture or partnership with the company.

Family Members

- 2.9. Immediate family member<sup>6</sup> of a current or former officer<sup>1</sup> of the company or its affiliates<sup>2</sup> within the last five years.  
2.10. Immediate family member<sup>6</sup> of a current employee of company or its affiliates<sup>2</sup> where additional factors raise concern (which may include, but are not limited to, the following: a director related to numerous employees; the company or its affiliates employ relatives of numerous board members; or a non- Section 16 officer in a key strategic role).

Transactional, Professional, Financial, and Charitable Relationships

- 2.11. Currently provides (or an immediate family member<sup>6</sup> provides) professional services<sup>7</sup> to the company, to an affiliate<sup>2</sup> of the company or an individual officer of the company or one of its affiliates in excess of \$10,000 per year.  
2.12. Is (or an immediate family member<sup>6</sup> is) a partner in, or a controlling shareholder or an employee of, an organization which provides professional services<sup>7</sup> to the company, to an affiliate<sup>2</sup> of the company, or an individual officer of the company or one of its affiliates in excess of \$10,000 per year.  
2.13. Has (or an immediate family member<sup>6</sup> has) any material transactional relationship<sup>8</sup> with the company or its affiliates<sup>2</sup> (excluding investments in the company through a private placement).  
2.14. Is (or an immediate family member<sup>6</sup> is) a partner in, or a controlling shareholder or an executive officer of, an organization which has any material transactional relationship<sup>8</sup> with the company or its affiliates<sup>2</sup> (excluding investments in the company through a private placement).  
2.15. Is (or an immediate family member<sup>6</sup> is) a trustee, director, or employee of a charitable or non-profit organization that receives material grants or endowments<sup>8</sup> from the company or its affiliates<sup>2</sup>.

Other Relationships

- 2.16. Party to a voting agreement<sup>9</sup> to vote in line with management on proposals being brought to shareholder vote.  
2.17. Has (or an immediate family member<sup>6</sup> has) an interlocking relationship as defined by the SEC involving members of the board of directors or its Compensation Committee.<sup>10</sup>  
2.18. Founder<sup>11</sup> of the company but not currently an employee.  
2.19. Any material<sup>12</sup> relationship with the company.

**3. Independent Director**

3.1. No material<sup>12</sup> connection to the company other than a board seat.

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10 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

**Footnotes:**

1. The definition of officer will generally follow that of a Section 16 officer (officers subject to Section 16 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934) and includes the chief executive, operating, financial, legal, technology, and accounting officers of a company (including the president, treasurer, secretary, controller, or any vice president in charge of a principal business unit, division, or policy function). Current interim officers are included in this category. For private companies, the equivalent positions are applicable. A non-employee director serving as an officer due to statutory requirements (e.g. corporate secretary) will generally be classified as a Non-Independent Non-Executive Director under 2.19: Any material relationship with the company. However, if the company provides explicit disclosure that the director is not receiving additional compensation exceeding \$10,000 per year for serving in that capacity, then the director will be classified as an Independent Director.
2. Affiliate includes a subsidiary, sibling company, or parent company. ISS uses 50 percent control ownership by the parent company as the standard for applying its affiliate designation.
3. Includes any former CEO of the company prior to the company's initial public offering (IPO).
4. When there is a former CEO of a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) serving on the board of an acquired company, ISS will generally classify such directors as independent unless determined otherwise taking into account the following factors: the applicable listing standards determination of such director's independence; any operating ties to the firm; and the existence of any other conflicting relationships or related party transactions.
5. ISS will look at the terms of the interim officer's employment contract to determine if it contains severance pay, long-term health and pension benefits, or other such standard provisions typically contained in contracts of permanent, non-temporary CEOs. ISS will also consider if a formal search process was under way for a full-time officer at the time.
6. Immediate family member follows the SEC's definition of such and covers spouses, parents, children, step-parents, step-children, siblings, in-laws, and any person (other than a tenant or employee) sharing the household of any director, nominee for director, executive officer, or significant shareholder of the company.
7. Professional services can be characterized as advisory in nature, generally involve access to sensitive company information or to strategic decision-making, and typically have a commission- or fee-based payment structure. Professional services generally include, but are not limited to the following: investment banking/financial advisory services, commercial banking (beyond deposit services), investment services, insurance services, accounting/audit services, consulting services, marketing services, legal services, property management services, realtor services, lobbying services, executive search services, and IT consulting services. The following would generally be considered transactional relationships and not professional services: deposit services, IT tech support services, educational services, and construction services. The case of participation in a banking syndicate by a non-lead bank should be considered a transactional (and hence subject to the associated materiality test) rather than a professional relationship. Of Counsel relationships are only considered immaterial if the individual does not receive any form of compensation (in excess of \$10,000 per year) from, or is a retired partner of, the firm providing the professional service. The case of a company providing a professional service to one of its directors or to an entity with which one of its directors is affiliated, will be considered a transactional rather than a professional relationship. Insurance services and marketing services are assumed to be professional services unless the company explains why such services are not advisory.
8. A material transactional relationship, including grants to non-profit organizations, exists if the company makes annual payments to, or receives annual payments from, another entity, exceeding the greater of: \$200,000 or 5 percent of the recipient's gross revenues, for a company that follows NASDAQ listing standards; or the greater of \$1,000,000 or 2 percent of the recipient's gross revenues, for a company that follows NYSE listing standards. For a company that follows neither of the preceding standards, ISS will apply the NASDAQ-based materiality test. (The recipient is the party receiving the financial proceeds from the transaction).
9. Dissident directors who are parties to a voting agreement pursuant to a settlement or similar arrangement may be classified as Independent Directors if an analysis of the following factors indicates that the voting agreement does not compromise their alignment with all shareholders interests: the terms of the agreement; the duration of the standstill provision in the agreement; the limitations and requirements of actions that are agreed upon; if the dissident director nominee(s) is subject to the standstill; and if there any conflicting relationships or related party transactions.



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10. Interlocks include: executive officers serving as directors on each other's compensation or similar committees (or, in the absence of such a committee, on the board); or executive officers sitting on each other's boards and at least one serves on the other's compensation or similar committees (or, in the absence of such a committee, on the board).

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11 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

11. The operating involvement of the founder with the company will be considered; if the founder was never employed by the company, ISS may deem him or her an Independent Director.

12. For purposes of ISS's director independence classification, material will be defined as a standard of relationship (financial, personal or otherwise) that a reasonable person might conclude could potentially influence one's objectivity in the boardroom in a manner that would have a meaningful impact on an individual's ability to satisfy requisite fiduciary standards on behalf of shareholders.

### Composition

**Attendance at Board and Committee Meetings:** Generally vote against or withhold from directors (except new nominees, who should be considered case-by-case<sup>2</sup>) who attend less than 75 percent of the aggregate of their board and committee meetings for the period for which they served, unless an acceptable reason for absences is disclosed in the proxy or another SEC filing. Acceptable reasons for director absences are generally limited to the following:

Medical issues/illness;

Family emergencies; and

Missing only one meeting (when the total of all meetings is three or fewer).

If the proxy disclosure is unclear and insufficient to determine whether a director attended at least 75 percent of the aggregate of his/her board and committee meetings during his/her period of service, vote against or withhold from the director(s) in question.

**Overboarded Directors:** Generally vote against or withhold from individual directors who:

Sit on more than five public company boards; or

Are CEOs of public companies who sit on the boards of more than two public companies besides their own withhold only at their outside boards<sup>3</sup>.

**Diversity:** Highlight boards with no gender diversity. However, no adverse vote recommendations will be made due to any lack of gender diversity.

### Responsiveness

Vote case-by-case on individual directors, committee members, or the entire board of directors as appropriate if:

The board failed to act on a shareholder proposal that received the support of a majority of the shares cast in the previous year. Factors that will be considered are:

Disclosed outreach efforts by the board to shareholders in the wake of the vote;

Rationale provided in the proxy statement for the level of implementation;

The subject matter of the proposal;

The level of support for and opposition to the resolution in past meetings;

Actions taken by the board in response to the majority vote and its engagement with shareholders;

The continuation of the underlying issue as a voting item on the ballot (as either shareholder or management proposals); and

Other factors as appropriate.

The board failed to act on takeover offers where the majority of shares are tendered;

<sup>2</sup> New nominees who served for only part of the fiscal year are generally exempted from the attendance policy.

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<sup>3</sup> Although all of a CEO's subsidiary boards will be counted as separate boards, ISS will not recommend a withhold vote for the CEO of a parent company board or any of the controlled (>50 percent ownership) subsidiaries of that parent, but may do so at subsidiaries that are less than 50 percent controlled and boards outside the parent/subsidiary relationships.

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12 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

At the previous board election, any director received more than 50 percent withhold/against votes of the shares cast and the company has failed to address the issue(s) that caused the high withhold/against vote.

Vote case-by-case on Compensation Committee members (or, in exceptional cases, the full board) and the Say on Pay proposal if:

The company's previous say-on-pay received the support of less than 70 percent of votes cast. Factors that will be considered are:

The company's response, including:

Disclosure of engagement efforts with major institutional investors, including the frequency and timing of engagements and the company participants (including whether independent directors participated);

Disclosure of the specific concerns voiced by dissenting shareholders that led to the say-on-pay opposition;

Disclosure of specific and meaningful actions taken to address shareholders' concerns;

Other recent compensation actions taken by the company;

Whether the issues raised are recurring or isolated;

The company's ownership structure; and

Whether the support level was less than 50 percent, which would warrant the highest degree of responsiveness.

The board implements an advisory vote on executive compensation on a less frequent basis than the frequency that received the plurality of votes cast.

### Accountability

Vote against or withhold from the entire board of directors (except new nominees<sup>4</sup>, who should be considered case-by-case) for the following:

#### *Problematic Takeover Defenses/Governance Structure*

**Poison Pills:** Vote against or withhold from all nominees (except new nominees, who should be considered case-by-case) if:

The company has a poison pill that was not approved by shareholders<sup>5</sup>. However, vote case-by-case on nominees if the board adopts an initial pill with a term of one year or less, depending on the disclosed rationale for the adoption, and other factors as relevant (such as a commitment to put any renewal to a shareholder vote).

The board makes a material adverse modification to an existing pill, including, but not limited to, extension, renewal, or lowering the trigger, without shareholder approval.

**Classified Board Structure:** The board is classified, and a continuing director responsible for a problematic governance issue at the board/committee level that would warrant a withhold/against vote recommendation is not up for election. All appropriate nominees (except new) may be held accountable.

**Removal of Shareholder Discretion on Classified Boards:** The company has opted into, or failed to opt out of, state laws requiring a classified board structure.

**Director Performance Evaluation:** The board lacks mechanisms to promote accountability and oversight, coupled with sustained poor performance relative to peers. Sustained poor performance is measured by one- and three-year total

<sup>4</sup> A new nominee is any current nominee who has not already been elected by shareholders and who joined the board after the problematic action in question transpired. If ISS cannot determine whether the nominee joined the board before or after the problematic action transpired, the nominee will be considered a new nominee if he or she joined the board within the 12 months prior to the upcoming shareholder meeting.

<sup>5</sup> Public shareholders only, approval prior to a company's becoming public is insufficient.

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13 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

shareholder returns in the bottom half of a company's four-digit GICS industry group (Russell 3000 companies only). Take into consideration the company's five-year total shareholder return and operational metrics. Problematic provisions include but are not limited to:

- A classified board structure;
- A supermajority vote requirement;
- Either a plurality vote standard in uncontested director elections, or a majority vote standard in contested elections;
- The inability of shareholders to call special meetings;
- The inability of shareholders to act by written consent;
- A multi-class capital structure; and/or
- A non-shareholder-approved poison pill.

**Unilateral Bylaw/Charter Amendments and Problematic Capital Structures:** Generally vote against or withhold from directors individually, committee members, or the entire board (except new nominees, who should be considered case-by-case) if the board amends the company's bylaws or charter without shareholder approval in a manner that materially diminishes shareholders' rights or that could adversely impact shareholders, considering the following factors:

- The board's rationale for adopting the bylaw/charter amendment without shareholder ratification;
- Disclosure by the company of any significant engagement with shareholders regarding the amendment;
- The level of impairment of shareholders' rights caused by the board's unilateral amendment to the bylaws/charter;
- The board's track record with regard to unilateral board action on bylaw/charter amendments or other entrenchment provisions;
- The company's ownership structure;
- The company's existing governance provisions;
- The timing of the board's amendment to the bylaws/charter in connection with a significant business development; and
- Other factors, as deemed appropriate, that may be relevant to determine the impact of the amendment on shareholders.

Unless the adverse amendment is reversed or submitted to a binding shareholder vote, in subsequent years vote case-by-case on director nominees. Generally vote against (except new nominees, who should be considered case-by-case) if the directors:

- Classified the board;
- Adopted supermajority vote requirements to amend the bylaws or charter; or
- Eliminated shareholders' ability to amend bylaws.

**Problematic Governance Structure - Newly public companies:** For newly public companies, generally vote against or withhold from directors individually, committee members, or the entire board (except new nominees, who should be considered case-by-case) if, prior to or in connection with the company's public offering, the company or its board adopted bylaw or charter provisions materially adverse to shareholder rights, or implemented a multi-class capital structure in which the classes have unequal voting rights considering the following factors:

- The level of impairment of shareholders' rights;
- The disclosed rationale;
- The ability to change the governance structure (e.g., limitations on shareholders' right to amend the bylaws or charter, or supermajority vote requirements to amend the bylaws or charter);
- The ability of shareholders to hold directors accountable through annual director elections, or whether the company has a classified board structure;
- Any reasonable sunset provision; and
- Other relevant factors.



**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

Unless the adverse provision and/or problematic capital structure is reversed or removed, vote case-by-case on director nominees in subsequent years.

***Restrictions on Shareholders' Rights***

**Restricting Binding Shareholder Proposals:** Generally vote against or withhold from the members of the governance committee if:

The company's governing documents impose undue restrictions on shareholders' ability to amend the bylaws. Such restrictions include, but are not limited to: outright prohibition on the submission of binding shareholder proposals, or share ownership requirements or time holding requirements in excess of SEC Rule 14a-8. Vote against on an ongoing basis.

***Problematic Audit-Related Practices***

Generally vote against or withhold from the members of the Audit Committee if:

The non-audit fees paid to the auditor are excessive;

The company receives an adverse opinion on the company's financial statements from its auditor; or

There is persuasive evidence that the Audit Committee entered into an inappropriate indemnification agreement with its auditor that limits the ability of the company, or its shareholders, to pursue legitimate legal recourse against the audit firm.

Vote case-by-case on members of the Audit Committee and potentially the full board if:

Poor accounting practices are identified that rise to a level of serious concern, such as: fraud; misapplication of GAAP; and material weaknesses identified in Section 404 disclosures. Examine the severity, breadth, chronological sequence, and duration, as well as the company's efforts at remediation or corrective actions, in determining whether withhold/against votes are warranted.

***Problematic Compensation Practices***

In the absence of an Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation (Say on Pay) ballot item or in egregious situations, vote against or withhold from the members of the Compensation Committee and potentially the full board if:

There is a significant misalignment between CEO pay and company performance (pay for performance);

The company maintains significant problematic pay practices; or

The board exhibits a significant level of poor communication and responsiveness to shareholders.

Generally vote against or withhold from the Compensation Committee chair, other committee members, or potentially the full board if:

The company fails to include a Say on Pay ballot item when required under SEC provisions, or under the company's declared frequency of say on pay; or

The company fails to include a Frequency of Say on Pay ballot item when required under SEC provisions.

Generally vote against members of the board committee responsible for approving/setting non-employee director compensation if there is a pattern (i.e. two or more years) of awarding excessive non-employee director compensation without disclosing a compelling rationale or other mitigating factors.



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15 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

### *Problematic Pledging of Company Stock:*

Vote against the members of the committee that oversees risks related to pledging, or the full board, where a significant level of pledged company stock by executives or directors raises concerns. The following factors will be considered:

- The presence of an anti-pledging policy, disclosed in the proxy statement, that prohibits future pledging activity;
- The magnitude of aggregate pledged shares in terms of total common shares outstanding, market value, and trading volume;
- Disclosure of progress or lack thereof in reducing the magnitude of aggregate pledged shares over time;
- Disclosure in the proxy statement that shares subject to stock ownership and holding requirements do not include pledged company stock; and
- Any other relevant factors.

### *Governance Failures*

Under extraordinary circumstances, vote against or withhold from directors individually, committee members, or the entire board, due to:

- Material failures of governance, stewardship, risk oversight<sup>6</sup>, or fiduciary responsibilities at the company;
- Failure to replace management as appropriate; or
- Egregious actions related to a director'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 at any company.

## **Voting on Director Nominees in Contested Elections**

### **Vote-No Campaigns**

**General Recommendation:** In cases where companies are targeted in connection with public vote-no campaigns, evaluate director nominees under the existing governance policies for voting on director nominees in uncontested elections. Take into consideration the arguments submitted by shareholders and other publicly available information.

### **Proxy Contests/Proxy Access Voting for Director Nominees in Contested Elections**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on the election of directors in contested elections, considering the following factors:

- Long-term financial performance of the company relative to its industry;
- Management's track record;
- Background to the contested election;
- Nominee qualifications and any compensatory arrangements;
- Strategic plan of dissident slate and quality of the critique against management;
- Likelihood that the proposed goals and objectives can be achieved (both slates); and
- Stock ownership positions.

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<sup>6</sup> Examples of failure of risk oversight include, but are not limited to: bribery; large or serial fines or sanctions from regulatory bodies; significant adverse legal judgments or settlement; or hedging of company stock.

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16 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

In the case of candidates nominated pursuant to proxy access, vote case-by-case considering any applicable factors listed above or additional factors which may be relevant, including those that are specific to the company, to the nominee(s) and/or to the nature of the election (such as whether or not there are more candidates than board seats).

### Other Board-Related Proposals

#### Adopt Anti-Hedging/Pledging/Speculative Investments Policy

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals seeking a policy that prohibits named executive officers from engaging in derivative or speculative transactions involving company stock, including hedging, holding stock in a margin account, or pledging stock as collateral for a loan. However, the company's existing policies regarding responsible use of company stock will be considered.

#### Age/Term Limits

**General Recommendation:** Vote against management and shareholder proposals to limit the tenure of outside directors through mandatory retirement ages.

Vote against management proposals to limit the tenure of outside directors through term limits. However, scrutinize boards where the average tenure of all directors exceeds 15 years for independence from management and for sufficient turnover to ensure that new perspectives are being added to the board.

#### Board Size

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals seeking to fix the board size or designate a range for the board size.

Vote against proposals that give management the ability to alter the size of the board outside of a specified range without shareholder approval.

#### Classification/Declassification of the Board

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals to classify (stagger) the board.

Vote for proposals to repeal classified boards and to elect all directors annually.

#### CEO Succession Planning

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals seeking disclosure on a CEO succession planning policy, considering, at a minimum, the following factors:

The reasonableness/scope of the request; and

The company's existing disclosure on its current CEO succession planning process.

#### Cumulative Voting

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**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against management proposals to eliminate cumulate voting, and for shareholder proposals to restore or provide for cumulative voting, unless:

The company has proxy access<sup>7</sup>, thereby allowing shareholders to nominate directors to the company's ballot; and  
The company has adopted a majority vote standard, with a carve-out for plurality voting in situations where there are more nominees than seats, and a director resignation policy to address failed elections.

<sup>7</sup> A proxy access right that meets the recommended guidelines.

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17 of 69

**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

Vote for proposals for cumulative voting at controlled companies (insider voting power > 50%).

**Director and Officer Indemnification and Liability Protection**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals on director and officer indemnification and liability protection.

Vote against proposals that would:

Eliminate entirely directors' and officers' liability for monetary damages for violating the duty of care.

Expand coverage beyond just legal expenses to liability for acts that are more serious violations of fiduciary obligation than mere carelessness.

Expand the scope of indemnification to provide for mandatory indemnification of company officials in connection with acts that previously the company was permitted to provide indemnification for, at the discretion of the company's board (*i.e.*, permissive indemnification), but that previously the company was not required to indemnify.

Vote for only those proposals providing such expanded coverage in cases when a director's or officer's legal defense was unsuccessful if both of the following apply:

If the director was found to have acted in good faith and in a manner that s/he reasonably believed was in the best interests of the company; and

If only the director's legal expenses would be covered.

**Establish/Amend Nominee Qualifications**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals that establish or amend director qualifications. Votes should be based on the reasonableness of the criteria and the degree to which they may preclude dissident nominees from joining the board.

Vote case-by-case on shareholder resolutions seeking a director nominee who possesses a particular subject matter expertise, considering:

The company's board committee structure, existing subject matter expertise, and board nomination provisions relative to that of its peers;

The company's existing board and management oversight mechanisms regarding the issue for which board oversight is sought;

The company's disclosure and performance relating to the issue for which board oversight is sought and any significant related controversies; and

The scope and structure of the proposal.

**Establish Other Board Committee Proposals**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against shareholder proposals to establish a new board committee, as such proposals seek a specific oversight mechanism/structure that potentially limits a company's flexibility to determine an appropriate oversight mechanism for itself. However, the following factors will be considered:

Existing oversight mechanisms (including current committee structure) regarding the issue for which board oversight is sought;

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Level of disclosure regarding the issue for which board oversight is sought;  
Company performance related to the issue for which board oversight is sought;  
Board committee structure compared to that of other companies in its industry sector; and

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18 of 69

**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

The scope and structure of the proposal.

**Filling Vacancies/Removal of Directors**

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals that provide that directors may be removed only for cause. Vote for proposals to restore shareholders' ability to remove directors with or without cause.

Vote against proposals that provide that only continuing directors may elect replacements to fill board vacancies.

Vote for proposals that permit shareholders to elect directors to fill board vacancies.

**Independent Chair (Separate Chair/CEO)**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for shareholder proposals requiring that the chairman's position be filled by an independent director, taking into consideration the following:

- The scope of the proposal;
- The company's current board leadership structure;
- The company's governance structure and practices;
- Company performance; and
- Any other relevant factors that may be applicable.

Regarding the scope of the proposal, consider whether the proposal is precatory or binding and whether the proposal is seeking an immediate change in the chairman role or the policy can be implemented at the next CEO transition.

Under the review of the company's board leadership structure, ISS may support the proposal under the following scenarios absent a compelling rationale: the presence of an executive or non-independent chair in addition to the CEO; a recent recombination of the role of CEO and chair; and/or departure from a structure with an independent chair. ISS will also consider any recent transitions in board leadership and the effect such transitions may have on independent board leadership as well as the designation of a lead director role.

When considering the governance structure, ISS will consider the overall independence of the board, the independence of key committees, the establishment of governance guidelines, board tenure and its relationship to CEO tenure, and any other factors that may be relevant. Any concerns about a company's governance structure will weigh in favor of support for the proposal.

The review of the company's governance practices may include, but is not limited to, poor compensation practices, material failures of governance and risk oversight, related-party transactions or other issues putting director independence at risk, corporate or management scandals, and actions by management or the board with potential or realized negative impact on shareholders. Any such practices may suggest a need for more independent oversight at the company thus warranting support of the proposal.

ISS performance assessment will generally consider one-, three-, and five-year TSR compared to the company's peers and the market as a whole. While poor performance will weigh in favor of the adoption of an independent chair policy, strong performance over the long term will be considered a mitigating factor when determining whether the proposed leadership change warrants support.

**Majority of Independent Directors/Establishment of Independent Committees**



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**General Recommendation:** Vote for shareholder proposals asking that a majority or more of directors be independent unless the board composition already meets the proposed threshold by ISS definition of Independent Director (See Categorization of Directors).

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19 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

Vote for shareholder proposals asking that board audit, compensation, and/or nominating committees be composed exclusively of independent directors unless they currently meet that standard.

### Majority Vote Standard for the Election of Directors

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for management proposals to adopt a majority of votes cast standard for directors in uncontested elections. Vote against if no carve-out for a plurality vote standard in contested elections is included. Generally vote for precatory and binding shareholder resolutions requesting that the board change the company's bylaws to stipulate that directors need to be elected with an affirmative majority of votes cast, provided it does not conflict with the state law where the company is incorporated. Binding resolutions need to allow for a carve-out for a plurality vote standard when there are more nominees than board seats.

Companies are strongly encouraged to also adopt a post-election policy (also known as a director resignation policy)

that will provide guidelines so that the company will promptly address the situation of a holdover director.

### Proxy Access

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for management and shareholder proposals for proxy access with the following provisions:

**Ownership threshold:** maximum requirement not more than three percent (3%) of the voting power;

**Ownership duration:** maximum requirement not longer than three (3) years of continuous ownership for each member of the nominating group;

**Aggregation:** minimal or no limits on the number of shareholders permitted to form a nominating group;

**Cap:** cap on nominees of generally twenty-five percent (25%) of the board.

Review for reasonableness any other restrictions on the right of proxy access.

Generally vote against proposals that are more restrictive than these guidelines.

### Require More Nominees than Open Seats

**General Recommendation:** Vote against shareholder proposals that would require a company to nominate more candidates than the number of open board seats.

### Shareholder Engagement Policy (Shareholder Advisory Committee)

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for shareholder proposals requesting that the board establish an internal mechanism/process, which may include a committee, in order to improve communications between directors and shareholders, unless the company has the following features, as appropriate:

Established a communication structure that goes beyond the exchange requirements to facilitate the exchange of information between shareholders and members of the board;

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Effectively disclosed information with respect to this structure to its shareholders;  
Company has not ignored majority-supported shareholder proposals or a majority withhold vote on a director nominee; and  
The company has an independent chairman or a lead director, according to ISS definition. This individual must be made available for periodic consultation and direct communication with major shareholders.

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20 of 69

## 2. AUDIT-RELATED

### Auditor Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on the issue of auditor indemnification and limitation of liability. Factors to be assessed include, but are not limited to:

- The terms of the auditor agreement the degree to which these agreements impact shareholders' rights;
- The motivation and rationale for establishing the agreements;
- The quality of the company's disclosure; and
- The company's historical practices in the audit area.

Vote against or withhold from members of an audit committee in situations where there is persuasive evidence that the audit committee entered into an inappropriate indemnification agreement with its auditor that limits the ability of the company, or its shareholders, to pursue legitimate legal recourse against the audit firm.

### Auditor Ratification

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to ratify auditors unless any of the following apply:

- An auditor has a financial interest in or association with the company, and is therefore not independent;
- There is reason to believe that the independent auditor has rendered an opinion that is neither accurate nor indicative of the company's financial position;
- Poor accounting practices are identified that rise to a serious level of concern, such as fraud or misapplication of GAAP; or
- Fees for non-audit services ( Other fees) are excessive.

Non-audit fees are excessive if:

Non-audit ( other ) fees > audit fees + audit-related fees + tax compliance/preparation fees

Tax compliance and preparation include the preparation of original and amended tax returns and refund claims, and tax payment planning. All other services in the tax category, such as tax advice, planning, or consulting, should be added to Other fees. If the breakout of tax fees cannot be determined, add all tax fees to Other fees.

In circumstances where Other fees include fees related to significant one-time capital structure events (such as initial public offerings, bankruptcy emergence, and spin-offs) and the company makes public disclosure of the amount and nature of those fees that are an exception to the standard non-audit fee category, then such fees may be excluded from the non-audit fees considered in determining the ratio of non-audit to audit/audit-related fees/tax compliance and preparation for purposes of determining whether non-audit fees are excessive.

### Shareholder Proposals Limiting Non-Audit Services

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**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals asking companies to prohibit or limit their auditors from engaging in non-audit services.

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21 of 69

**Shareholder Proposals on Audit Firm Rotation**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals asking for audit firm rotation, taking into account:

- The tenure of the audit firm;
- The length of rotation specified in the proposal;
- Any significant audit-related issues at the company;
- The number of Audit Committee meetings held each year;
- The number of financial experts serving on the committee; and
- Whether the company has a periodic renewal process where the auditor is evaluated for both audit quality and competitive price.

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### 3. SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS & DEFENSES

#### Advance Notice Requirements for Shareholder Proposals/Nominations

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on advance notice proposals, giving support to those proposals which allow shareholders to submit proposals/nominations as close to the meeting date as reasonably possible and within the broadest window possible, recognizing the need to allow sufficient notice for company, regulatory, and shareholder review.

To be reasonable, the company's deadline for shareholder notice of a proposal/nominations must not be more than 60 days prior to the meeting, with a submittal window of at least 30 days prior to the deadline. The submittal window is the period under which a shareholder must file his proposal/nominations prior to the deadline.

In general, support additional efforts by companies to ensure full disclosure in regard to a proponent's economic and voting position in the company so long as the informational requirements are reasonable and aimed at providing shareholders with the necessary information to review such proposals.

#### Amend Bylaws without Shareholder Consent

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals giving the board exclusive authority to amend the bylaws.

Vote case-by-case on proposals giving the board the ability to amend the bylaws in addition to shareholders, taking into account the following:

- Any impediments to shareholders' ability to amend the bylaws (i.e. supermajority voting requirements);
- The company's ownership structure and historical voting turnout;
- Whether the board could amend bylaws adopted by shareholders; and
- Whether shareholders would retain the ability to ratify any board-initiated amendments.

#### Control Share Acquisition Provisions

Control share acquisition statutes function by denying shares their voting rights when they contribute to ownership in excess of certain thresholds. Voting rights for those shares exceeding ownership limits may only be restored by approval of either a majority or supermajority of disinterested shares. Thus, control share acquisition statutes effectively require a hostile bidder to put its offer to a shareholder vote or risk voting disenfranchisement if the bidder continues buying up a large block of shares.

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to opt out of control share acquisition statutes unless doing so would enable the completion of a takeover that would be detrimental to shareholders.

Vote against proposals to amend the charter to include control share acquisition provisions.  
Vote for proposals to restore voting rights to the control shares.

## **Control Share Cash-Out Provisions**

Control share cash-out statutes give dissident shareholders the right to cash-out of their position in a company at the expense of the shareholder who has taken a control position. In other words, when an investor crosses a preset threshold level, remaining shareholders are given the right to sell their shares to the acquirer, who must buy them at the highest acquiring price.

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**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to opt out of control share cash-out statutes.

## Disgorgement Provisions

Disgorgement provisions require an acquirer or potential acquirer of more than a certain percentage of a company's stock to disgorge, or pay back, to the company any profits realized from the sale of that company's stock purchased 24 months before achieving control status. All sales of company stock by the acquirer occurring within a certain period of time (between 18 months and 24 months) prior to the investor's gaining control status are subject to these recapture-of-profits provisions.

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to opt out of state disgorgement provisions.

## Fair Price Provisions

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to adopt fair price provisions (provisions that stipulate that an acquirer must pay the same price to acquire all shares as it paid to acquire the control shares), evaluating factors such as the vote required to approve the proposed acquisition, the vote required to repeal the fair price provision, and the mechanism for determining the fair price.

Generally vote against fair price provisions with shareholder vote requirements greater than a majority of disinterested shares.

## Freeze-Out Provisions

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to opt out of state freeze-out provisions. Freeze-out provisions force an investor who surpasses a certain ownership threshold in a company to wait a specified period of time before gaining control of the company.

## Greenmail

Greenmail payments are targeted share repurchases by management of company stock from individuals or groups seeking control of the company. Since only the hostile party receives payment, usually at a substantial premium over the market value of its shares, the practice discriminates against all other shareholders.

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to adopt anti-greenmail charter or bylaw amendments or otherwise restrict a company's ability to make greenmail payments.

Vote case-by-case on anti-greenmail proposals when they are bundled with other charter or bylaw amendments.

## Litigation Rights (including Exclusive Venue and Fee-Shifting Bylaw Provisions)

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Bylaw provisions impacting shareholders' ability to bring suit against the company may include exclusive venue provisions, which provide that the state of incorporation shall be the sole venue for certain types of litigation, and fee-shifting provisions that require a shareholder who sues a company unsuccessfully to pay all litigation expenses of the defendant corporation.

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on bylaws which impact shareholders' litigation rights, taking into account factors such as:

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The company's stated rationale for adopting such a provision;

Disclosure of past harm from shareholder lawsuits in which plaintiffs were unsuccessful or shareholder lawsuits outside the jurisdiction of incorporation;

The breadth of application of the bylaw, including the types of lawsuits to which it would apply and the definition of key terms; and Governance features such as shareholders' ability to repeal the provision at a later date (including the vote standard applied when shareholders attempt to amend the bylaws) and their ability to hold directors accountable through annual director elections and a majority vote standard in uncontested elections.

Generally vote against bylaws that mandate fee-shifting whenever plaintiffs are not completely successful on the merits (i.e., in cases where the plaintiffs are partially successful).

Unilateral adoption by the board of bylaw provisions which affect shareholders' litigation rights will be evaluated under ISS' policy on Unilateral Bylaw/Charter Amendments.

### Net Operating Loss (NOL) Protective Amendments

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals to adopt a protective amendment for the stated purpose of protecting a company's net operating losses (NOL) if the effective term of the protective amendment would exceed the shorter of three years and the exhaustion of the NOL.

Vote case-by-case, considering the following factors, for management proposals to adopt an NOL protective amendment that would remain in effect for the shorter of three years (or less) and the exhaustion of the NOL:

The ownership threshold (NOL protective amendments generally prohibit stock ownership transfers that would result in a new 5-percent holder or increase the stock ownership percentage of an existing 5-percent holder);

The value of the NOLs;

Shareholder protection mechanisms (sunset provision or commitment to cause expiration of the protective amendment upon exhaustion or expiration of the NOL);

The company's existing governance structure including: board independence, existing takeover defenses, track record of responsiveness to shareholders, and any other problematic governance concerns; and

Any other factors that may be applicable.

## Poison Pills (Shareholder Rights Plans)

### Shareholder Proposals to Put Pill to a Vote and/or Adopt a Pill Policy

**General Recommendation:** Vote for shareholder proposals requesting that the company submit its poison pill to a shareholder vote or redeem it unless the company has: (1) A shareholder approved poison pill in place; or (2) The company has adopted a policy concerning the adoption of a pill in the future specifying that the board will only adopt a shareholder rights plan if either:

Shareholders have approved the adoption of the plan; or

The board, in its exercise of its fiduciary responsibilities, determines that it is in the best interest of shareholders under the circumstances to adopt a pill without the delay in adoption that would result from seeking stockholder approval (i.e., the fiduciary out provision). A poison pill adopted under this fiduciary out will be put to a shareholder ratification vote within 12 months of adoption or expire. If the pill is not approved by a majority of the votes cast on this issue, the plan will immediately terminate.

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If the shareholder proposal calls for a time period of less than 12 months for shareholder ratification after adoption, vote for the proposal, but add the caveat that a vote within 12 months would be considered sufficient implementation.

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25 of 69

### Management Proposals to Ratify a Poison Pill

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on management proposals on poison pill ratification, focusing on the features of the shareholder rights plan. Rights plans should contain the following attributes:

No lower than a 20 percent trigger, flip-in or flip-over;

A term of no more than three years;

No dead-hand, slow-hand, no-hand, or similar feature that limits the ability of a future board to redeem the pill;

Shareholder redemption feature (qualifying offer clause); if the board refuses to redeem the pill 90 days after a qualifying offer is announced, 10 percent of the shares may call a special meeting or seek a written consent to vote on rescinding the pill.

In addition, the rationale for adopting the pill should be thoroughly explained by the company. In examining the request for the pill, take into consideration the company's existing governance structure, including: board independence, existing takeover defenses, and any problematic governance concerns.

### Management Proposals to Ratify a Pill to Preserve Net Operating Losses (NOLs)

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals to adopt a poison pill for the stated purpose of protecting a company's net operating losses (NOL) if the term of the pill would exceed the shorter of three years and the exhaustion of the NOL.

Vote case-by-case on management proposals for poison pill ratification, considering the following factors, if the term of the pill would be the shorter of three years (or less) and the exhaustion of the NOL:

The ownership threshold to transfer (NOL pills generally have a trigger slightly below 5 percent);

The value of the NOLs;

Shareholder protection mechanisms (sunset provision, or commitment to cause expiration of the pill upon exhaustion or expiration of NOLs);

The company's existing governance structure including: board independence, existing takeover defenses, track record of responsiveness to shareholders, and any other problematic governance concerns; and

Any other factors that may be applicable.

### Proxy Voting Disclosure, Confidentiality, and Tabulation

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals regarding proxy voting mechanics, taking into consideration whether implementation of the proposal is likely to enhance or protect shareholder rights. Specific issues covered under the policy include, but are not limited to, confidential voting of individual proxies and ballots, confidentiality of running vote tallies, and the treatment of abstentions and/or broker non-votes in the company's vote-counting methodology.

While a variety of factors may be considered in each analysis, the guiding principles are: transparency, consistency, and fairness in the proxy voting process. The factors considered, as applicable to the proposal, may include:

The scope and structure of the proposal;

The company's stated confidential voting policy (or other relevant policies) and whether it ensures a level playing field by providing shareholder proponents with equal access to vote information prior to the annual meeting;

The company's vote standard for management and shareholder proposals and whether it ensures consistency and fairness in the proxy voting process and maintains the integrity of vote results;

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Whether the company's disclosure regarding its vote counting method and other relevant voting policies with respect to management and shareholder proposals are consistent and clear;

Any recent controversies or concerns related to the company's proxy voting mechanics;

Any unintended consequences resulting from implementation of the proposal; and

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Any other factors that may be relevant.

**Reimbursing Proxy Solicitation Expenses**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to reimburse proxy solicitation expenses.

When voting in conjunction with support of a dissident slate, vote for the reimbursement of all appropriate proxy solicitation expenses associated with the election.

Generally vote for shareholder proposals calling for the reimbursement of reasonable costs incurred in connection with nominating one or more candidates in a contested election where the following apply:

- The election of fewer than 50 percent of the directors to be elected is contested in the election;
- One or more of the dissident's candidates is elected;
- Shareholders are not permitted to cumulate their votes for directors; and
- The election occurred, and the expenses were incurred, after the adoption of this bylaw.

**Reincorporation Proposals**

**General Recommendation:** Management or shareholder proposals to change a company's state of incorporation should be evaluated case-by-case, giving consideration to both financial and corporate governance concerns including the following:

- Reasons for reincorporation;
- Comparison of company's governance practices and provisions prior to and following the reincorporation; and
- Comparison of corporation laws of original state and destination state.

Vote for reincorporation when the economic factors outweigh any neutral or negative governance changes.

**Shareholder Ability to Act by Written Consent**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against management and shareholder proposals to restrict or prohibit shareholders' ability to act by written consent.

Generally vote for management and shareholder proposals that provide shareholders with the ability to act by written consent, taking into account the following factors:

- Shareholders' current right to act by written consent;
- The consent threshold;
- The inclusion of exclusionary or prohibitive language;
- Investor ownership structure; and
- Shareholder support of, and management's response to, previous shareholder proposals.

Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals if, in addition to the considerations above, the company has the following governance and antitakeover provisions:

- An unfettered<sup>8</sup> right for shareholders to call special meetings at a 10 percent threshold;

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A majority vote standard in uncontested director elections;  
No non-shareholder-approved pill; and

<sup>8</sup> Unfettered means no restrictions on agenda items, no restrictions on the number of shareholders who can group together to reach the 10 percent threshold, and only reasonable limits on when a meeting can be called: no greater than 30 days after the last annual meeting and no greater than 90 prior to the next annual meeting.

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27 of 69



**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

An annually elected board.

**Shareholder Ability to Call Special Meetings**

**General Recommendation:** Vote against management or shareholder proposals to restrict or prohibit shareholders' ability to call special meetings.

Generally vote for management or shareholder proposals that provide shareholders with the ability to call special meetings taking into account the following factors:

- Shareholders' current right to call special meetings;
- Minimum ownership threshold necessary to call special meetings (10 percent preferred);
- The inclusion of exclusionary or prohibitive language;
- Investor ownership structure; and
- Shareholder support of, and management's response to, previous shareholder proposals.

**Stakeholder Provisions**

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals that ask the board to consider non-shareholder constituencies or other non-financial effects when evaluating a merger or business combination.

**State Antitakeover Statutes**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to opt in or out of state takeover statutes (including fair price provisions, stakeholder laws, poison pill endorsements, severance pay and labor contract provisions, and anti-greenmail provisions).

**Supermajority Vote Requirements**

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals to require a supermajority shareholder vote.

Vote for management or shareholder proposals to reduce supermajority vote requirements. However, for companies with shareholder(s) who have significant ownership levels, vote case-by-case, taking into account:

- Ownership structure;
- Quorum requirements; and
- Vote requirements.

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## 4. CAPITAL/RESTRUCTURING

### Capital

#### Adjustments to Par Value of Common Stock

**General Recommendation:** Vote for management proposals to reduce the par value of common stock unless the action is being taken to facilitate an anti-takeover device or some other negative corporate governance action.

Vote for management proposals to eliminate par value.

#### Common Stock Authorization

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to increase the number of authorized common shares where the primary purpose of the increase is to issue shares in connection with a transaction on the same ballot that warrants support.

Vote against proposals at companies with more than one class of common stock to increase the number of authorized shares of the class of common stock that has superior voting rights.

Vote against proposals to increase the number of authorized common shares if a vote for a reverse stock split on the same ballot is warranted despite the fact that the authorized shares would not be reduced proportionally.

Vote case-by-case on all other proposals to increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance. Take into account company-specific factors that include, at a minimum, the following:

##### Past Board Performance:

The company's use of authorized shares during the last three years;

##### The Current Request:

Disclosure in the proxy statement of the specific purposes of the proposed increase;

Disclosure in the proxy statement of specific and severe risks to shareholders of not approving the request; and

The dilutive impact of the request as determined relative to an allowable increase calculated by ISS (typically 100 percent of existing authorized shares) that reflects the company's need for shares and total shareholder returns.

ISS will apply the relevant allowable increase below to requests to increase common stock that are for general corporate purposes (or to the general corporate purposes portion of a request that also includes a specific need):

- A. Most companies: **100 percent** of existing authorized shares.
- B. Companies with less than 50 percent of existing authorized shares either outstanding or reserved for issuance: **50 percent** of existing authorized shares.
- C. Companies with one- and three-year total shareholder returns (TSRs) in the bottom 10 percent of the U.S. market as of the end of the calendar quarter that is closest to their most recent fiscal year end: **50 percent** of existing authorized shares.

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D. Companies at which both conditions (B and C) above are both present: **25 percent** of existing authorized shares.

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29 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

If there is an acquisition, private placement, or similar transaction on the ballot (not including equity incentive plans) that ISS is recommending FOR, the allowable increase will be the greater of (i) twice the amount needed to support the transactions on the ballot, and (ii) the allowable increase as calculated above.

### Dual Class Structure

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against proposals to create a new class of common stock unless:

The company discloses a compelling rationale for the dual-class capital structure, such as:

The company's auditor has concluded that there is substantial doubt about the company's ability to continue as a going concern; or

The new class of shares will be transitory;

The new class is intended for financing purposes with minimal or no dilution to current shareholders in both the short term and long term; and

The new class is not designed to preserve or increase the voting power of an insider or significant shareholder.

### Issue Stock for Use with Rights Plan

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals that increase authorized common stock for the explicit purpose of implementing a non-shareholder-approved shareholder rights plan (poison pill).

### Preemptive Rights

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals that seek preemptive rights, taking into consideration:

The size of the company;

The shareholder base; and

The liquidity of the stock.

### Preferred Stock Authorization

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to increase the number of authorized preferred shares where the primary purpose of the increase is to issue shares in connection with a transaction on the same ballot that warrants support.

Vote against proposals at companies with more than one class or series of preferred stock to increase the number of authorized shares of the class or series of preferred stock that has superior voting rights.

Vote case-by-case on all other proposals to increase the number of shares of preferred stock authorized for issuance. Take into account company-specific factors that include, at a minimum, the following:

Past Board Performance:

The company's use of authorized preferred shares during the last three years;

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### The Current Request:

Disclosure in the proxy statement of the specific purposes for the proposed increase;

Disclosure in the proxy statement of specific and severe risks to shareholders of not approving the request;

In cases where the company has existing authorized preferred stock, the dilutive impact of the request as determined by an allowable increase calculated by ISS (typically 100 percent of existing authorized shares) that reflects the company's need for shares and total shareholder returns; and

Whether the shares requested are blank check preferred shares that can be used for antitakeover purposes.

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### Recapitalization Plans

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on recapitalizations (reclassifications of securities), taking into account the following:

- More simplified capital structure;
- Enhanced liquidity;
- Fairness of conversion terms;
- Impact on voting power and dividends;
- Reasons for the reclassification;
- Conflicts of interest; and
- Other alternatives considered.

### Reverse Stock Splits

**General Recommendation:** Vote for management proposals to implement a reverse stock split when the number of authorized shares will be proportionately reduced.

Vote against proposals when there is not a proportionate reduction of authorized shares, unless:

- A stock exchange has provided notice to the company of a potential delisting; or
- The effective increase in authorized shares is equal to or less than the allowable increase calculated in accordance with ISS' Common Stock Authorization policy.

### Share Repurchase Programs

**General Recommendation:** Vote for management proposals to institute open-market share repurchase plans in which all shareholders may participate on equal terms.

### Stock Distributions: Splits and Dividends

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for management proposals to increase the common share authorization for stock split or stock dividend, provided that the effective increase in authorized shares is equal to or is less than the allowable increase calculated in accordance with ISS' Common Stock Authorization policy.

### Tracking Stock

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on the creation of tracking stock, weighing the strategic value of the transaction against such factors as:

- Adverse governance changes;
- Excessive increases in authorized capital stock;

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Unfair method of distribution;  
Diminution of voting rights;  
Adverse conversion features;  
Negative impact on stock option plans; and  
Alternatives such as spin-off.

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31 of 69

## Restructuring

### Appraisal Rights

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to restore or provide shareholders with rights of appraisal.

### Asset Purchases

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on asset purchase proposals, considering the following factors:

- Purchase price;
- Fairness opinion;
- Financial and strategic benefits;
- How the deal was negotiated;
- Conflicts of interest;
- Other alternatives for the business;
- Non-completion risk.

### Asset Sales

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on asset sales, considering the following factors:

- Impact on the balance sheet/working capital;
- Potential elimination of diseconomies;
- Anticipated financial and operating benefits;
- Anticipated use of funds;
- Value received for the asset;
- Fairness opinion;
- How the deal was negotiated;
- Conflicts of interest.

### Bundled Proposals

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on bundled or conditional proxy proposals. In the case of items that are conditioned upon each other, examine the benefits and costs of the packaged items. In instances when the joint effect of the conditioned items is not in shareholders' best interests, vote against the proposals. If the combined effect is positive, support such proposals.

### Conversion of Securities

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals regarding conversion of securities. When evaluating these proposals the investor should review the dilution to existing shareholders, the conversion price relative to market value, financial issues, control issues,



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termination penalties, and conflicts of interest.

Vote for the conversion if it is expected that the company will be subject to onerous penalties or will be forced to file for bankruptcy if the transaction is not approved.

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32 of 69

**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

**Corporate Reorganization/Debt Restructuring/Prepackaged Bankruptcy Plans/Reverse Leveraged Buyouts/Wrap Plans**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to increase common and/or preferred shares and to issue shares as part of a debt restructuring plan, after evaluating:

- Dilution to existing shareholders' positions;
- Terms of the offer - discount/premium in purchase price to investor, including any fairness opinion; termination penalties; exit strategy;
- Financial issues - company's financial situation; degree of need for capital; use of proceeds; effect of the financing on the company's cost of capital;
- Management's efforts to pursue other alternatives;
- Control issues - change in management; change in control, guaranteed board and committee seats; standstill provisions; voting agreements; veto power over certain corporate actions; and
- Conflict of interest - arm's length transaction, managerial incentives.

Vote for the debt restructuring if it is expected that the company will file for bankruptcy if the transaction is not approved.

**Formation of Holding Company**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals regarding the formation of a holding company, taking into consideration the following:

- The reasons for the change;
- Any financial or tax benefits;
- Regulatory benefits;
- Increases in capital structure; and
- Changes to the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the company.

Absent compelling financial reasons to recommend for the transaction, vote against the formation of a holding company if the transaction would include either of the following:

- Increases in common or preferred stock in excess of the allowable maximum (see discussion under "Capital"); or
- Adverse changes in shareholder rights.

**Going Private and Going Dark Transactions (LBOs and Minority Squeeze-outs)**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on going private transactions, taking into account the following:

- Offer price/premium;
- Fairness opinion;
- How the deal was negotiated;
- Conflicts of interest;
- Other alternatives/offers considered; and

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Non-completion risk.

Vote case-by-case on going dark transactions, determining whether the transaction enhances shareholder value by taking into consideration:

Whether the company has attained benefits from being publicly-traded (examination of trading volume, liquidity, and market research of the stock);

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33 of 69

**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

Balanced interests of continuing vs. cashed-out shareholders, taking into account the following:

- Are all shareholders able to participate in the transaction?
- Will there be a liquid market for remaining shareholders following the transaction?
- Does the company have strong corporate governance?
- Will insiders reap the gains of control following the proposed transaction?
- Does the state of incorporation have laws requiring continued reporting that may benefit shareholders?

**Joint Ventures**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to form joint ventures, taking into account the following:

- Percentage of assets/business contributed;
- Percentage ownership;
- Financial and strategic benefits;
- Governance structure;
- Conflicts of interest;
- Other alternatives; and
- Non-completion risk.

**Liquidations**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on liquidations, taking into account the following:

- Management's efforts to pursue other alternatives;
- Appraisal value of assets; and
- The compensation plan for executives managing the liquidation.

Vote for the liquidation if the company will file for bankruptcy if the proposal is not approved.

**Mergers and Acquisitions**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on mergers and acquisitions. Review and evaluate the merits and drawbacks of the proposed transaction, balancing various and sometimes countervailing factors including:

*Valuation* - Is the value to be received by the target shareholders (or paid by the acquirer) reasonable? While the fairness opinion may provide an initial starting point for assessing valuation reasonableness, emphasis is placed on the offer premium, market reaction, and strategic rationale.

*Market reaction* - How has the market responded to the proposed deal? A negative market reaction should cause closer scrutiny of a deal.

*Strategic rationale* - Does the deal make sense strategically? From where is the value derived? Cost and revenue synergies should not be overly aggressive or optimistic, but reasonably achievable. Management should also have a favorable track record of successful integration of historical acquisitions.

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*Negotiations and process* - Were the terms of the transaction negotiated at arm's-length? Was the process fair and equitable? A fair process helps to ensure the best price for shareholders. Significant negotiation "wins" can also signify the deal makers' competency. The comprehensiveness of the sales process (e.g., full auction, partial auction, no auction) can also affect shareholder value.

*Conflicts of interest* - Are insiders benefiting from the transaction disproportionately and inappropriately as compared to non-insider shareholders? As the result of potential conflicts, the directors and officers of the company may be more likely to vote to approve a merger than if they did not hold these interests. Consider whether these interests may have influenced these directors and officers to support or recommend the merger. The CIC figure presented in the "ISS Transaction Summary" section of this report is an aggregate figure that can in

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certain cases be a misleading indicator of the true value transfer from shareholders to insiders. Where such figure appears to be excessive, analyze the underlying assumptions to determine whether a potential conflict exists.

*Governance* - Will the combined company have a better or worse governance profile than the current governance profiles of the respective parties to the transaction? If the governance profile is to change for the worse, the burden is on the company to prove that other issues (such as valuation) outweigh any deterioration in governance.

### Private Placements/Warrants/Convertible Debentures

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals regarding private placements, warrants, and convertible debentures taking into consideration:

Dilution to existing shareholders' position: The amount and timing of shareholder ownership dilution should be weighed against the needs and proposed shareholder benefits of the capital infusion. Although newly issued common stock, absent preemptive rights, is typically dilutive to existing shareholders, share price appreciation is often the necessary event to trigger the exercise of out of the money warrants and convertible debt. In these instances from a value standpoint, the negative impact of dilution is mitigated by the increase in the company's stock price that must occur to trigger the dilutive event.

Terms of the offer (discount/premium in purchase price to investor, including any fairness opinion, conversion features, termination penalties, exit strategy):

The terms of the offer should be weighed against the alternatives of the company and in light of company's financial condition. Ideally, the conversion price for convertible debt and the exercise price for warrants should be at a premium to the then prevailing stock price at the time of private placement.

When evaluating the magnitude of a private placement discount or premium, consider factors that influence the discount or premium, such as, liquidity, due diligence costs, control and monitoring costs, capital scarcity, information asymmetry, and anticipation of future performance.

Financial issues:

- The company's financial condition;
- Degree of need for capital;
- Use of proceeds;
- Effect of the financing on the company's cost of capital;
- Current and proposed cash burn rate;
- Going concern viability and the state of the capital and credit markets.

Management's efforts to pursue alternatives and whether the company engaged in a process to evaluate alternatives: A fair, unconstrained process helps to ensure the best price for shareholders. Financing alternatives can include joint ventures, partnership, merger, or sale of part or all of the company.

Control issues:

- Change in management;
- Change in control;

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Guaranteed board and committee seats;  
Standstill provisions;  
Voting agreements;  
Veto power over certain corporate actions; and  
Minority versus majority ownership and corresponding minority discount or majority control premium.

### Conflicts of interest:

Conflicts of interest should be viewed from the perspective of the company and the investor.

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35 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

Were the terms of the transaction negotiated at arm's length? Are managerial incentives aligned with shareholder interests?

Market reaction:

The market's response to the proposed deal. A negative market reaction is a cause for concern. Market reaction may be addressed by analyzing the one day impact on the unaffected stock price.

Vote for the private placement, or for the issuance of warrants and/or convertible debentures in a private placement, if it is expected that the company will file for bankruptcy if the transaction is not approved.

### Reorganization/Restructuring Plan (Bankruptcy)

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to common shareholders on bankruptcy plans of reorganization, considering the following factors including, but not limited to:

- Estimated value and financial prospects of the reorganized company;
- Percentage ownership of current shareholders in the reorganized company;
- Whether shareholders are adequately represented in the reorganization process (particularly through the existence of an Official Equity Committee);
- The cause(s) of the bankruptcy filing, and the extent to which the plan of reorganization addresses the cause(s);
- Existence of a superior alternative to the plan of reorganization; and
- Governance of the reorganized company.

### Special Purpose Acquisition Corporations (SPACs)

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on SPAC mergers and acquisitions taking into account the following:

*Valuation* - Is the value being paid by the SPAC reasonable? SPACs generally lack an independent fairness opinion and the financials on the target may be limited. Compare the conversion price with the intrinsic value of the target company provided in the fairness opinion. Also, evaluate the proportionate value of the combined entity attributable to the SPAC IPO shareholders versus the pre-merger value of SPAC. Additionally, a private company discount may be applied to the target, if it is a private entity.

*Market reaction* - How has the market responded to the proposed deal? A negative market reaction may be a cause for concern. Market reaction may be addressed by analyzing the one-day impact on the unaffected stock price.

*Deal timing* - A main driver for most transactions is that the SPAC charter typically requires the deal to be complete within 18 to 24 months, or the SPAC is to be liquidated. Evaluate the valuation, market reaction, and potential conflicts of interest for deals that are announced close to the liquidation date.

*Negotiations and process* - What was the process undertaken to identify potential target companies within specified industry or location specified in charter? Consider the background of the sponsors.

*Conflicts of interest* - How are sponsors benefiting from the transaction compared to IPO shareholders? Potential conflicts could arise if a fairness opinion is issued by the insiders to qualify the deal rather than a third party or if management is encouraged to pay a higher price for the target because of an 80 percent rule (the charter requires that the fair market value of the target is at least equal to 80 percent of net assets of the SPAC). Also, there may be sense of urgency by the management team of the SPAC to close the deal since its charter typically requires a transaction to be completed within the 18-24 month timeframe.

*Voting agreements* - Are the sponsors entering into any voting agreements/tender offers with shareholders who are likely to vote against the proposed merger or exercise conversion rights?

*Governance* - What is the impact of having the SPAC CEO or founder on key committees following the proposed merger?



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36 of 69

### Special Purpose Acquisition Corporations (SPACs) - Proposals for Extensions

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on SPAC extension proposals taking into account the length of the requested extension, the status of any pending transaction(s) or progression of the acquisition process, any added incentive for non-redeeming shareholders, and any prior extension requests.

*Length of request:* Typically, extension requests range from two to six months, depending on the progression of the SPAC's acquisition process.

*Pending transaction(s) or progression of the acquisition process:* Sometimes an initial business combination was already put to a shareholder vote, but, for varying reasons, the transaction could not be consummated by the termination date and the SPAC is requesting an extension. Other times, the SPAC has entered into a definitive transaction agreement, but needs additional time to consummate or hold the shareholder meeting.

*Added incentive for non-redeeming shareholders:* Sometimes the SPAC sponsor (or other insiders) will contribute, typically as a loan to the company, additional funds that will be added to the redemption value of each public share as long as such shares are not redeemed in connection with the extension request. The purpose of the equity kicker is to incentivize shareholders to hold their shares through the end of the requested extension or until the time the transaction is put to a shareholder vote, rather than electing redemption at the extension proposal meeting.

*Prior extension requests:* Some SPACs request additional time beyond the extension period sought in prior extension requests.

### Spin-offs

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on spin-offs, considering:

- Tax and regulatory advantages;
- Planned use of the sale proceeds;
- Valuation of spinoff;
- Fairness opinion;
- Benefits to the parent company;
- Conflicts of interest;
- Managerial incentives;
- Corporate governance changes;
- Changes in the capital structure.

### Value Maximization Shareholder Proposals

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals seeking to maximize shareholder value by:

- Hiring a financial advisor to explore strategic alternatives;
- Selling the company; or
- Liquidating the company and distributing the proceeds to shareholders.

These proposals should be evaluated based on the following factors:

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Prolonged poor performance with no turnaround in sight;  
Signs of entrenched board and management (such as the adoption of takeover defenses);  
Strategic plan in place for improving value;  
Likelihood of receiving reasonable value in a sale or dissolution; and  
The company actively exploring its strategic options, including retaining a financial advisor.

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37 of 69

## 5. COMPENSATION

### Executive Pay Evaluation

Underlying all evaluations are five global principles that most investors expect corporations to adhere to in designing and administering executive and director compensation programs:

1. Maintain appropriate pay-for-performance alignment, with emphasis on long-term shareholder value: This principle encompasses overall executive pay practices, which must be designed to attract, retain, and appropriately motivate the key employees who drive shareholder value creation over the long term. It will take into consideration, among other factors, the link between pay and performance; the mix between fixed and variable pay; performance goals; and equity-based plan costs;
2. Avoid arrangements that risk pay for failure: This principle addresses the appropriateness of long or indefinite contracts, excessive severance packages, and guaranteed compensation;
3. Maintain an independent and effective compensation committee: This principle promotes oversight of executive pay programs by directors with appropriate skills, knowledge, experience, and a sound process for compensation decision-making (e.g., including access to independent expertise and advice when needed);
4. Provide shareholders with clear, comprehensive compensation disclosures: This principle underscores the importance of informative and timely disclosures that enable shareholders to evaluate executive pay practices fully and fairly;
5. Avoid inappropriate pay to non-executive directors: This principle recognizes the interests of shareholders in ensuring that compensation to outside directors is reasonable and does not compromise their independence and ability to make appropriate judgments in overseeing managers' pay and performance. At the market level, it may incorporate a variety of generally accepted best practices.

#### Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation Management Proposals (Management Say-on-Pay)

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on ballot items related to executive pay and practices, as well as certain aspects of outside director compensation.

Vote against Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation (Say-on-Pay or SOP) if:

There is a significant misalignment between CEO pay and company performance (pay for performance);

The company maintains significant problematic pay practices;

The board exhibits a significant level of poor communication and responsiveness to shareholders.

Vote against or withhold from the members of the Compensation Committee and potentially the full board if:

There is no SOP on the ballot, and an against vote on an SOP would otherwise be warranted due to pay-for-performance misalignment, problematic pay practices, or the lack of adequate responsiveness on compensation issues raised previously, or a combination thereof;

The board fails to respond adequately to a previous SOP proposal that received less than 70 percent support of votes cast;

The company has recently practiced or approved problematic pay practices, including option repricing or option backdating; or

The situation is egregious.

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## Primary Evaluation Factors for Executive Pay

### Pay-for-Performance Evaluation

ISS annually conducts a pay-for-performance analysis to identify strong or satisfactory alignment between pay and performance over a sustained period. With respect to companies in the Russell 3000 or Russell 3000E Indices<sup>9</sup>, this analysis considers the following:

1. Peer Group<sup>10</sup> Alignment:

The degree of alignment between the company's annualized TSR rank and the CEO's annualized total pay rank within a peer group, each measured over a three-year period.

The rankings of CEO total pay and company financial performance within a peer group, each measured over a three-year period.

The multiple of the CEO's total pay relative to the peer group median in the most recent fiscal year.

2. Absolute Alignment<sup>11</sup> – the absolute alignment between the trend in CEO pay and company TSR over the prior five fiscal years – i.e., the difference between the trend in annual pay changes and the trend in annualized TSR during the period.

If the above analysis demonstrates significant unsatisfactory long-term pay-for-performance alignment or, in the case of companies outside the Russell indices, misaligned pay and performance are otherwise suggested, our analysis may include any of the following qualitative factors, as relevant to evaluating how various pay elements may work to encourage or to undermine long-term value creation and alignment with shareholder interests:

The ratio of performance- to time-based equity awards;

The overall ratio of performance-based compensation;

The completeness of disclosure and rigor of performance goals;

The company's peer group benchmarking practices;

Actual results of financial/operational metrics, such as growth in revenue, profit, cash flow, etc., both absolute and relative to peers;

Special circumstances related to, for example, a new CEO in the prior FY or anomalous equity grant practices (e.g., bi-annual awards);

Realizable pay<sup>12</sup> compared to grant pay; and

Any other factors deemed relevant.

### Problematic Pay Practices

The focus is on executive compensation practices that contravene the global pay principles, including:

Problematic practices related to non-performance-based compensation elements;

Incentives that may motivate excessive risk-taking; and

Options backdating.

<sup>9</sup> The Russell 3000E Index includes approximately 4,000 of the largest U.S. equity securities.

<sup>10</sup> The revised peer group is generally comprised of 14-24 companies that are selected using market cap, revenue (or assets for

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certain financial firms), GICS industry group, and company's selected peers' GICS industry group, with size constraints, via a process designed to select peers that are comparable to the subject company in terms of revenue/assets and industry, and also within a market-cap bucket that is reflective of the company's. For Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels companies, market cap is the only size determinant.

<sup>11</sup> Only Russell 3000 Index companies are subject to the Absolute Alignment analysis.

<sup>12</sup> ISS research reports include realizable pay for S&P1500 companies.

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39 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

### Problematic Pay Practices related to Non-Performance-Based Compensation Elements

Pay elements that are not directly based on performance are generally evaluated case-by-case considering the context of a company's overall pay program and demonstrated pay-for-performance philosophy. Please refer to ISS' Compensation FAQ document for detail on specific pay practices that have been identified as potentially problematic and may lead to negative recommendations if they are deemed to be inappropriate or unjustified relative to executive pay best practices. The list below highlights the problematic practices that carry significant weight in this overall consideration and may result in adverse vote recommendations:

- Repricing or replacing of underwater stock options/SARS without prior shareholder approval (including cash buyouts and voluntary surrender of underwater options);

- Extraordinary perquisites or tax gross-ups, including any gross-up related to a secular trust or restricted stock vesting, or lifetime perquisites;

- New or extended agreements that provide for:

  - Excessive CIC payments (generally exceeding 3 times base salary and average/target/most recent bonus);

  - CIC severance payments without involuntary job loss or substantial diminution of duties (single or modified single triggers);

  - CIC payments with excise tax gross-ups (including modified gross-ups);

  - Multi-year guaranteed awards that are not at risk due to rigorous performance conditions;

  - Liberal CIC definition combined with any single-trigger CIC benefits;

- Insufficient executive compensation disclosure by externally-managed issuers (EMIs) such that a reasonable assessment of pay programs and practices applicable to the EMI's executives is not possible;

- Any other provision or practice deemed to be egregious and present a significant risk to investors.

### Incentives that may Motivate Excessive Risk-Taking

- Multi-year guaranteed awards;

- A single or common performance metric used for short- and long-term incentives;

- Lucrative severance packages;

- High pay opportunities relative to industry peers;

- Disproportionate supplemental pensions; or

- Mega equity grants that provide overly large upside opportunity.

Factors that potentially mitigate the impact of risky incentives include rigorous claw-back provisions, robust stock ownership/holding guidelines, and limitations on accelerated vesting triggers.

### Options Backdating

The following factors should be examined case-by-case to allow for distinctions to be made between sloppy plan administration versus deliberate action or fraud:

- Reason and motive for the options backdating issue, such as inadvertent vs. deliberate grant date changes;

- Duration of options backdating;

- Size of restatement due to options backdating;

- Corrective actions taken by the board or compensation committee, such as canceling or re-pricing backdated options, the recouping of option gains on backdated grants; and

- Adoption of a grant policy that prohibits backdating, and creates a fixed grant schedule or window period for equity grants in the future.



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40 of 69

**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

**Compensation Committee Communications and Responsiveness**

Consider the following factors case-by-case when evaluating ballot items related to executive pay on the board's responsiveness to investor input and engagement on compensation issues:

Failure to respond to majority-supported shareholder proposals on executive pay topics; or  
Failure to adequately respond to the company's previous say-on-pay proposal that received the support of less than 70 percent of votes cast, taking into account:

The company's response, including:

Disclosure of engagement efforts with major institutional investors, including the frequency and timing of engagements and the company participants (including whether independent directors participated);

Disclosure of the specific concerns voiced by dissenting shareholders that led to the say-on-pay opposition;

Disclosure of specific and meaningful actions taken to address shareholders' concerns;

Other recent compensation actions taken by the company;

Whether the issues raised are recurring or isolated;

The company's ownership structure; and

Whether the support level was less than 50 percent, which would warrant the highest degree of responsiveness.

**Frequency of Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation ( Say When on Pay )**

**General Recommendation:** Vote for annual advisory votes on compensation, which provide the most consistent and clear communication channel for shareholder concerns about companies' executive pay programs.

**Voting on Golden Parachutes in an Acquisition, Merger, Consolidation, or Proposed Sale**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on say on Golden Parachute proposals, including consideration of existing change-in-control arrangements maintained with named executive officers rather than focusing primarily on new or extended arrangements.

Features that may result in an against recommendation include one or more of the following, depending on the number, magnitude, and/or timing of issue(s):

Single- or modified-single-trigger cash severance;

Single-trigger acceleration of unvested equity awards;

Full acceleration of equity awards granted shortly before the change in control;

Excessive cash severance (generally >3x base salary and bonus);

Excise tax gross-ups triggered and payable (as opposed to a provision to provide excise tax gross-ups);

Excessive golden parachute payments (on an absolute basis or as a percentage of transaction equity value); or

Recent amendments that incorporate any problematic features (such as those above) or recent actions (such as extraordinary equity grants) that may make packages so attractive as to influence merger agreements that may not be in the best interests of shareholders;

or

The company's assertion that a proposed transaction is conditioned on shareholder approval of the golden parachute advisory vote.

Recent amendment(s) that incorporate problematic features will tend to carry more weight on the overall analysis. However, the presence of multiple legacy problematic features will also be closely scrutinized.

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41 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

In cases where the golden parachute vote is incorporated into a company's advisory vote on compensation (management say-on-pay), ISS will evaluate the say-on-pay proposal in accordance with these guidelines, which may give higher weight to that component of the overall evaluation.

## Equity-Based and Other Incentive Plans

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on certain equity-based compensation plans<sup>13</sup> depending on a combination of certain plan features and equity grant practices, where positive factors may counterbalance negative factors, and vice versa, as evaluated using an equity plan scorecard (EPSC) approach with three pillars:

**Plan Cost:** The total estimated cost of the company's equity plans relative to industry/market cap peers, measured by the company's estimated Shareholder Value Transfer (SVT) in relation to peers and considering both:

- SVT based on new shares requested plus shares remaining for future grants, plus outstanding unvested/unexercised grants; and
- SVT based only on new shares requested plus shares remaining for future grants.

**Plan Features:**

- Discretionary or automatic single-triggered award vesting upon a change in control (CIC);
- Discretionary vesting authority;
- Liberal share recycling on various award types;
- Lack of minimum vesting period for grants made under the plan;
- Dividends payable prior to award vesting.

**Grant Practices:**

- The company's three-year burn rate relative to its industry/market cap peers;
- Vesting requirements in most recent CEO equity grants (3-year look-back);
- The estimated duration of the plan (based on the sum of shares remaining available and the new shares requested, divided by the average annual shares granted in the prior three years);
- The proportion of the CEO's most recent equity grants/awards subject to performance conditions;
- Whether the company maintains a claw-back policy;
- Whether the company has established post-exercise/vesting share-holding requirements.

Generally vote against the plan proposal if the combination of above factors indicates that the plan is not, overall, in shareholders' interests, or if any of the following egregious factors apply:

- Awards may vest in connection with a liberal change-of-control definition;
- The plan would permit repricing or cash buyout of underwater options without shareholder approval (either by expressly permitting it for NYSE and Nasdaq listed companies or by not prohibiting it when the company has a history of repricing for non-listed companies);
- The plan is a vehicle for problematic pay practices or a significant pay-for-performance disconnect under certain circumstances; or
- Any other plan features are determined to have a significant negative impact on shareholder interests.

**Further Information on certain EPSC Factors:**

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<sup>13</sup> Proposals evaluated under the EPSC policy generally include those to approve or amend (1) stock option plans for employees and/or employees and directors, (2) restricted stock plans for employees and/or employees and directors, and (3) omnibus stock incentive plans for employees and/or employees and directors; amended plans will be further evaluated case-by-case.

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42 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

### Shareholder Value Transfer (SVT)

The cost of the equity plans is expressed as Shareholder Value Transfer (SVT), which is measured using a binomial option pricing model that assesses the amount of shareholders' equity flowing out of the company to employees and directors. SVT is expressed as both a dollar amount and as a percentage of market value, and includes the new shares proposed, shares available under existing plans, and shares granted but unexercised (using two measures, in the case of plans subject to the Equity Plan Scorecard evaluation, as noted above). All award types are valued. For omnibus plans, unless limitations are placed on the most expensive types of awards (for example, full-value awards), the assumption is made that all awards to be granted will be the most expensive types. See discussion of specific types of awards.

Except for proposals subject to Equity Plan Scorecard evaluation, Shareholder Value Transfer is reasonable if it falls below a company-specific benchmark. The benchmark is determined as follows: The top quartile performers in each industry group (using the Global Industry Classification Standard: GICS) are identified. Benchmark SVT levels for each industry are established based on these top performers' historic SVT. Regression analyses are run on each industry group to identify the variables most strongly correlated to SVT. The benchmark industry SVT level is then adjusted upwards or downwards for the specific company by plugging the company-specific performance measures, size and cash compensation into the industry cap equations to arrive at the company's benchmark<sup>4</sup>.

### Three-Year Burn Rate

Burn-rate benchmarks (utilized in Equity Plan Scorecard evaluations) are calculated as the greater of: (1) the mean ( $\mu$ ) plus one standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of the company's GICS group segmented by S&P 500, Russell 3000 index (less the S&P500), and non-Russell 3000 index; and (2) two percent of weighted common shares outstanding. In addition, year-over-year burn-rate benchmark changes will be limited to a maximum of two (2) percentage points plus or minus the prior year's burn-rate benchmark. See the [U.S. Equity Compensation Plans FAQ](#) for the benchmarks.

### Egregious Factors

#### Liberal Change in Control Definition

Generally vote against equity plans if the plan has a liberal definition of change in control and the equity awards could vest upon such liberal definition of change in control, even though an actual change in control may not occur. Examples of such a definition include, but are not limited to, announcement or commencement of a tender offer, provisions for acceleration upon a potential takeover, shareholder approval of a merger or other transactions, or similar language.

### Repricing Provisions

Vote against plans that expressly permit the repricing or exchange of underwater stock options/stock appreciate rights (SARs) without prior shareholder approval. Repricing typically includes the ability to do any of the following:

- Amend the terms of outstanding options or SARs to reduce the exercise price of such outstanding options or SARs;
- Cancel outstanding options or SARs in exchange for options or SARs with an exercise price that is less than the exercise price of the original options or SARs;
- The cancellation of underwater options in exchange for stock awards; or
- Cash buyouts of underwater options.

While the above cover most types of repricing, ISS may view other provisions as akin to repricing depending on the facts and circumstances.

<sup>4</sup> For plans evaluated under the Equity Plan Scorecard policy, the company's SVT benchmark is considered along with other factors.

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43 of 69

**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

Also, vote against or withhold from members of the Compensation Committee who approved repricing (as defined above or otherwise determined by ISS), without prior shareholder approval, even if such repricings are allowed in their equity plan.

Vote against plans if the company has a history of repricing without shareholder approval, and the applicable listing standards would not preclude them from doing so.

**Problematic Pay Practices or Significant Pay-for-Performance Disconnect**

If the equity plan on the ballot is a vehicle for problematic pay practices, vote against the plan.

ISS may recommend a vote against the equity plan if the plan is determined to be a vehicle for pay-for-performance misalignment. Considerations in voting against the equity plan may include, but are not limited to:

- Severity of the pay-for-performance misalignment;
- Whether problematic equity grant practices are driving the misalignment; and/or
- Whether equity plan awards have been heavily concentrated to the CEO and/or the other NEOs.

**Amending Cash and Equity Plans (including Approval for Tax Deductibility (162(m)))**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on amendments to cash and equity incentive plans. Generally vote for proposals to amend executive cash, stock, or cash and stock incentive plans if the proposal:

- Addresses administrative features only; or
- Seeks approval for Section 162(m) purposes only, and the plan administering committee consists entirely of independent directors, per ISS Categorization of Directors. Note that if the company is presenting the plan to shareholders for the first time for any reason (including after the company's initial public offering), or if the proposal is bundled with other material plan amendments, then the recommendation will be case-by-case (see below).

Vote against proposals to amend executive cash, stock, or cash and stock incentive plans if the proposal:

- Seeks approval for Section 162(m) purposes only, and the plan administering committee does not consist entirely of independent directors, per ISS Categorization of Directors.

Vote case-by-case on all other proposals to amend cash incentive plans. This includes plans presented to shareholders for the first time after the company's IPO and/or proposals that bundle material amendment(s) other than those for Section 162(m) purposes.

Vote case-by-case on all other proposals to amend equity incentive plans, considering the following:

If the proposal requests additional shares and/or the amendments include a term extension or addition of full value awards as an award type, the recommendation will be based on the Equity Plan Scorecard evaluation as well as an analysis of the overall impact of the amendments.

If the plan is being presented to shareholders for the first time (including after the company's IPO), whether or not additional shares are being requested, the recommendation will be based on the Equity Plan Scorecard evaluation as well as an analysis of the overall impact of any amendments.



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If there is no request for additional shares and the amendments do not include a term extension or addition of full value awards as an award type, then the recommendation will be based entirely on an analysis of the overall impact of the amendments, and the EPSC evaluation will be shown only for informational purposes.

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44 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

In the first two case-by-case evaluation scenarios, the EPSC evaluation/score is the more heavily weighted consideration.

### Specific Treatment of Certain Award Types in Equity Plan Evaluations

#### Dividend Equivalent Rights

Options that have Dividend Equivalent Rights (DERs) associated with them will have a higher calculated award value than those without DERs under the binomial model, based on the value of these dividend streams. The higher value will be applied to new shares, shares available under existing plans, and shares awarded but not exercised per the plan specifications. DERs transfer more shareholder equity to employees and non-employee directors and this cost should be captured.

#### Operating Partnership (OP) Units in Equity Plan Analysis of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

For Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), include the common shares issuable upon conversion of outstanding Operating Partnership (OP) units in the share count for the purposes of determining: (1) market capitalization in the Shareholder Value Transfer (SVT) analysis and (2) shares outstanding in the burn rate analysis.

## Other Compensation Plans

### 401(k) Employee Benefit Plans

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to implement a 401(k) savings plan for employees.  
**Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs)**

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to implement an ESOP or increase authorized shares for existing ESOPs, unless the number of shares allocated to the ESOP is excessive (more than five percent of outstanding shares).  
**Employee Stock Purchase Plans Qualified Plans**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on qualified employee stock purchase plans. Vote for employee stock purchase plans where all of the following apply:

- Purchase price is at least 85 percent of fair market value;
- Offering period is 27 months or less; and
- The number of shares allocated to the plan is 10 percent or less of the outstanding shares.

Vote against qualified employee stock purchase plans where any of the following apply:

- Purchase price is less than 85 percent of fair market value; or
- Offering period is greater than 27 months; or
- The number of shares allocated to the plan is more than ten percent of the outstanding shares.

### Employee Stock Purchase Plans Non-Qualified Plans

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on nonqualified employee stock purchase plans. Vote for nonqualified employee stock purchase plans with all the following features:

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## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

Broad-based participation (*i.e.*, all employees of the company with the exclusion of individuals with 5 percent or more of beneficial ownership of the company);

Limits on employee contribution, which may be a fixed dollar amount or expressed as a percent of base salary;

Company matching contribution up to 25 percent of employee's contribution, which is effectively a discount of 20 percent from market value; and

No discount on the stock price on the date of purchase since there is a company matching contribution.

Vote against nonqualified employee stock purchase plans when the plan features do not meet all of the above criteria. If the company matching contribution exceeds 25 percent of employee's contribution, evaluate the cost of the plan against its allowable cap.

### Option Exchange Programs/Repricing Options

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on management proposals seeking approval to exchange/reprice options taking into consideration:

Historic trading patterns the stock price should not be so volatile that the options are likely to be back in-the-money over the near term;

Rationale for the re-pricing was the stock price decline beyond management's control?;

Is this a value-for-value exchange?;

Are surrendered stock options added back to the plan reserve?;

Option vesting does the new option vest immediately or is there a black-out period?;

Term of the option the term should remain the same as that of the replaced option;

Exercise price should be set at fair market or a premium to market;

Participants executive officers and directors should be excluded.

If the surrendered options are added back to the equity plans for re-issuance, then also take into consideration the

company's total cost of equity plans and its three-year average burn rate.

In addition to the above considerations, evaluate the intent, rationale, and timing of the repricing proposal. The proposal should clearly articulate why the board is choosing to conduct an exchange program at this point in time. Repricing underwater options after a recent precipitous drop in the company's stock price demonstrates poor timing. Repricing after a recent decline in stock price triggers additional scrutiny and a potential against vote on the proposal. At a minimum, the decline should not have happened within the past year. Also, consider the terms of the surrendered options, such as the grant date, exercise price and vesting schedule. Grant dates of surrendered options should be far enough back (two to three years) so as not to suggest that repricings are being done to take advantage of short-term downward price movements. Similarly, the exercise price of surrendered options should be above the 52-week high for the stock price.

Vote for shareholder proposals to put option repricings to a shareholder vote.

### Stock Plans in Lieu of Cash

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on plans that provide participants with the option of taking all or a portion of their cash compensation in the form of stock.

Vote for non-employee director-only equity plans that provide a dollar-for-dollar cash-for-stock exchange.

Vote case-by-case on plans which do not provide a dollar-for-dollar cash for stock exchange. In cases where the exchange is not dollar-for-dollar, the request for new or additional shares for such equity program will be considered

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46 of 69

## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

using the binomial option pricing model. In an effort to capture the total cost of total compensation, ISS will not make any adjustments to carve out the in-lieu-of cash compensation.

### Transfer Stock Option (TSO) Programs

**General Recommendation:** One-time Transfers: Vote against or withhold from compensation committee members if they fail to submit one-time transfers to shareholders for approval.

Vote case-by-case on one-time transfers. Vote for if:

- Executive officers and non-employee directors are excluded from participating;
- Stock options are purchased by third-party financial institutions at a discount to their fair value using option pricing models such as Black-Scholes or a Binomial Option Valuation or other appropriate financial models; and
- There is a two-year minimum holding period for sale proceeds (cash or stock) for all participants.

Additionally, management should provide a clear explanation of why options are being transferred to a third-party institution and whether the events leading up to a decline in stock price were beyond management's control. A review of the company's historic stock price volatility should indicate if the options are likely to be back in-the-money over the near term.

Ongoing TSO program: Vote against equity plan proposals if the details of ongoing TSO programs are not provided to shareholders. Since TSOs will be one of the award types under a stock plan, the ongoing TSO program, structure and mechanics must be disclosed to shareholders. The specific criteria to be considered in evaluating these proposals include, but not limited, to the following:

- Eligibility;
- Vesting;
- Bid-price;
- Term of options;
- Cost of the program and impact of the TSOs on company's total option expense; and
- Option repricing policy.

Amendments to existing plans that allow for introduction of transferability of stock options should make clear that only options granted post-amendment shall be transferable.

## Director Compensation

### Shareholder Ratification of Director Pay Programs

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**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on management proposals seeking ratification of non-employee director compensation, based on the following factors:

If the equity plan under which non-employee director grants are made is on the ballot, whether or not it warrants support; and  
An assessment of the following qualitative factors:

- The relative magnitude of director compensation as compared to companies of a similar profile;
- The presence of problematic pay practices relating to director compensation;
- Director stock ownership guidelines and holding requirements;
- Equity award vesting schedules;
- The mix of cash and equity-based compensation;
- Meaningful limits on director compensation;

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**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

The availability of retirement benefits or perquisites; and  
The quality of disclosure surrounding director compensation.

**Equity Plans for Non-Employee Directors**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on compensation plans for non-employee directors, based on:

The total estimated cost of the company's equity plans relative to industry/market cap peers, measured by the company's estimated Shareholder Value Transfer (SVT) based on new shares requested plus shares remaining for future grants, plus outstanding unvested/unexercised grants;  
The company's three-year burn rate relative to its industry/market cap peers (in certain circumstances); and  
The presence of any egregious plan features (such as an option repricing provision or liberal CIC vesting risk).

On occasion, non-employee director stock plans will exceed the plan cost or burn-rate benchmarks when combined with employee or executive stock plans. In such cases, vote case-by-case on the plan taking into consideration the following qualitative factors:

The relative magnitude of director compensation as compared to companies of a similar profile;  
The presence of problematic pay practices relating to director compensation;  
Director stock ownership guidelines and holding requirements;  
Equity award vesting schedules;  
The mix of cash and equity-based compensation;  
Meaningful limits on director compensation;  
The availability of retirement benefits or perquisites; and  
The quality of disclosure surrounding director compensation.

**Non-Employee Director Retirement Plans**

**General Recommendation:** Vote against retirement plans for non-employee directors.

Vote for shareholder proposals to eliminate retirement plans for non-employee directors.

## **Shareholder Proposals on Compensation**

**Bonus Banking/Bonus Banking Plus**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals seeking deferral of a portion of annual bonus pay, with ultimate payout linked to sustained results for the performance metrics on which the bonus was earned (whether for the named executive officers or a wider group of employees), taking into account the following factors:

The company's past practices regarding equity and cash compensation;  
Whether the company has a holding period or stock ownership requirements in place, such as a meaningful retention ratio (at least 50 percent for full tenure); and  
Whether the company has a rigorous claw-back policy in place.

**Compensation Consultants Disclosure of Board or Company's Utilization**



**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for shareholder proposals seeking disclosure regarding the Company, Board, or Compensation Committee's use of compensation consultants, such as company name, business relationship(s), and fees paid.

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**Disclosure/Setting Levels or Types of Compensation for Executives and Directors**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for shareholder proposals seeking additional disclosure of executive and director pay information, provided the information requested is relevant to shareholders' needs, would not put the company at a competitive disadvantage relative to its industry, and is not unduly burdensome to the company.

Vote against shareholder proposals seeking to set absolute levels on compensation or otherwise dictate the amount or form of compensation.

Generally vote against shareholder proposals that mandate a minimum amount of stock that directors must own in order to qualify as a director or to remain on the board.

Vote case-by-case on all other shareholder proposals regarding executive and director pay, taking into account relevant factors, including but not limited to: company performance, pay level and design versus peers, history of compensation concerns or pay-for-performance disconnect, and/or the scope and prescriptive nature of the proposal.

**Golden Coffins/Executive Death Benefits**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals calling companies to adopt a policy of obtaining shareholder approval for any future agreements and corporate policies that could oblige the company to make payments or awards following the death of a senior executive in the form of unearned salary or bonuses, accelerated vesting or the continuation in force of unvested equity grants, perquisites and other payments or awards made in lieu of compensation. This would not apply to any benefit programs or equity plan proposals that the broad-based employee population is eligible.

**Hold Equity Past Retirement or for a Significant Period of Time**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals asking companies to adopt policies requiring senior executive officers to retain a portion of net shares acquired through compensation plans. The following factors will be taken into account:

The percentage/ratio of net shares required to be retained;

The time period required to retain the shares;

Whether the company has equity retention, holding period, and/or stock ownership requirements in place and the robustness of such requirements;

Whether the company has any other policies aimed at mitigating risk taking by executives;

Executives' actual stock ownership and the degree to which it meets or exceeds the proponent's suggested holding period/retention ratio or the company's existing requirements; and

Problematic pay practices, current and past, which may demonstrate a short-term versus long-term focus.

**Non-Deductible Compensation**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals seeking disclosure of the extent to which the company paid non-deductible compensation to senior executives due to Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m), while considering the company's existing disclosure

practices.  
**Pay Disparity**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals calling for an analysis of the pay disparity between corporate executives and other non-executive employees. The following factors will be considered:

The company's current level of disclosure of its executive compensation setting process, including how the company considers pay disparity;

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## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

If any problematic pay practices or pay-for-performance concerns have been identified at the company; and  
The level of shareholder support for the company's pay programs.

Generally vote against proposals calling for the company to use the pay disparity analysis or pay ratio in a specific way to set or limit executive pay.

### Pay for Performance/Performance-Based Awards

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals requesting that a significant amount of future long-term incentive compensation awarded to senior executives shall be performance-based and requesting that the board adopt and disclose challenging performance metrics to shareholders, based on the following analytical steps:

First, vote for shareholder proposals advocating the use of performance-based equity awards, such as performance contingent options or restricted stock, indexed options or premium-priced options, unless the proposal is overly restrictive or if the company has demonstrated that it is using a substantial portion of performance-based awards for its top executives. Standard stock options and performance-accelerated awards do not meet the criteria to be considered as performance-based awards. Further, premium-priced options should have a premium of at least 25 percent and higher to be considered performance-based awards.

Second, assess the rigor of the company's performance-based equity program. If the bar set for the performance-based program is too low based on the company's historical or peer group comparison, generally vote for the proposal. Furthermore, if target performance results in an above target payout, vote for the shareholder proposal due to program's poor design. If the company does not disclose the performance metric of the performance-based equity program, vote for the shareholder proposal regardless of the outcome of the first step to the test.

In general, vote for the shareholder proposal if the company does not meet both of the above two steps.

### Pay for Superior Performance

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals that request the board establish a pay-for-superior performance standard in the company's executive compensation plan for senior executives. These proposals generally include the following principles:

Set compensation targets for the plan's annual and long-term incentive pay components at or below the peer group median;  
Deliver a majority of the plan's target long-term compensation through performance-vested, not simply time-vested, equity awards;  
Provide the strategic rationale and relative weightings of the financial and non-financial performance metrics or criteria used in the annual and performance-vested long-term incentive components of the plan;  
Establish performance targets for each plan financial metric relative to the performance of the company's peer companies;  
Limit payment under the annual and performance-vested long-term incentive components of the plan to when the company's performance on its selected financial performance metrics exceeds peer group median performance.

Consider the following factors in evaluating this proposal:

What aspects of the company's annual and long-term equity incentive programs are performance driven?

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If the annual and long-term equity incentive programs are performance driven, are the performance criteria and hurdle rates disclosed to shareholders or are they benchmarked against a disclosed peer group?

Can shareholders assess the correlation between pay and performance based on the current disclosure?

What type of industry and stage of business cycle does the company belong to?

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50 of 69

### Pre-Arranged Trading Plans (10b5-1 Plans)

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for shareholder proposals calling for certain principles regarding the use of prearranged trading plans (10b5-1 plans) for executives. These principles include:

- Adoption, amendment, or termination of a 10b5-1 Plan must be disclosed within two business days in a Form 8-K;
- Amendment or early termination of a 10b5-1 Plan is allowed only under extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the board;
- Ninety days must elapse between adoption or amendment of a 10b5-1 Plan and initial trading under the plan;
- Reports on Form 4 must identify transactions made pursuant to a 10b5-1 Plan;
- An executive may not trade in company stock outside the 10b5-1 Plan;
- Trades under a 10b5-1 Plan must be handled by a broker who does not handle other securities transactions for the executive.

### Prohibit CEOs from Serving on Compensation Committees

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against proposals seeking a policy to prohibit any outside CEO from serving on a company's compensation committee, unless the company has demonstrated problematic pay practices that raise concerns about the performance and composition of the committee.

### Recoupment of Incentive or Stock Compensation in Specified Circumstances

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to recoup incentive cash or stock compensation made to senior executives if it is later determined that the figures upon which incentive compensation is earned turn out to have been in error, or if the senior executive has breached company policy or has engaged in misconduct that may be significantly detrimental to the company's financial position or reputation, or if the senior executive failed to manage or monitor risks that subsequently led to significant financial or reputational harm to the company. Many companies have adopted policies that permit recoupment in cases where an executive's fraud, misconduct, or negligence significantly contributed to a restatement of financial results that led to the awarding of unearned incentive compensation. However, such policies may be narrow given that not all misconduct or negligence may result in significant financial restatements. Misconduct, negligence or lack of sufficient oversight by senior executives may lead to significant financial loss or reputational damage that may have long-lasting impact.

In considering whether to support such shareholder proposals, ISS will take into consideration the following factors:

- If the company has adopted a formal recoupment policy;
- The rigor of the recoupment policy focusing on how and under what circumstances the company may recoup incentive or stock compensation;
- Whether the company has chronic restatement history or material financial problems;
- Whether the company's policy substantially addresses the concerns raised by the proponent;
- Disclosure of recoupment of incentive or stock compensation from senior executives or lack thereof; or
- Any other relevant factors.

### Severance Agreements for Executives/Golden Parachutes

**General Recommendation:** Vote for shareholder proposals requiring that golden parachutes or executive severance agreements be submitted for shareholder ratification, unless the proposal requires shareholder approval *prior* to entering into employment contracts.

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Vote case-by-case on proposals to ratify or cancel golden parachutes. An acceptable parachute should include, but is not limited to, the following:

The triggering mechanism should be beyond the control of management;

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## U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines

The amount should not exceed three times base amount (defined as the average annual taxable W-2 compensation during the five years prior to the year in which the change of control occurs);

Change-in-control payments should be double-triggered, i.e., (1) after a change in control has taken place, and (2) termination of the executive as a result of the change in control. Change in control is defined as a change in the company ownership structure.

### Share Buyback Holding Periods

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against shareholder proposals prohibiting executives from selling shares of company stock during periods in which the company has announced that it may or will be repurchasing shares of its stock. Vote for the proposal when there is a pattern of abuse by executives exercising options or selling shares during periods of share buybacks.

### Supplemental Executive Retirement Plans (SERPs)

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for shareholder proposals requesting to put extraordinary benefits contained in SERP agreements to a shareholder vote unless the company's executive pension plans do not contain excessive benefits beyond what is offered under employee-wide plans.

Generally vote for shareholder proposals requesting to limit the executive benefits provided under the company's supplemental executive retirement plan (SERP) by limiting covered compensation to a senior executive's annual salary and excluding of all incentive or bonus pay from the plan's definition of covered compensation used to establish such benefits.

### Tax Gross-Up Proposals

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals calling for companies to adopt a policy of not providing tax gross-up payments to executives, except in situations where gross-ups are provided pursuant to a plan, policy, or arrangement applicable to management employees of the company, such as a relocation or expatriate tax equalization policy.

### Termination of Employment Prior to Severance Payment/Eliminating Accelerated Vesting of Unvested Equity

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals seeking a policy requiring termination of employment prior to severance payment and/or eliminating accelerated vesting of unvested equity.

The following factors will be considered:

The company's current treatment of equity upon employment termination and/or in change-in-control situations (i.e., vesting is double triggered and/or pro rata, does it allow for the assumption of equity by acquiring company, the treatment of performance shares, etc.);

Current employment agreements, including potential poor pay practices such as gross-ups embedded in those agreements.

Generally vote for proposals seeking a policy that prohibits automatic acceleration of the vesting of equity awards to senior executives upon a voluntary termination of employment or in the event of a change in control (except for pro rata vesting considering the time elapsed and attainment of any related performance goals between the award date and the change in control).





## 6. ROUTINE/MISCELLANEOUS

### Adjourn Meeting

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against proposals to provide management with the authority to adjourn an annual or special meeting absent compelling reasons to support the proposal.

Vote for proposals that relate specifically to soliciting votes for a merger or transaction if supporting that merger or transaction. Vote against proposals if the wording is too vague or if the proposal includes other business.

### Amend Quorum Requirements

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals to reduce quorum requirements for shareholder meetings below a majority of the shares outstanding unless there are compelling reasons to support the proposal.

### Amend Minor Bylaws

**General Recommendation:** Vote for bylaw or charter changes that are of a housekeeping nature (updates or corrections).

### Change Company Name

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals to change the corporate name unless there is compelling evidence that the change would adversely impact shareholder value.

### Change Date, Time, or Location of Annual Meeting

**General Recommendation:** Vote for management proposals to change the date, time, or location of the annual meeting unless the proposed change is unreasonable.

Vote against shareholder proposals to change the date, time, or location of the annual meeting unless the current scheduling or location is unreasonable.

### Other Business

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals to approve other business when it appears as a voting item.

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## 7. SOCIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### Global Approach

Issues covered under the policy include a wide range of topics, including consumer and product safety, environment and energy, labor standards and human rights, workplace and board diversity, and corporate political issues. While a variety of factors goes into each analysis, the overall principle guiding all vote recommendations focuses on how the proposal may enhance or protect shareholder value in either the short or long term.

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote case-by-case, taking into consideration whether implementation of the proposal is likely to enhance or protect shareholder value, and in addition the following will also be considered:

- If the issues presented in the proposal are more appropriately or effectively dealt with through legislation or government regulation;
- If the company has already responded in an appropriate and sufficient manner to the issue(s) raised in the proposal;
- Whether the proposal's request is unduly burdensome (scope or timeframe) or overly prescriptive;
- The company's approach compared with any industry standard practices for addressing the issue(s) raised by the proposal;
- If the proposal requests increased disclosure or greater transparency, whether or not reasonable and sufficient information is currently available to shareholders from the company or from other publicly available sources; and
- If the proposal requests increased disclosure or greater transparency, whether or not implementation would reveal proprietary or confidential information that could place the company at a competitive disadvantage.

### Endorsement of Principles

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against proposals seeking a company's endorsement of principles that support a particular public policy position. Endorsing a set of principles may require a company to take a stand on an issue that is beyond its own control and may limit its flexibility with respect to future developments. Management and the board should be afforded the flexibility to make decisions on specific public policy positions based on their own assessment of the most beneficial strategies for the company.

### Animal Welfare

#### Animal Welfare Policies

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals seeking a report on a company's animal welfare standards, or animal welfare-related risks, unless:

- The company has already published a set of animal welfare standards and monitors compliance;
- The company's standards are comparable to industry peers; and
- There are no recent significant fines, litigation, or controversies related to the company's and/or its suppliers' treatment of animals.



### Animal Testing

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against proposals to phase out the use of animals in product testing, unless:

- The company is conducting animal testing programs that are unnecessary or not required by regulation;
- The company is conducting animal testing when suitable alternatives are commonly accepted and used by industry peers; or
- There are recent, significant fines or litigation related to the company's treatment of animals.

### Animal Slaughter

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against proposals requesting the implementation of Controlled Atmosphere Killing (CAK) methods at company and/or supplier operations unless such methods are required by legislation or generally accepted as the industry standard.

Vote case-by-case on proposals requesting a report on the feasibility of implementing CAK methods at company and/or supplier operations considering the availability of existing research conducted by the company or industry groups on this topic and any fines or litigation related to current animal processing procedures at the company.

## Consumer Issues

### Genetically Modified Ingredients

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against proposals requesting that a company voluntarily label genetically engineered (GE) ingredients in its products. The labeling of products with GE ingredients is best left to the appropriate regulatory authorities.

Vote case-by-case on proposals asking for a report on the feasibility of labeling products containing GE ingredients, taking into account:

- The potential impact of such labeling on the company's business;
- The quality of the company's disclosure on GE product labeling, related voluntary initiatives, and how this disclosure compares with industry peer disclosure; and
- Company's current disclosure on the feasibility of GE product labeling.

Generally vote against proposals seeking a report on the social, health, and environmental effects of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Studies of this sort are better undertaken by regulators and the scientific community.

Generally vote against proposals to eliminate GE ingredients from the company's products, or proposals asking for reports outlining the steps necessary to eliminate GE ingredients from the company's products. Such decisions are more appropriately made by management with consideration of current regulations.

### Reports on Potentially Controversial Business/Financial Practices

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on requests for reports on a company's potentially controversial business or financial practices or products, taking into account:

Whether the company has adequately disclosed mechanisms in place to prevent abuses;  
Whether the company has adequately disclosed the financial risks of the products/practices in question;  
Whether the company has been subject to violations of related laws or serious controversies; and  
Peer companies policies/practices in this area.

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### Pharmaceutical Pricing, Access to Medicines, and Prescription Drug Reimportation

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against proposals requesting that companies implement specific price restraints on pharmaceutical products unless the company fails to adhere to legislative guidelines or industry norms in its product pricing practices. Vote case-by-case on proposals requesting that a company report on its product pricing or access to medicine policies, considering:

- The potential for reputational, market, and regulatory risk exposure;
- Existing disclosure of relevant policies;
- Deviation from established industry norms;
- Relevant company initiatives to provide research and/or products to disadvantaged consumers;
- Whether the proposal focuses on specific products or geographic regions;
- The potential burden and scope of the requested report;
- Recent significant controversies, litigation, or fines at the company.

Generally vote for proposals requesting that a company report on the financial and legal impact of its prescription drug reimportation policies unless such information is already publicly disclosed.

Generally vote against proposals requesting that companies adopt specific policies to encourage or constrain prescription drug reimportation. Such matters are more appropriately the province of legislative activity and may place the company at a competitive disadvantage relative to its peers.

### Product Safety and Toxic/Hazardous Materials

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals requesting that a company report on its policies, initiatives/procedures, and oversight mechanisms related to toxic/hazardous materials or product safety in its supply chain, unless:

- The company already discloses similar information through existing reports such as a supplier code of conduct and/or a sustainability report;
- The company has formally committed to the implementation of a toxic/hazardous materials and/or product safety and supply chain reporting and monitoring program based on industry norms or similar standards within a specified time frame; and
- The company has not been recently involved in relevant significant controversies, fines, or litigation.

Vote case-by-case on resolutions requesting that companies develop a feasibility assessment to phase-out of certain toxic/hazardous materials, or evaluate and disclose the potential financial and legal risks associated with utilizing certain materials, considering:

- The company's current level of disclosure regarding its product safety policies, initiatives, and oversight mechanisms;
- Current regulations in the markets in which the company operates; and
- Recent significant controversies, litigation, or fines stemming from toxic/hazardous materials at the company. Generally vote against resolutions requiring that a company reformulate its products.

### Tobacco-Related Proposals

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on resolutions regarding the advertisement of tobacco products, considering:



Recent related fines, controversies, or significant litigation;

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56 of 69

**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

Whether the company complies with relevant laws and regulations on the marketing of tobacco;  
Whether the company's advertising restrictions deviate from those of industry peers;  
Whether the company entered into the Master Settlement Agreement, which restricts marketing of tobacco to youth; and  
Whether restrictions on marketing to youth extend to foreign countries.

Vote case-by-case on proposals regarding second-hand smoke, considering:

Whether the company complies with all laws and regulations;  
The degree that voluntary restrictions beyond those mandated by law might hurt the company's competitiveness; and  
The risk of any health-related liabilities.

Generally vote against resolutions to cease production of tobacco-related products, to avoid selling products to tobacco companies, to spin-off tobacco-related businesses, or prohibit investment in tobacco equities. Such business decisions are better left to company management or portfolio managers.

Generally vote against proposals regarding tobacco product warnings. Such decisions are better left to public health authorities.

## Climate Change

### Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for resolutions requesting that a company disclose information on the financial, physical, or regulatory risks it faces related to climate change on its operations and investments or on how the company identifies, measures, and manages such risks, considering:

Whether the company already provides current, publicly-available information on the impact that climate change may have on the company as well as associated company policies and procedures to address related risks and/or opportunities;  
The company's level of disclosure compared to industry peers; and  
Whether there are significant controversies, fines, penalties, or litigation associated with the company's climate change-related performance.

Generally vote for proposals requesting a report on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from company operations and/or products and operations, unless:

The company already discloses current, publicly-available information on the impacts that GHG emissions may have on the company as well as associated company policies and procedures to address related risks and/or opportunities;  
The company's level of disclosure is comparable to that of industry peers; and  
There are no significant, controversies, fines, penalties, or litigation associated with the company's GHG emissions.

Vote case-by-case on proposals that call for the adoption of GHG reduction goals from products and operations, taking into account:

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Whether the company provides disclosure of year-over-year GHG emissions performance data;  
Whether company disclosure lags behind industry peers;  
The company's actual GHG emissions performance;  
The company's current GHG emission policies, oversight mechanisms, and related initiatives; and

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57 of 69

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Whether the company has been the subject of recent, significant violations, fines, litigation, or controversy related to GHG emissions.

### Energy Efficiency

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals requesting that a company report on its energy efficiency policies, unless:

The company complies with applicable energy efficiency regulations and laws, and discloses its participation in energy efficiency policies and programs, including disclosure of benchmark data, targets, and performance measures; or  
The proponent requests adoption of specific energy efficiency goals within specific timelines.

### Renewable Energy

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for requests for reports on the feasibility of developing renewable energy resources unless the report would be duplicative of existing disclosure or irrelevant to the company's line of business.  
Generally vote against proposals requesting that the company invest in renewable energy resources. Such decisions are best left to management's evaluation of the feasibility and financial impact that such programs may have on the company.

Generally vote against proposals that call for the adoption of renewable energy goals, taking into account:

The scope and structure of the proposal;  
The company's current level of disclosure on renewable energy use and GHG emissions; and  
The company's disclosure of policies, practices, and oversight implemented to manage GHG emissions and mitigate climate change risks.

## Diversity

### Board Diversity

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for requests for reports on a company's efforts to diversify the board, unless:

The gender and racial minority representation of the company's board is reasonably inclusive in relation to companies of similar size and business; and  
The board already reports on its nominating procedures and gender and racial minority initiatives on the board and within the company.

Vote case-by-case on proposals asking a company to increase the gender and racial minority representation on its board, taking into account:

The degree of existing gender and racial minority diversity on the company's board and among its executive officers;  
The level of gender and racial minority representation that exists at the company's industry peers;  
The company's established process for addressing gender and racial minority board representation;  
Whether the proposal includes an overly prescriptive request to amend nominating committee charter language;

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The independence of the company's nominating committee;  
Whether the company uses an outside search firm to identify potential director nominees; and  
Whether the company has had recent controversies, fines, or litigation regarding equal employment practices.

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### Equality of Opportunity

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals requesting a company disclose its diversity policies or initiatives, or proposals requesting disclosure of a company's comprehensive workforce diversity data, including requests for EEO-1 data, unless:

The company publicly discloses equal opportunity policies and initiatives in a comprehensive manner;

The company already publicly discloses comprehensive workforce diversity data; and

The company has no recent significant EEO-related violations or litigation.

Generally vote against proposals seeking information on the diversity efforts of suppliers and service providers. Such requests may pose a significant burden on the company.

### Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, and Domestic Partner Benefits

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals seeking to amend a company's EEO statement or diversity policies to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity, unless the change would be unduly burdensome.

Generally vote against proposals to extend company benefits to, or eliminate benefits from, domestic partners. Decisions regarding benefits should be left to the discretion of the company.

### Gender Pay Gap

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote case-by-case on requests for reports on a company's pay data by gender, or a report on a company's policies and goals to reduce any gender pay gap, taking into account:

The company's current policies and disclosure related to both its diversity and inclusion policies and practices and its compensation philosophy and fair and equitable compensation practices;

Whether the company has been the subject of recent controversy, litigation, or regulatory actions related to gender pay gap issues; and

Whether the company's reporting regarding gender pay gap policies or initiatives is lagging its peers.

## Environment and Sustainability

### Facility and Workplace Safety

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on requests for workplace safety reports, including reports on accident risk reduction efforts, taking into account:

The company's current level of disclosure of its workplace health and safety performance data, health and safety management policies, initiatives, and oversight mechanisms;

The nature of the company's business, specifically regarding company and employee exposure to health and safety risks;

Recent significant controversies, fines, or violations related to workplace health and safety; and

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The company's workplace health and safety performance relative to industry peers.  
Vote case-by-case on resolutions requesting that a company report on safety and/or security risks associated with its operations and/or facilities, considering:

The company's compliance with applicable regulations and guidelines;

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The company's current level of disclosure regarding its security and safety policies, procedures, and compliance monitoring; and  
The existence of recent, significant violations, fines, or controversy regarding the safety and security of the company's operations and/or facilities.

**General Environmental Proposals and Community Impact Assessments**

**General**

**Recommendation:**

Vote case-by-case on requests for reports on policies and/or the potential (community) social and/or environmental impact of company operations, considering:

Current disclosure of applicable policies and risk assessment report(s) and risk management procedures;  
The impact of regulatory non-compliance, litigation, remediation, or reputational loss that may be associated with failure to manage the company's operations in question, including the management of relevant community and stakeholder relations;  
The nature, purpose, and scope of the company's operations in the specific region(s);  
The degree to which company policies and procedures are consistent with industry norms; and The scope of the resolution.

**Hydraulic Fracturing**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals requesting greater disclosure of a company's (natural gas) hydraulic fracturing operations, including measures the company has taken to manage and mitigate the potential community and environmental impacts of those operations, considering:

The company's current level of disclosure of relevant policies and oversight mechanisms;  
The company's current level of such disclosure relative to its industry peers;  
Potential relevant local, state, or national regulatory developments; and  
Controversies, fines, or litigation related to the company's hydraulic fracturing operations.

**Operations in Protected Areas**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for requests for reports on potential environmental damage as a result of company operations in protected regions, unless:

Operations in the specified regions are not permitted by current laws or regulations;  
The company does not currently have operations or plans to develop operations in these protected regions; or  
The company's disclosure of its operations and environmental policies in these regions is comparable to industry peers.

**Recycling**



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**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to report on an existing recycling program, or adopt a new recycling program, taking into account:

- The nature of the company's business;
- The current level of disclosure of the company's existing related programs;
- The timetable and methods of program implementation prescribed by the proposal;
- The company's ability to address the issues raised in the proposal; and
- How the company's recycling programs compare to similar programs of its industry peers.

### **Sustainability Reporting**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals requesting that a company report on its policies, initiatives, and oversight mechanisms related to social, economic, and environmental sustainability, unless:

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The company already discloses similar information through existing reports or policies such as an environment, health, and safety (EHS) report; a comprehensive code of corporate conduct; and/or a diversity report; or  
The company has formally committed to the implementation of a reporting program based on Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines or a similar standard within a specified time frame.

### Water Issues

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals requesting a company report on, or adopt a new policy on, water-related risks and concerns, taking into account:

The company's current disclosure of relevant policies, initiatives, oversight mechanisms, and water usage metrics; Whether or not the company's existing water-related policies and practices are consistent with relevant internationally recognized standards and national/local regulations;

The potential financial impact or risk to the company associated with water-related concerns or issues; and  
Recent, significant company controversies, fines, or litigation regarding water use by the company and its suppliers.

## General Corporate Issues

### Charitable Contributions

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals restricting a company from making charitable contributions. Charitable contributions are generally useful for assisting worthwhile causes and for creating goodwill in the community. In the absence of bad faith, self-dealing, or gross negligence, management should determine which, and if, contributions are in the best interests of the company.

### Data Security, Privacy, and Internet Issues

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals requesting the disclosure or implementation of data security, privacy, or information access and management policies and procedures, considering:

The level of disclosure of company policies and procedures relating to data security, privacy, freedom of speech, information access and management, and Internet censorship;

Engagement in dialogue with governments or relevant groups with respect to data security, privacy, or the free flow of information on the Internet;

The scope of business involvement and of investment in countries whose governments censor or monitor the Internet and other telecommunications;

Applicable market-specific laws or regulations that may be imposed on the company; and

Controversies, fines, or litigation related to data security, privacy, freedom of speech, or Internet censorship.

### Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Compensation-Related Proposals

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to link, or report on linking, executive compensation to sustainability (environmental and social) criteria, considering:

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The scope and prescriptive nature of the proposal;

Whether the company has significant and/or persistent controversies or regulatory violations regarding social and/or environmental issues;

Whether the company has management systems and oversight mechanisms in place regarding its social and environmental performance;

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61 of 69

**U.S. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

The degree to which industry peers have incorporated similar non-financial performance criteria in their executive compensation practices; and

The company's current level of disclosure regarding its environmental and social performance.

## **Human Rights, Labor Issues, and International Operations**

### **Human Rights Proposals**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals requesting a report on company or company supplier labor and/or human rights standards and policies unless such information is already publicly disclosed.

Vote case-by-case on proposals to implement company or company supplier labor and/or human rights standards and policies, considering:

The degree to which existing relevant policies and practices are disclosed;

Whether or not existing relevant policies are consistent with internationally recognized standards;

Whether company facilities and those of its suppliers are monitored and how;

Company participation in fair labor organizations or other internationally recognized human rights initiatives;

Scope and nature of business conducted in markets known to have higher risk of workplace labor/human rights abuse;

Recent, significant company controversies, fines, or litigation regarding human rights at the company or its suppliers;

The scope of the request; and

Deviation from industry sector peer company standards and practices.

Vote case-by-case on proposals requesting that a company conduct an assessment of the human rights risks in its operations or in its supply chain, or report on its human rights risk assessment process, considering:

The degree to which existing relevant policies and practices are disclosed, including information on the implementation of these policies and any related oversight mechanisms;

The company's industry and whether the company or its suppliers operate in countries or areas where there is a history of human rights concerns;

Recent significant controversies, fines, or litigation regarding human rights involving the company or its suppliers, and whether the company has taken remedial steps; and

Whether the proposal is unduly burdensome or overly prescriptive.

### **Operations in High Risk Markets**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on requests for a report on a company's potential financial and reputational risks associated with operations in high-risk markets, such as a terrorism-sponsoring state or politically/socially unstable region, taking into account:

The nature, purpose, and scope of the operations and business involved that could be affected by social or political disruption;

Current disclosure of applicable risk assessment(s) and risk management procedures; Compliance with U.S. sanctions and laws;

Consideration of other international policies, standards, and laws; and

Whether the company has been recently involved in recent, significant controversies, fines, or litigation related to its operations in high-risk markets.

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### Outsourcing/Offshoring

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals calling for companies to report on the risks associated with outsourcing/plant closures, considering:

- Controversies surrounding operations in the relevant market(s);
- The value of the requested report to shareholders;
- The company's current level of disclosure of relevant information on outsourcing and plant closure procedures; and
- The company's existing human rights standards relative to industry peers.

### Weapons and Military Sales

**General Recommendation:** Vote against reports on foreign military sales or offsets. Such disclosures may involve sensitive and confidential information. Moreover, companies must comply with government controls and reporting on foreign military sales. Generally vote against proposals asking a company to cease production or report on the risks associated with the use of depleted uranium munitions or nuclear weapons components and delivery systems, including disengaging from current and proposed contracts. Such contracts are monitored by government agencies, serve multiple military and non-military uses, and withdrawal from these contracts could have a negative impact on the company's business.

## Political Activities

### Lobbying

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals requesting information on a company's lobbying (including direct, indirect, and grassroots lobbying) activities, policies, or procedures, considering:

- The company's current disclosure of relevant lobbying policies, and management and board oversight;
- The company's disclosure regarding trade associations or other groups that it supports, or is a member of, that engage in lobbying activities; and
- Recent significant controversies, fines, or litigation regarding the company's lobbying-related activities.

### Political Contributions

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote for proposals requesting greater disclosure of a company's political contributions and trade association spending policies and activities, considering:

- The company's policies, and management and board oversight related to its direct political contributions and payments to trade associations or other groups that may be used for political purposes;
- The company's disclosure regarding its support of, and participation in, trade associations or other groups that may make political contributions; and
- Recent significant controversies, fines, or litigation related to the company's political contributions or political

activities.

Vote against proposals barring a company from making political contributions. Businesses are affected by legislation at the federal, state, and local level; barring political contributions can put the company at a competitive disadvantage.

Vote against proposals to publish in newspapers and other media a company's political contributions. Such publications could present significant cost to the company without providing commensurate value to shareholders.

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**Political Ties**

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against proposals asking a company to affirm political nonpartisanship in the workplace, so long as:

There are no recent, significant controversies, fines, or litigation regarding the company's political contributions or trade association spending; and

The company has procedures in place to ensure that employee contributions to company-sponsored political action committees (PACs) are strictly voluntary and prohibit coercion.

Vote against proposals asking for a list of company executives, directors, consultants, legal counsels, lobbyists, or investment bankers that have prior government service and whether such service had a bearing on the business of the company. Such a list would be burdensome to prepare without providing any meaningful information to shareholders.

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## 8. MUTUAL FUND PROXIES

### Election of Directors

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on the election of directors and trustees, following the same guidelines for uncontested directors for public company shareholder meetings. However, mutual fund boards do not usually have compensation committees, so do not withhold for the lack of this committee.

### Converting Closed-end Fund to Open-end Fund

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on conversion proposals, considering the following factors:

- Past performance as a closed-end fund;
- Market in which the fund invests;
- Measures taken by the board to address the discount; and
- Past shareholder activism, board activity, and votes on related proposals.

### Proxy Contests

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proxy contests, considering the following factors:

- Past performance relative to its peers;
- Market in which the fund invests;
- Measures taken by the board to address the issues;
- Past shareholder activism, board activity, and votes on related proposals;
- Strategy of the incumbents versus the dissidents;
- Independence of directors;
- Experience and skills of director candidates;
- Governance profile of the company;
- Evidence of management entrenchment.

### Investment Advisory Agreements

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on investment advisory agreements, considering the following factors:

- Proposed and current fee schedules;
- Fund category/investment objective;
- Performance benchmarks;
- Share price performance as compared with peers;
- Resulting fees relative to peers;
- Assignments (where the advisor undergoes a change of control).

### Approving New Classes or Series of Shares

**General Recommendation:** Vote for the establishment of new classes or series of shares.

**Preferred Stock Proposals**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on the authorization for or increase in preferred shares, considering the following factors:

- Stated specific financing purpose;
- Possible dilution for common shares;

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Whether the shares can be used for antitakeover purposes.

**1940 Act Policies**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on policies under the Investment Advisor Act of 1940, considering the following factors:

- Potential competitiveness;
- Regulatory developments;
- Current and potential returns; and
- Current and potential risk.

Generally vote for these amendments as long as the proposed changes do not fundamentally alter the investment focus of the fund and do comply with the current SEC interpretation.

**Changing a Fundamental Restriction to a Nonfundamental Restriction**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to change a fundamental restriction to a non-fundamental restriction, considering the following factors:

- The fund's target investments;
- The reasons given by the fund for the change; and
- The projected impact of the change on the portfolio.

**Change Fundamental Investment Objective to Nonfundamental**

**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals to change a fund's fundamental investment objective to non-fundamental.

**Name Change Proposals**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on name change proposals, considering the following factors:

- Political/economic changes in the target market;
- Consolidation in the target market; and
- Current asset composition.

**Change in Fund's Subclassification**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on changes in a fund's sub-classification, considering the following factors:

- Potential competitiveness;
- Current and potential returns;
- Risk of concentration;
- Consolidation in target industry.

**Business Development Companies Authorization to Sell Shares of Common Stock at a Price**

**below Net Asset Value**

**General Recommendation:** Vote for proposals authorizing the board to issue shares below Net Asset Value (NAV) if:

The proposal to allow share issuances below NAV has an expiration date no more than one year from the date shareholders approve the underlying proposal, as required under the Investment Company Act of 1940;

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The sale is deemed to be in the best interests of shareholders by (1) a majority of the company's independent directors and (2) a majority of the company's directors who have no financial interest in the issuance; and  
The company has demonstrated responsible past use of share issuances by either:  
Outperforming peers in its 8-digit GICS group as measured by one- and three-year median TSRs; or  
Providing disclosure that its past share issuances were priced at levels that resulted in only small or moderate discounts to NAV and economic dilution to existing non-participating shareholders.

**Disposition of Assets/Termination/Liquidation**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to dispose of assets, to terminate or liquidate, considering the following factors:

- Strategies employed to salvage the company;
- The fund's past performance;
- The terms of the liquidation.

**Changes to the Charter Document**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on changes to the charter document, considering the following factors:

- The degree of change implied by the proposal;
- The efficiencies that could result;
- The state of incorporation;
- Regulatory standards and implications.

Vote against any of the following changes:

- Removal of shareholder approval requirement to reorganize or terminate the trust or any of its series;
- Removal of shareholder approval requirement for amendments to the new declaration of trust;
- Removal of shareholder approval requirement to amend the fund's management contract, allowing the contract to be modified by the investment manager and the trust management, as permitted by the 1940 Act;
- Allow the trustees to impose other fees in addition to sales charges on investment in a fund, such as deferred sales charges and redemption fees that may be imposed upon redemption of a fund's shares;
- Removal of shareholder approval requirement to engage in and terminate subadvisory arrangements;
- Removal of shareholder approval requirement to change the domicile of the fund.

**Changing the Domicile of a Fund**

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on re-incorporations, considering the following factors:

- Regulations of both states;
- Required fundamental policies of both states;
- The increased flexibility available.

**Authorizing the Board to Hire and Terminate Subadvisers Without Shareholder Approval**

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**General Recommendation:** Vote against proposals authorizing the board to hire or terminate subadvisers without shareholder approval if the investment adviser currently employs only one subadviser.

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67 of 69

### Distribution Agreements

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on distribution agreement proposals, considering the following factors:

- Fees charged to comparably sized funds with similar objectives;
- The proposed distributor's reputation and past performance;
- The competitiveness of the fund in the industry;
- The terms of the agreement.

### Master-Feeder Structure

**General Recommendation:** Vote for the establishment of a master-feeder structure.

### Mergers

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on merger proposals, considering the following factors:

- Resulting fee structure;
- Performance of both funds;
- Continuity of management personnel;
- Changes in corporate governance and their impact on shareholder rights.

## Shareholder Proposals for Mutual Funds

### Establish Director Ownership Requirement

**General Recommendation:** Generally vote against shareholder proposals that mandate a specific minimum amount of stock that directors must own in order to qualify as a director or to remain on the board.

### Reimburse Shareholder for Expenses Incurred

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on shareholder proposals to reimburse proxy solicitation expenses. When supporting the dissidents, vote for the reimbursement of the proxy solicitation expenses.

### Terminate the Investment Advisor

**General Recommendation:** Vote case-by-case on proposals to terminate the investment advisor, considering the following factors:

- Performance of the fund's Net Asset Value (NAV);

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The fund's history of shareholder relations;  
The performance of other funds under the advisor's management.

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68 of 69



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69 of 69

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

1.6 Million Common Shares

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[        ], 2019

**PART C OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 25: Financial Statements and Exhibits**

1. Financial Statements:  
Contained in Part A:  
Financial Highlights of the Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (the Registrant or the Fund ) for the fiscal period ended June 30, 2018 (unaudited) and fiscal years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009 and 2008 (audited).  
Contained in Part B:  
Financial Statements are incorporated in Part B by reference to the Registrant's June 30, 2018 Semi-Annual Report (unaudited) on Form N-CSR as filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC ) via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-267991 on September 6, 2018 and Registrant's December 31, 2017 Annual Report (audited) on Form N-CSR as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-075143 on March 8, 2018.
2. Exhibits:
  - a.1 Declaration of Trust dated January 9, 2007 is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit a. to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-139962) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-07-006046 on January 12, 2007.
  - a.2 Certificate of Amendment, dated March 6, 2007, to the Declaration of Trust dated January 9, 2007 is filed herewith.
  - b. Registrant's By-laws (Amended and Restated as of November 18, 2009) is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit b. to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
  - c. None.
  - d. Not Applicable.
  - e. Terms and Conditions of the Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit e. to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
  - f. None.
  - g.1 Investment Management Agreement between the Registrant and Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC dated October 1, 2014 is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit g.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
  - g.2 Renewal of Investment Management Agreements between the Nuveen Closed-End Funds and Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC dated July 24, 2018 is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit g.2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
  - g.3 Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement dated October 1, 2014 between Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC and Nuveen Asset Management is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit g.3 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
  - g.4 Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement dated May 30, 2017 between Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC and Intech Investment Management LLC is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit g.4 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
  - h.1 Distribution Agreement relating to At-the-Market Offerings dated February 19, 2019 between the Registrant and Nuveen Securities, LLC is filed herewith.

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- h.2 Dealer Agreement relating to At-the-Market Offerings dated February 19, 2019 between Nuveen Securities, LLC and BB&T Capital Markets is filed herewith.
- i. Nuveen Open-End and Closed-End Funds Deferred Compensation Plan for Independent Directors and Trustees (Restated effective April 27, 2017) is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit i. to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
- j.1 Amended and Restated Master Custodian Agreement dated July 15, 2015 between the Registrant and State Street Bank and Trust Company is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit j.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
- j.2 Appendix A, updated as of August 1, 2017, to the Amended and Restated Master Custodian Agreement dated July 15, 2015 between the Registrant and State Street Bank and Trust Company is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit j.2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
- k.1 Transfer Agency and Service Agreement dated June 15, 2017 between the Registrant and Computershare Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit k.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
- k.2 First Amendment and updated Schedule A, dated September 7, 2017, to the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement dated June 15, 2017 between the Registrant and Computershare Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit k.2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
- l.1 Opinion of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP is filed herewith.
- l.2 Consent of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP is filed herewith.
- m. None.
- n. Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is filed herewith.
- o. None.
- p. Subscription Agreement by and between the Registrant and Nuveen Asset Management (now, Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC) dated March 7, 2007 is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit p. to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-139962) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-07-064370 on March 26, 2007.
- q. None.
- r.1 Code of Ethics and Reporting Requirements of Nuveen (including affiliated entities) and the Nuveen Funds, as amended July 1, 2018, is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit r.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
- r.2 Code of Ethics for the Independent Trustees of Nuveen Funds is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit r.2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
- r.3 Code of Ethics for Janus Henderson Group plc (the parent company of Intech Investment Management LLC) is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit r.3 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-228049) as filed with the SEC via EDGAR Accession No. 0001193125-18-311508 on October 30, 2018.
- s. Powers of Attorney dated October 11, 2018 are filed herewith.

**Item 26: Marketing Arrangements**

See relevant Sections of the Distribution Agreement and Dealer Agreement filed as Exhibits (h)(1) and (h)(2), respectively, to this Registration Statement.

**Item 27: Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

Printing and Engraving Fees	\$ 60,000
Legal Fees	\$ 140,000
Accounting Fees	\$ 10,000
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Fees	\$ 3,817
Stock Exchange Listing Fees	\$ 5,600
Securities and Exchange Commission Registration Fees	\$ 2,680
Miscellaneous Fees	\$ 7,903
	\$ 230,000

**Item 28: Persons Controlled by or under Common Control with Registrant**

Not applicable.

**Item 29: Number of Holders of Securities**

As of January 31, 2019:

Title of Class	Number of Record Holders
Common Shares, \$0.01 par value	9,003

**Item 30: Indemnification**

Section 4 of Article XII of the Registrant's Declaration of Trust provides as follows:

Subject to the exceptions and limitations contained in this Section 4, every person who is, or has been, a Trustee, officer, employee or agent of the Trust, including persons who serve at the request of the Trust as directors, trustees, officers, employees or agents of another organization in which the Trust has an interest as a shareholder, creditor or otherwise (hereinafter referred to as a Covered Person), shall be indemnified by the Trust to the fullest extent permitted by law against liability and against all expenses reasonably incurred or paid by him in connection with any claim, action, suit or proceeding in which he becomes involved as a party or otherwise by virtue of his being or having been such a Trustee, director, officer, employee or agent and against amounts paid or incurred by him in settlement thereof.

No indemnification shall be provided hereunder to a Covered Person:

- (a) against any liability to the Trust or its Shareholders by reason of a final adjudication by the court or other body before which the proceeding was brought that he engaged in willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office;
- (b) with respect to any matter as to which he shall have been finally adjudicated not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his action was in the best interests of the Trust; or

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- (c) in the event of a settlement or other disposition not involving a final adjudication (as provided in paragraph (a) or (b)) and resulting in a payment by a Covered Person, unless there has been either a determination that such Covered Person did not engage in willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office by the court or other body approving the settlement or other disposition or a reasonable determination, based on a review of readily available facts (as opposed to a full trial-type inquiry), that he did not engage in such conduct:
- (i) by a vote of a majority of the Disinterested Trustees acting on the matter (provided that a majority of the Disinterested Trustees then in office act on the matter); or

C-3

(ii) by written opinion of independent legal counsel.

The rights of indemnification herein provided may be insured against by policies maintained by the Trust, shall be severable, shall not affect any other rights to which any Covered Person may now or hereafter be entitled, shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be such a Covered Person and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person. Nothing contained herein shall affect any rights to indemnification to which Trust personnel other than Covered Persons may be entitled by contract or otherwise under law.

Expenses of preparation and presentation of a defense to any claim, action, suit or proceeding subject to a claim for indemnification under this Section 4 shall be advanced by the Trust prior to final disposition thereof upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the recipient to repay such amount if it is ultimately determined that he is not entitled to indemnification under this Section 4, provided that either:

(a) such undertaking is secured by a surety bond or some other appropriate security or the Trust shall be insured against losses arising out of any such advances; or

(b) a majority of the Disinterested Trustees acting on the matter (provided that a majority of the Disinterested Trustees then in office act on the matter) or independent legal counsel in a written opinion shall determine, based upon a review of the readily available facts (as opposed to a full trial-type inquiry), that there is reason to believe that the recipient ultimately will be found entitled to indemnification.

As used in this Section 4, a Disinterested Trustee is one (x) who is not an Interested Person of the Trust (including anyone, as such Disinterested Trustee, who has been exempted from being an Interested Person by any rule, regulation or order of the Commission), and (y) against whom none of such actions, suits or other proceedings or another action, suit or other proceeding on the same or similar grounds is then or has been pending.

As used in this Section 4, the words claim, action, suit or proceeding shall apply to all claims, actions, suits, proceedings (civil, criminal, administrative or other, including appeals), actual or threatened; and the words liability and expenses shall include without limitation, attorneys fees, costs, judgments, amounts paid in settlement, fines, penalties and other liabilities.

The trustees and officers of the Registrant are covered by Mutual Fund Professional Liability policies in the aggregate amount of \$70,000,000 against liability and expenses of claims of wrongful acts arising out of their position with the Registrant, except for matters that involve willful acts, bad faith, gross negligence and willful disregard of duty (i.e., where the insured did not act in good faith for a purpose he or she reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the Registrant or where he or she had reasonable cause to believe this conduct was unlawful). The policy has a \$1,000,000 deductible for operational failures and \$1,000,000 deductible for all other claims.

Section 9 of the Distribution Agreement, filed as Exhibit h.1 to this Registration Statement, provides for each of the parties thereto, including the Registrant and the Distributor, to indemnify the others, their trustees, directors, certain of their officers, trustees, directors and persons who control them against certain liabilities in connection with the offering described herein, including liabilities under the federal securities laws.

Insofar as indemnification for liability arising under the Securities Act of 1933 (the 1933 Act ) may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the 1933 Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the 1933 Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**Item 31: Business and Other Connections of Investment Adviser and Sub-Advisers**

A description of any other business, profession, vocation or employment of a substantial nature in which the directors and officers of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC ( Nuveen Fund Advisors ), the Fund's investment adviser, who serve as officers or Trustees of the Fund have engaged during the last two years for his or her account or in the capacity of director, officer, employee, partner or trustee appears under Management in the Statement of Additional Information. Such information for the remaining senior officers appears below:

<b>Name and Position with Nuveen Fund Advisors</b>	<b>Other Business, Profession, Vocation or Employment During Past Two Years</b>
Joseph T. Castro, Senior Managing Director	Senior Managing Director (since 2017), Head of Compliance (since 2013) of Nuveen, LLC; Senior Managing Director (since 2017) of Nuveen Services, LLC.
Erik Mogavero, Managing Director and Chief Compliance Officer	Formerly employed by Deutsche Bank (2013-2017) as Managing Director, Head of Asset Management and Wealth Management Compliance for the Americas region and Chief Compliance Officer of Deutsche Investment Management Americas.
Austin P. Wachter, Managing Director and Contoller	Managing Director and Contoller (since 2017) (formerly, Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Contoller) of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC; Contoller (since 2017) of Nuveen Investments, Inc., Nuveen Alternative Investments, LLC, Nuveen Alternatives Advisors LLC, Nuveen Finance, LLC, Nuveen Services, LLC, NWQ Investment Management Company, Nuveen Investments Advisers, LLC, Santa Barbara Asset Management, LLC and Winslow Capital Management, LLC; Contoller (since 2014) of Nuveen, LLC; Contoller (since 2016) formerly, Vice President and Funds Treasurer (2014-2016) of Teachers Advisors, LLC; Contoller (since 2016), formerly, Senior Director and Funds Treasurer (2014-2016) of Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America.

Nuveen Asset Management, LLC ( Nuveen Asset Management ) serves as investment sub-adviser to the Fund and also serves as investment sub-adviser to other open-end and closed-end funds and investment adviser to separately managed accounts. The following is a list of the remaining senior officers of Nuveen Asset Management. The principal business address of each person is 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

<b>Name and Position with Nuveen Asset Management</b>	<b>Other Business, Profession, Vocation or Employment During Past Two Years</b>
William T. Huffman, President	None.
Stuart J. Cohen, Managing Director and Head of Legal	Managing Director and Assistant Secretary (since 2002) of Nuveen Securities, LLC; Managing Director (since 2007) and Assistant Secretary (since 2003) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC.
Diane S. Meggs, Managing Director and Chief Compliance Officer	Managing Director and Compliance Manager (since 2011) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director and Chief Compliance Officer (since 2013) of Nuveen Investments Advisers, LLC.



**Name and Position with Nuveen Asset Management**

Austin P. Wachter, Managing Director and Controller

**Other Business, Profession, Vocation or Employment During Past Two Years**

Managing Director and Controller (since 2017) (formerly, Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Controller) of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC; Controller (since 2017) of Nuveen Investments, Inc., Nuveen Alternative Investments, LLC, Nuveen Alternatives Advisors LLC, Nuveen Finance, LLC, Nuveen Services, LLC, NWQ Investment Management Company, Nuveen Investments Advisers, LLC, Santa Barbara Asset Management, LLC and Winslow Capital Management, LLC; Controller (since 2014) of Nuveen, LLC; Controller (since 2016) formerly, Vice President and Funds Treasurer (2014-2016) of Teachers Advisers, LLC; Controller (since 2016), formerly, Senior Director and Funds Treasurer (2014-2016) of Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America.

Intech Investment Management LLC ( Intech ) also serves as the Fund s subadviser. The address for Intech is 525 Okeechobee Boulevard, Suite 1800, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401. Set forth below is a list of each director and officer of Intech, indicating each business, profession, vocation or employment of a substantial nature in which such person has been, at any time during the past two fiscal years, engaged for his or her own account or in the capacity of director, officer, partner or trustee.

**Name and Position with Intech**

Adrian Banner, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Investment Officer and Director of Intech

**Other Business, Profession, Vocation or Employment During Past Two Years**

None.

David Schofield, President, International Division Working Director of Intech

None.

Justin Wright, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel and Working Director of Intech

None.

Enrique Chang, Director of Intech

Global Chief Investment Officer and Portfolio Manager (2017-present) of Janus Henderson Group plc; President, Head of Investments (2016-2017), Chief Investment Officer, Equities and Asset Allocation (2013-2016) of Janus Capital Group Inc., Janus Capital Management LLC and Janus Management Holdings Corp.

Brennan Hughes, CPA, Working Director of Intech

Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer & Treasurer (2017-present) of Janus Henderson Group plc; Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Treasurer (2013-2017), Vice President and Controller (2011-2013), Controller (2010-2011), Manager, Accounting Policies and Financial Reporting (2005-2010) of Janus Capital Group Inc.

Bruce Koepfgen, Working Director of Intech

Executive Vice President, Head of North America (2017-present) at Janus Henderson Investors, President and Chief Executive Officer (2017-present) of Janus Investment Fund, Janus Aspen Series, Janus Detroit Street Trust and Clayton Street Trust, Board of Managers of Perkins Investment Management LLC.

Richard M. Weil, Working Director of Intech

Chief Executive Officer (2018-present) of Janus Henderson Investors, Co-CEO (2017-2018) of Janus Henderson Investors, CEO (2010-2017) of Janus Capital Group.

**Item 32: Location of Accounts and Records**

Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC, 333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, maintains the Declaration of Trust, By-Laws, minutes of trustees and shareholders meetings and contracts of the Registrant and all advisory material of the investment adviser. Nuveen Asset Management and Intech, in their capacities as sub-advisers, also may hold certain accounts and records of the Fund.

State Street Bank and Trust Company, 250 Royal Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021, maintains all general and subsidiary ledgers, journals, trial balances, records of all portfolio purchases and sales, and all other required records not maintained by Nuveen Fund Advisors, Nuveen Asset Management and Intech.

**Item 33: Management Services**

Not applicable.

**Item 34: Undertakings**

1. Registrant undertakes to suspend the offering of its shares until it amends its prospectus if: (1) subsequent to the effective date of its Registration Statement, the net asset value declines more than 10 percent from its net asset value as of the effective date of the Registration Statement; or (2) the net asset value increases to an amount greater than its net proceeds as stated in the prospectus.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. Registrant undertakes:
  - (a) to file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement:
    - (1) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "1933 Act");
    - (2) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement; and
    - (3) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.
  - (b) that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the 1933 Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of those securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof; and
  - (c) to remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
  - (d) that, for the purpose of determining liability under the 1933 Act to any purchaser, if the Registrant is subject to Rule 430C: each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 497(b), (c), (d) or (e) under the 1933 Act as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A under the 1933 Act, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in this registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

C-7

(e) that for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the 1933 Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of securities:

The undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to the purchaser:

- (1) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 497 under the 1933 Act;
- (2) the portion of any advertisement pursuant to Rule 482 under the 1933 Act relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and
- (3) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

5. The Registrant undertakes that:

- a. For purposes of determining any liability under the 1933 Act, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this Registration Statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in the form of prospectus filed by the Registrant under Rule 497(h) under the 1933 Act shall be deemed to be part of this Registration Statement as of the time it was declared effective.
- b. For the purpose of determining any liability under the 1933 Act, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of the securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

6. The Registrant undertakes to send by first class mail or other means designed to ensure equally prompt delivery, within two business days of receipt of a written or oral request, any Statement of Additional Information.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Registrant has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in this City of Chicago, and State of Illinois, on the 20th day of February, 2019.

NUVEEN CORE EQUITY ALPHA FUND

/s/ Gifford R. Zimmerman  
Gifford R. Zimmerman,

Vice President and Secretary

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
/s/ STEPHEN D. FOY	Vice President and Controller (principal financial and accounting officer)	February 20, 2019
<b>STEPHEN D. FOY</b>		
/s/ CEDRIC H. ANTOSIEWICZ	Chief Administrative Officer (principal executive officer)	February 20, 2019
<b>CEDRIC H. ANTOSIEWICZ</b>		
TERENCE J. TOTH*	Chairman of the Board and Trustee	ü By:
MARGO L. COOK*	Trustee	ï /s/ GIFFORD R. ZIMMERMAN
JACK B. EVANS*	Trustee	ï
WILLIAM C. HUNTER*	Trustee	ï
ALBIN F. MOSCHNER*	Trustee	ï
JOHN K. NELSON*	Trustee	ï
JUDITH M. STOCKDALE*	Trustee	ï
CAROLE E. STONE*	Trustee	ï
MARGARET L. WOLFF*	Trustee	ï
ROBERT L. YOUNG*	Trustee	ï
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\* Original powers of attorney authorizing Gifford R. Zimmerman, among others, to execute this Registration Statement, and Amendments thereto, for the trustees of the Registrant on whose behalf this Registration Statement is filed, have been executed and filed as Exhibit s. to this Registration Statement.

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Name</b>
a.2	Certificate of Amendment, dated March 6, 2007, to the Declaration of Trust dated January 9, 2007
h.1	Distribution Agreement relating to At-the-Market Offerings dated February 19, 2019 between the Registrant and Nuveen Securities, LLC
h.2	Dealer Agreement relating to At-the-Market Offerings dated February 19, 2019 between Nuveen Securities, LLC and BB&T Capital Markets
l.1	Opinion of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
l.2	Consent of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
n.	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
s.	Powers of Attorney dated October 11, 2018