

**FIRST TRUST HEDGED STRATEGIES FUND
STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Class A Shares (HDGAX)
Class I Shares (HFLEX)**

Dated July 31, 2025

c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc.
235 West Galena Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(877) 779-1999

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus. This SAI relates to and should be read in conjunction with the prospectus (the “Prospectus”) of the First Trust Hedged Strategies Fund (the “Fund”) dated July 31, 2025, and as it may be further amended or supplemented from time to time. This SAI is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the Prospectus. The Fund’s audited financial statements and financial highlights for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025 (including the report of Ernst & Young LLP, the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm) appearing in the annual report to shareholders on Form N-CSR (the “[Annual Report](#)”) are incorporated by reference into this SAI. The Fund’s audited financial statements and financial highlights for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024 (including the report by Grant Thornton LLP, the Fund’s former independent registered public accounting firm) are incorporated by reference into this SAI. No other parts of the Annual Report are incorporated by reference herein. A copy of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge by contacting the Fund at the telephone number or address set forth above.

This SAI is not an offer to sell shares of beneficial interest (“Shares”) of the Fund and is not soliciting an offer to buy Shares in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the same meaning set forth in the Prospectus.

Shares are distributed by First Trust Portfolios L.P. (“Distributor” or “FT Portfolios”) to institutions and financial intermediaries who may distribute Shares to clients and customers (including affiliates and correspondents) of the Fund’s investment adviser, First Trust Capital Management L.P. (the “Investment Adviser”) and to clients and customers of other organizations. The Fund’s Prospectus, which is dated July 31, 2025, provides basic information investors should know before investing. This SAI is intended to provide additional information regarding the activities and operations of the Fund and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The First Trust Hedged Strategies Fund (the “Fund”) is a Delaware statutory trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”), as a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Fund operates as an interval fund.

INVESTMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The investment objective of the Fund, as well as the principal investment strategies of the Fund and the principal risks associated with such investment strategies, are set forth in the Prospectus. Certain additional information regarding the investment program of the Fund is set forth below.

FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES

The Fund’s fundamental policies, which are listed below, may only be changed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. As defined by the Investment Company Act, the vote of a “majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund” means the vote, at an annual or special meeting of the Shareholders of the Fund (“Shareholders”), duly called, (i) of 67% or more of the Shares represented at such meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding Shares are present in person or represented by proxy or (ii) of more than 50% of the outstanding Shares, whichever is less. No other policy is a fundamental policy of the Fund, except as expressly stated. Within the limits of the fundamental policies of the Fund, the management of the Fund has reserved freedom of action. The Fund may not:

- (1) Issue any senior security, except to the extent permitted by Section 18 of the Investment Company Act, as interpreted, modified, or otherwise permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) or any other applicable authority.
- (2) Borrow money, except to the extent permitted by Section 18 of the Investment Company Act, as interpreted, modified, or otherwise permitted by the SEC or any other applicable authority. This investment restriction does not apply to borrowings from affiliated investment companies or other affiliated persons of the Fund to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act, the SEC or any other applicable authority.
- (3) Underwrite securities of other issuers, except insofar as the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in connection with the disposition of its portfolio securities.
- (4) Make loans, except through purchasing fixed-income securities, lending portfolio securities, or entering into repurchase agreements in a manner consistent with the investment policies of the Fund, or as otherwise permitted under the Investment Company Act. This investment restriction does not apply to loans to affiliated investment companies or other affiliated persons of the Fund to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act, the SEC or any other applicable authority.
- (5) Purchase, hold or deal in real estate, except that the Fund may invest in securities that are secured by real estate, including, without limitation, mortgage-related securities, or that are issued by companies or partnerships that invest or deal in real estate or real estate investment trusts, and may hold and dispose of real estate acquired by the Fund as a result of the ownership of securities or other permitted investments.
- (6) Invest in commodities and commodity contracts, except that the Fund (i) may purchase and sell non-U.S. currencies, options, swaps, futures and forward contracts, including those related to indexes, options and options on indexes, as well as other financial instruments and contracts that are commodities or commodity contracts, (ii) may also purchase or sell commodities if acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, (iii) may invest in commodity pools and other entities that purchase and sell commodities and commodity contracts, and (iv) may make such investments as otherwise permitted by the Investment Company Act, and as interpreted, modified or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time.
- (7) Invest 25% or more of the value of its total assets in the securities of issuers that the Fund’s investment adviser determines are engaged in any single industry, except that U.S. government securities and repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government securities may be purchased without limitation.

With respect to these investment restrictions and other policies described in this SAI or the Prospectus, if a percentage restriction is adhered to at the time of an investment or transaction, a later change in percentage resulting from a change in the values of investments or the value of the Fund’s total assets, unless otherwise stated, will not constitute a violation of such restriction or policy.

In addition to the above, the Fund has adopted a fundamental policy that it will make quarterly repurchase offers for no less than for 5% and not more than 25% of the shares outstanding at per-class net asset value (“NAV”) per share, unless suspended or postponed in accordance with regulatory requirements, and each repurchase pricing shall occur no later than the close of business on the fourteenth day after the Repurchase Request Deadline, or the next business day if the fourteenth day is not a business day. Shareholders can obtain the date of the next Repurchase Request Deadline by writing to the Fund, c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc., 235 West Galena Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212, or by calling the Fund toll-free at (877) 779-1999.

NON-FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES

The Fund may change its investment objective, policies, restrictions, strategies, and techniques.

Except as otherwise indicated, the Fund may change its investment objective and any of its policies, restrictions, strategies, and techniques without Shareholder approval. The Fund's investment objective and investment strategies are not fundamental policies of the Fund and may be changed by the Board of Trustees of the Fund (the "Board") without the vote of a majority (as defined by the Investment Company Act) of the Fund's outstanding Shares.

The following descriptions of the Investment Company Act may assist investors in understanding the above policies and restrictions.

Borrowing. The Investment Company Act restricts an investment company from borrowing in excess of 33 1/3% of its total assets (including the amount borrowed, but excluding temporary borrowings not in excess of 5% of its total assets). Under current law as interpreted by the SEC and its staff, the Fund may borrow from: (a) a bank, provided that immediately after such borrowing there is an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings of the Fund; or (b) a bank or other persons for temporary purposes only, provided that such temporary borrowings are in an amount not exceeding 5% of the Fund's total assets at the time when the borrowing is made. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from entering into reverse repurchase transactions, provided that the Fund has an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings and repurchase commitments of the Fund pursuant to reverse repurchase transactions.

Commodities. The Investment Company Act does not directly restrict an investment company's ability to invest in commodities or contracts related to commodities, but does require that every investment company have a fundamental investment policy governing such investments. The extent to which the Fund can invest in commodities or contracts related to commodities is set out in the investment strategies and policies described in the Prospectus and this SAI.

Concentration. The SEC staff has defined concentration as investing 25% or more of an investment company's total assets in any particular industry or group of industries, with certain exceptions such as with respect to investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies and instrumentalities. The Fund will not invest 25% or more of its assets in one or more Investment Funds that it knows concentrate their assets in the same industry. For purposes of the Fund's concentration policy, the Fund may classify and re-classify companies in a particular industry and define and re-define industries in any reasonable manner, consistent with SEC guidance. For purposes of the Fund's industry concentration policy, the Investment Adviser may analyze the characteristics of a particular issuer and instrument and may assign an industry classification consistent with those characteristics. The Investment Adviser may, but need not, consider industry classifications provided by third parties.

Real Estate. The Investment Company Act does not directly restrict an investment company's ability to invest in real estate or interests in real estate, but does require that every investment company have a fundamental investment policy governing such investments. The Fund may invest in real estate or interests in real estate, securities that are secured by or represent interests in real estate (e.g. mortgage loans evidenced by notes or other writings defined to be a type of security), mortgage-related securities, investment funds that invest in real estate through entities that may qualify as REITs, or in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including REITs). The Fund can invest in real estate or interest in real estate to the extent set out in the investment strategies and policies described in the Prospectus and this SAI.

Senior Securities. Senior securities may include any obligation or instrument issued by a fund evidencing indebtedness. The Investment Company Act generally prohibits funds from issuing senior securities, although it does provide allowances for certain borrowings, firm commitment and standby commitment agreements. In addition, Rule 18f-4 under the Investment Company Act permits the Fund to enter into derivatives transactions, notwithstanding the prohibitions and restrictions on the issuance of senior securities under the Investment Company Act, provided that the Fund complies with the conditions of Rule 18f-4.

Underwriting. Under the Investment Company Act, underwriting securities involves an investment company purchasing securities directly from an issuer for the purpose of selling (distributing) them or participating in any such activity either directly or indirectly.

Lending. Under the Investment Company Act, an investment company may only make loans if expressly permitted by its investment policies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES OF THE FUND AND RELATED RISKS

The following information supplements the discussion of the Fund's investment policies and techniques in the Prospectus.

The Fund's investment objective is to seek long-term capital appreciation. As discussed in the Prospectus, First Trust Capital Management L.P. (the "Investment Adviser") seeks to achieve the Fund's investment objective primarily by allocating the Fund's assets to a group of Investment Funds that are managed by multiple independent investment managers (each, an "Underlying Manager" and collectively, the "Underlying Managers"). Under normal market conditions, the Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by allocating at least 80% of its net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, to a portfolio of Investment Funds. This section provides additional information about various types of investments and investment techniques that may be employed by Investment Funds in which the Fund invests, or by the Fund. Many of the investments and techniques described in this section may be based in part on the existence of a public market for the relevant securities. To that extent, such investments and techniques are not expected to represent the principal investments or techniques of the majority of the Investment Funds, or of the Fund; however, there is no limit on the types of investments the Investment Funds may make and certain Investment Funds may use such investments or techniques extensively. Similarly, there are few limits on the types of investments the Fund may make. Accordingly, the descriptions in this section cannot be comprehensive. Any decision to invest in the Fund should take into account (i) the possibility that the Investment Funds may make virtually any kind of investment, (ii) that the Fund has similarly broad latitude in the kinds of investments it may make (subject to the fundamental policies described above), and (iii) that all such investments will be subject to related risks, which can be substantial.

Types of Investments and Related Risks

MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS. The Fund and Investment Funds may invest during periods of adverse market or economic conditions for defensive purposes some or all of their assets in high quality money market instruments and other short-term obligations, money market mutual funds or repurchase agreements with banks or broker-dealers or may hold cash or cash equivalents in such amounts as the Investment Adviser or Underlying Managers to such Investment Funds deem appropriate under the circumstances. Investment Funds also may invest in these instruments for liquidity purposes pending allocation of their respective offering proceeds and other circumstances. Money market instruments are high quality, short-term fixed-income obligations, which generally have remaining maturities of one year or less, and may include U.S. government securities, commercial paper, certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances issued by domestic branches of United States banks that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and repurchase agreements.

WHEN-ISSUED, DELAYED DELIVERY AND FORWARD COMMITMENT SECURITIES. To reduce the risk of changes in securities prices and interest rates, Investment Funds may purchase securities on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed delivery basis, which means delivery and payment take place a number of days after the date of the commitment to purchase. The payment obligation and the interest rate receivable with respect to such purchases are fixed when an Investment Fund enters into the commitment, but an Investment Fund does not make payment until it receives delivery from the counterparty. After an Investment Fund commits to purchase such securities, but before delivery and settlement, it may sell the securities if it is deemed advisable.

Securities purchased on a forward commitment or when-issued or delayed delivery basis are subject to changes in value, generally changing in the same way, i.e., appreciating when interest rates decline and depreciating when interest rates rise, based upon the public's perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and changes, real or anticipated, in the level of interest rates. Securities so purchased may expose Investment Funds to risks because they may experience such fluctuations prior to their actual delivery. Purchasing securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis can involve the additional risk that the yield available in the market when the delivery takes place actually may be higher than that obtained in the transaction itself. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed delivery basis when an Investment Fund is fully or almost fully invested results in a form of leverage and may result in greater potential fluctuation in the value of the net assets of an Investment Fund. In addition, there is a risk that securities purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis may not be delivered and that the purchaser of securities sold by an Investment Fund on a forward basis will not honor its purchase obligation. In such cases, an Investment Fund may incur a loss.

U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES. Some obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies, instrumentalities or U.S. government sponsored enterprises ("GSEs"), including, for example, pass-through certificates issued by Ginnie Mae, are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury. Other obligations issued by or guaranteed by federal agencies or GSEs, such as securities issued by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase certain obligations of the federal agency or GSE, while other obligations issued by or guaranteed by federal agencies or GSEs, such as those of the Federal Home Loan Banks, are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury. The maximum potential liability of the issuers of some U.S. Government securities held by Investment Funds may greatly exceed their current resources, including their legal right to support from the U.S. Treasury. It is possible that these issuers will not have the funds to meet their payment obligations in the future. In addition, uncertainty regarding the status of the statutory debt ceiling could increase the risk that the U.S. Government may default on payments of certain U.S. Government securities, cause the credit rating of the U.S. Government to be downgraded, increase volatility in the stock and bond markets, result in higher interest rates, reduce prices of U.S. Treasury securities, and/or increase the costs of various types of debt instruments, which may adversely affect the Fund.

MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS. The Investment Funds may invest in municipal bonds. Municipal bonds are debt obligations issued by the states, possessions, or territories of the United States (including the District of Columbia) or a political subdivision, public instrumentality, agency, public authority or other governmental unit of such states, possessions, or territories (e.g., counties, cities, towns, villages, districts and authorities). For example, states, possessions, territories and municipalities may issue municipal bonds to raise funds for various public purposes such as airports, housing, hospitals, mass transportation, schools, water and sewer works, gas, and electric utilities. They may also issue municipal bonds to refund outstanding obligations and to meet general operating expenses. Municipal bonds may be general obligation bonds or revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue bonds are payable from revenues derived from particular facilities, from the proceeds of a special excise tax or from other specific revenue sources. They are not usually payable from the general taxing power of a municipality. In addition, certain types of "private activity" bonds may be issued by public authorities to obtain funding for privately operated facilities, such as housing and pollution control facilities, for industrial facilities and for water supply, gas, electricity and waste disposal facilities. Other types of private activity bonds are used to finance the construction, repair or improvement of, or to obtain equipment for, privately operated industrial or commercial facilities. Current federal tax laws place substantial limitations on the size of certain of such issues. Because the interest on municipal bonds is generally exempt from federal income tax, their value may be materially affected by changes in federal income tax rates.

Constitutional amendments, legislative enactments, executive orders, administrative regulations, voter initiatives, and the issuer's regional economic conditions may affect the municipal security's value, interest payments, repayment of principal and an Investment Fund's ability to sell the security. The Investment Funds may be more sensitive to adverse economic, business, political or public health developments if it focuses its assets in municipal bonds that are issued to finance similar projects (such as those relating to education, health care, housing, transportation, and utilities), industrial development bonds, in particular types of municipal securities (such as general obligation bonds, private activity bonds and moral obligation bonds), or in municipal securities of a particular state or territory. While income earned on municipal securities is generally not subject to federal tax, the failure of a municipal security issuer to comply with applicable tax requirements may make income paid thereon taxable, resulting in a decline in the security's value. In addition, there could be changes in applicable tax laws or tax treatments that reduce or eliminate the current federal income tax exemption on municipal securities or otherwise adversely affect the current federal or state tax status of municipal securities. The secondary market for municipal obligations also tends to be less well-developed and less liquid than many other securities markets, which may limit an Investment Fund's ability to sell its municipal obligations at attractive prices. Further, inventories of municipal securities held by brokers and dealers have decreased in recent years, lessening their ability to make a market in these securities, which has resulted in increased municipal security price volatility and trading costs, particularly during periods of economic or market stress.

ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES. The Investment Funds may invest in numerous types of asset-backed securities, including, for example, mortgage-backed securities. Such securities are extremely sensitive to the level and volatility of interest rates.

Asset-backed securities are often backed by a pool of assets representing the obligations of a number of different parties and use credit enhancement techniques. Asset-backed securities present certain risks. Primarily, these securities do not have the benefit of the same security interest in the related collateral. For example, credit card receivables are generally unsecured and the debtors are entitled to the protection of a number of state and federal consumer credit laws, many of which give such debtors the right to set off certain amounts owed on the credit cards, thereby reducing the balance due. As a further example, most issuers of automobile receivables permit the servicers to retain possession of the underlying obligations. If the servicer were to sell these obligations to another party, there is a risk that the purchaser would acquire an interest superior to that of the holders of the related automobile receivables. In addition, because of the large number of vehicles involved in a typical issuance and technical requirements under state laws, the trustee for the holders of the automobile receivables may not have a proper security interest in all of the obligations backing such receivables. Therefore, there is the possibility that recoveries on repossessed collateral may not, in some cases, be available to support payments on these securities.

Investment Fund investments may also include private mortgage pass-through securities that are issued by originators of, and investors in, mortgage loans, including savings and loan associations, mortgage banks, commercial banks, investment banks and special purpose subsidiaries of the foregoing. Private mortgage pass-through securities are usually backed by a pool of conventional fixed rate or adjustable rate mortgage loans. Such securities generally are structured with one or more types of credit enhancement. The risk of loss due to default on private mortgage-backed securities is historically higher because neither the U.S. government nor an agency or instrumentality have guaranteed them. Timely payment of interest and principal is, however, generally supported by various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance. Government entities, private insurance companies or the private mortgage poolers issue the insurance and guarantees. The insurance and guarantees and the creditworthiness of their issuers will be considered when determining whether a mortgage-backed security meets the Fund's quality standards. The Fund may buy mortgage-backed securities without insurance or guarantees if, through an examination of the loan experience and practices of the poolers, the investment manager determines that the securities meet the Fund's quality standards. Private mortgage-backed securities whose underlying assets are neither U.S. government securities nor U.S. government-insured mortgages, to the extent that real properties securing such assets may be located in the same geographical region, may also be subject to a greater risk of default than other comparable securities in the event of adverse economic, political or business developments that may affect such region and, ultimately, the ability of property owners to make payments of principal and interest on the underlying mortgages. Non-government mortgage-backed securities are generally subject to greater price volatility than those issued, guaranteed or sponsored by government entities because of the greater risk of default in adverse market conditions. Where a guarantee is provided by a private guarantor, the Fund is subject to the credit risk of such guarantor, especially when the guarantor doubles as the originator.

SECURITIES OF OTHER INVESTMENT COMPANIES. The Fund may invest, subject to applicable regulatory limits, in the securities of other investment companies, including open-end management companies. Under the Investment Company Act, subject to the Fund's own more restrictive limitations, if any, the Fund's investment in securities issued by other investment companies, subject to certain exceptions, currently is limited to: (1) 3% of the total voting stock of any one investment company; (2) 5% of the Fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company; and (3) 10% of the Fund's total assets in the aggregate (such limits do not apply to investments in money market funds). Exemptions in the Investment Company Act or the rules thereunder may allow the Fund to invest in another investment company in excess of these limits. In particular, Rule 12d1-4 under the Investment Company Act allows the Fund to acquire the securities of another investment company, in excess of the limitations imposed by Section 12 of the Investment Company Act, subject to certain limitations and conditions on the Fund and the Investment Adviser, including limits on control and voting of acquired funds' shares, evaluations and findings by the Investment Adviser and limits on most three-tier fund structures.

When investing in the securities of other investment companies, the Fund will be indirectly exposed to all the risks of such investment companies' portfolio securities. In addition, as a shareholder in an investment company, the Fund would indirectly bear its pro rata share of that investment company's advisory fees and other operating expenses. Fees and expenses incurred indirectly by the Fund as a result of its investment in shares of one or more other investment companies generally are referred to as "acquired fund fees and expenses" and may appear as a separate line item in the Fund's prospectus fee table.

Certain money market funds that operate in accordance with Rule 2a-7 under the Investment Company Act float their NAV while others seek to reserve the value of investments at a stable NAV (typically \$1.00 per share). An investment in a money market fund, even an investment in a fund seeking to maintain a stable NAV per share, is not guaranteed, and it is possible for the Fund to lose money by investing in these and other types of money market funds. If the liquidity of a money market fund's portfolio deteriorates below certain levels, the money market fund may suspend redemptions (i.e., impose a redemption gate) and thereby prevent the Fund from selling its investment in the money market fund or impose a fee of up to 2% on amounts the Fund redeems from the money market fund (i.e., impose a liquidity fee).

OTHER POTENTIAL RISKS AND ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT INFORMATION

DEPENDENCE ON THE INVESTMENT ADVISER. The success of the Fund depends upon the ability of the Investment Adviser to develop and implement investment strategies that achieve the investment objective of the Fund. Additionally, the success of the Fund, in part, depends on the ability of Underlying Managers to develop and implement strategies that achieve their own investment objectives. Shareholders will have no right or power to participate in the management or control of the Fund or the Investment Funds and will not have an opportunity to evaluate the specific investments made by the Investment Funds or the Underlying Managers.

BUSINESS AND REGULATORY RISKS. Legal, tax and regulatory developments that may adversely affect the Fund, the Investment Manager could occur during the term of the Fund. Securities and futures markets are subject to comprehensive statutes, regulations and margin requirements enforced by the SEC, other regulators and self-regulatory organizations and exchanges authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of market emergencies. The regulation of derivatives transactions and funds that engage in such transactions is an evolving area of law and is subject to modification by government and judicial actions. The current presidential administration has called for and is seeking to enact significant changes to U.S. fiscal, tax, trade, healthcare, immigration, foreign, and government regulatory policy, making it impossible to predict what, if any, changes in regulations may occur. Unforeseeable regulations that restrict the ability of the Fund to trade in securities or the ability of the Fund to employ, or brokers and other counterparties to extend, credit in its trading (as well as other regulatory changes that result) could have a material adverse impact on the Fund's portfolio. Further, as artificial intelligence technologies are used more widely, the profitability and growth of Fund holdings may be impacted, which could significantly impact the overall performance of the Fund. The legal and regulatory frameworks within which artificial intelligence technologies operate continue to rapidly evolve, and it is not possible to predict the full extent of current or future risks related thereto.

PAYMENT IN-KIND FOR REPURCHASED SHARES. The Fund does not expect to, but has the right to, distribute securities as payment for repurchased Shares except in unusual circumstances, such as in the unlikely event that making a cash payment would result in a material adverse effect on the Fund or on Shareholders not requesting that their Shares be repurchased, or that the Fund has received distributions consisting of securities of Investment Funds or securities from such Investment Funds that are transferable to the Shareholders. In the event that the Fund makes such a distribution of securities as payment for Shares, Shareholders will bear any risks of the distributed securities and may be required to pay a brokerage commission or other costs in order to dispose of such securities.

RELIANCE ON KEY PERSONNEL. The Fund's ability to identify and invest in attractive opportunities is dependent upon the Investment Adviser. If one or more key individuals leaves the Investment Adviser, the Investment Adviser may not be able to hire qualified replacements, or may require an extended time to do so. This could prevent the Fund from achieving its investment objective. In addition, if one or more key individuals leaves an Underlying Manager to an Investment Fund in which the Fund invests, the operations and investment performance of such Investment Fund and may be negatively affected, resulting in losses to the Fund.

PORTFOLIO TURNOVER. The Fund and Investment Funds' portfolio turnover rate may vary from year to year. A high portfolio turnover rate (100% or more) increases the Fund or an Investment Fund's transaction costs (including brokerage commissions and dealer costs), which would adversely impact the Fund or an Investment Fund's performance. Higher portfolio turnover may result in the realization of more short-term capital gains than if the Fund or an Investment Fund had lower portfolio turnover. The turnover rate will not be a limiting factor, however, if the Investment Adviser considers portfolio changes appropriate.

COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNDERLYING MANAGERS. Underlying Managers of private Investment Funds may receive compensation based on the performance of their investments. Such compensation arrangements may create an incentive to make investments that are riskier or more speculative than would be the case if such arrangements were not in effect. In addition, because performance-based compensation is calculated on a basis that includes unrealized appreciation of a private Investment Fund's assets, such performance-based compensation may be greater than if such compensation were based solely on realized gains.

FINANCIAL FAILURE OF INTERMEDIARIES. There is always the possibility that the institutions, including brokerage firms and banks, with which the Investment Funds do business, or to which securities have been entrusted for custodial purposes, will encounter financial difficulties that may impair their operational capabilities or result in losses to the Fund.

CONTROL POSITIONS. Investment Funds, especially private Investment Funds, may take control positions in companies. The exercise of control over a company imposes additional risks of liability for environmental damage, product defects, failure to supervise and other types of liability related to business operations. In addition, the act of taking a control position, or seeking to take such a position, may itself subject an Investment Fund to litigation by parties interested in blocking it from taking that position. If those liabilities were to arise, or such litigation were to be resolved in a manner adverse to the Investment Funds, the Investment Funds likely would suffer losses on their investments. Additionally, should an Investment Fund obtain such a position, such entity may be required to make filings concerning its holdings with the SEC and it may become subject to other regulatory restrictions that could limit the ability of such Investment Fund to dispose of its holdings at a preferable time and in a preferable manner. Violations of these regulatory requirements could subject the Investment Fund to significant liabilities.

INSIDE INFORMATION. From time to time, the Fund or its affiliates may come into possession of material, non-public information concerning an entity in which the Fund has invested or proposes to invest. Possession of that information may limit the ability of the Fund to buy or sell securities of the entity.

ENFORCEABILITY OF CLAIMS AGAINST INVESTMENT FUNDS. The Fund has no assurances that it will be able to: (1) effect service of process within the U.S. on foreign Investment Funds; (2) enforce judgments obtained in U.S. courts against foreign Investment Funds based upon the civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws; (3) enforce, in an appropriate foreign court, judgments of U.S. courts based upon the civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws; and (4) bring an original action in an appropriate foreign court to enforce liabilities against an Investment Fund or other person based upon the U.S. federal securities laws. It is unclear whether Shareholders would ever be able to bring claims directly against the Investment Funds, domestic or foreign, or whether all such claims must be brought by the Board on behalf of Shareholders.

CYBERSECURITY RISK. The Fund and its service providers may be prone to operational and information security risks resulting from breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption, or lose operational capacity. Breaches in cyber security include, among other behaviors, stealing or corrupting data maintained online or digitally, denial of service attacks on websites, the unauthorized release of confidential information or various other forms of cyber-attacks. The use of artificial intelligence and machine learning could exacerbate these risks or result in cyber security incidents that implicate personal data. Cyber security breaches affecting the Fund, the Investment Adviser, financial intermediaries and other third-party service providers may adversely impact the Fund. For instance, cyber security breaches may interfere with the processing of Shareholder transactions, impact the Fund's ability to calculate its net asset value, cause the release of private Shareholder information or confidential business information, impede investment activities, subject the Fund to regulatory fines or financial losses and/or cause reputational damage. The Fund may also incur additional costs for cyber security risk management purposes. Similar types of cyber security risks are also present for Investment Funds and for the issuers of securities in which the Fund or an Investment Fund may invest, which could result in material adverse consequences for the Investment Funds or such issuers and may cause the Fund to lose value. The Fund and the Investment Adviser have limited ability to prevent or mitigate cybersecurity incidents affecting third party service providers, and such third-party service providers may have limited indemnification obligations to the Fund or the Investment Adviser. While a 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, a Fund cannot control the cyber security plans and systems put in place by its service providers or any other third parties whose operations may affect a Fund or its shareholders.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

The business operations of the Fund are managed and supervised under the direction of the Board, subject to the laws of the State of Delaware and the Fund's Declaration of Trust. The Board has overall responsibility for the management and supervision of the business affairs of the Fund on behalf of its Shareholders, including the authority to establish policies regarding the management, conduct and operation of its business. The Board exercises the same powers, authority and responsibilities on behalf of the Fund as are customarily exercised by the board of directors of a registered investment company organized as a corporation. The officers of the Fund conduct and supervise the daily business operations of the Fund.

The members of the Board (each, a "Trustee") are not required to contribute to the capital of the Fund or to hold Shares. A majority of Trustees of the Board are not "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act) of the Fund (collectively, the "Independent Trustees"). Any Trustee who is not an Independent Trustee is an interested trustee ("Interested Trustee").

The identity of Trustees of the Board and officers of the Fund, and their brief biographical information, including their addresses, their year of birth and descriptions of their principal occupations during the past five years is set forth below.

The Trustees serve on the Board for terms of indefinite duration. A Trustee's position in that capacity will terminate if the Trustee is removed or resigns or, among other events, upon the Trustee's death, incapacity, retirement or bankruptcy. A Trustee may resign upon written notice to the other Trustees of the Fund, and may be removed either by (i) the vote of at least two-thirds of the Trustees of the Fund not subject to the removal vote or (ii) the vote of Shareholders of the Fund holding not less than two-thirds of the total number of votes eligible to be cast by all Shareholders of the Fund. In the event of any vacancy in the position of a Trustee, the remaining Trustees of the Fund may appoint an individual to serve as a Trustee so long as immediately after the appointment at least two-thirds of the Trustees of the Fund then serving have been elected by the Shareholders of the Fund. The Board may call a meeting of the Fund's Shareholders to fill any vacancy in the position of a Trustee of the Fund, and must do so if the Trustees who were elected by the Shareholders of the Fund cease to constitute a majority of the Trustees then serving on the Board.

Independent Trustees

NAME, ADDRESS AND YEAR OF BIRTH	POSITION(S) HELD WITH THE FUND	LENGTH OF TIME SERVED*	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS	NUMBER OF PORTFOLIOS IN FUND COMPLEX* OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEES**
David G. Lee Year of Birth: 1952 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Chairman and Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2012); President and Director, Client Opinions, Inc. (2003 – 2012); Chief Operating Officer, Brandywine Global Investment Management (1998 – 2002).	25	None
Robert Seyferth Year of Birth: 1952 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2009); Chief Procurement Officer/Senior Managing Director, Bear Stearns/JP Morgan Chase (1993 – 2009).	25	None
Gary E. Shugrue Year of Birth: 1954 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2023); Managing Director, Veritable LP (investment advisory firm) (2016 – 2023); Founder/ President, Ascendant Capital Partners, LP (private equity firm) (2001 – 2015).	25	Trustee, Quaker Investment Trust (2 portfolios) (registered investment company).

* As of March 31, 2025, the fund complex consists of the Fund, AFA Asset Based Lending Fund, Agility Multi-Asset Income Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Capital Appreciation Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Real Assets Fund, Destiny Alternative Fund LLC, Destiny Alternative Fund (TEI) LLC, Felicitas Private Markets Fund, First Trust Alternative Opportunities Fund, First Trust Enhanced Private Credit Fund, First Trust Private Assets Fund, First Trust Private Credit Fund, First Trust Real Assets Fund, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A2, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A3, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A4, FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund, FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A2, FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A3, FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A4, Infinity Core Alternative Fund, Pender Real Estate Credit Fund, Variant Alternative Income Fund, Variant Alternative Lending Fund and Variant Impact Fund.

** As of March 31, 2025.

Interested Trustee and Officers

NAME, ADDRESS AND YEAR OF BIRTH	POSITION(S) HELD WITH THE FUND	LENGTH OF TIME SERVED*	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS	NUMBER OF PORTFOLIOS IN FUND COMPLEX* OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEES**
Terrance P. Gallagher*** Year of Birth: 1958 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Executive Vice President and Trust Platform Director, UMB Fund Services, Inc. (2024 – Present); Trustee, Investment Managers Series Trust II (registered investment company) (2013 – Present); President, Investment Managers Series Trust II (2013 – April 2025); Executive Vice President and Director of Fund Accounting, Administration and Tax, UMB Fund Services, Inc. (2007 – 2023).	25	Trustee, Investment Managers Series Trust II (85 portfolios) (registered investment company).
Michael Peck Year of Birth: 1980 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	President	Since Inception	Chief Executive Officer and Co-CIO, First Trust Capital Management L.P. (formerly, Vivaldi Asset Management LLC) (2012 – present); President and Co-CIO, Vivaldi Capital Management, LP (2012 – March 2024); Portfolio Manager, Coe Capital Management LLC (2010 – 2012); Senior Financial Analyst and Risk Manager, the Bond Companies (2006 – 2008).	N/A	N/A

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with the Fund	Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex* Overseen	Other Directorships Held by Trustees**
Chad Eisenberg Year of Birth: 1982 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Treasurer	Since Inception	Chief Operating Officer, First Trust Capital Management L.P. (formerly, Vivaldi Asset Management LLC) (2012 – present); Chief Operating Officer, Vivaldi Capital Management, LP (2012 – March 2024); Director, Coe Capital Management LLC (2010 – 2011).	N/A	N/A
Bernadette Murphy Year of Birth: 1964 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Chief Compliance Officer	Since Inception	Director, Vigilant Compliance, LLC (investment management solutions firm) (2018 – present).	N/A	N/A
Ann Maurer Year of Birth: 1972 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Secretary	Since Inception	Senior Vice President, Client Services (2017 – present), Vice President, Senior Client Service Manager (2013 – 2017), Assistant Vice President, Client Relations Manager (2002 – 2013), UMB Fund Services, Inc.	N/A	N/A

* As of March 31, 2025, the fund complex consists of the Fund, AFA Asset Based Lending Fund, Agility Multi-Asset Income Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Capital Appreciation Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Real Assets Fund, Destiny Alternative Fund LLC, Destiny Alternative Fund (TEI) LLC, Felicitas Private Markets Fund, First Trust Alternative Opportunities Fund, First Trust Enhanced Private Credit Fund, First Trust Private Assets Fund, First Trust Private Credit Fund, First Trust Real Assets Fund, Infinity Core Alternative Fund, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A2, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A3, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A4, FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A2, FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A3, FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A4, FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund, Pender Real Estate Credit Fund, Variant Alternative Income Fund, Variant Alternative Lending Fund and Variant Impact Fund.

** As of March 31, 2025.

*** Mr. Gallagher is deemed an interested person of the Fund because of his affiliation with the Fund's Administrator.

The Board believes that each of the Trustees' experience, qualifications, attributes and skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees lead to the conclusion that each Trustee should serve in such capacity. Among the attributes common to all Trustees is the ability to review critically, evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, to interact effectively with the other Trustees, the Investment Adviser, the Fund's other service providers, counsel and the independent registered public accounting firm, and to exercise effective business judgment in the performance of their duties as Trustees. A Trustee's ability to perform his or her duties effectively may have been attained through the Trustee's business, consulting, and public service; experience as a board member of non-profit entities or other organizations; education or professional training; and/or other life experiences. In addition to these shared characteristics, set forth below is a brief discussion of the specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills of each Trustee.

David G. Lee. Mr. Lee has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. He has more than 31 years of experience in the financial services industry.

Robert Seyferth. Mr. Seyferth has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. Mr. Seyferth has more than 36 years of business and accounting experience.

Terrance P. Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. Mr. Gallagher has more than 45 years of experience in the financial service industry.

Gary E. Shugrue. Mr. Shugrue has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. Mr. Shugrue has more than 36 years of experience in the financial service industry.

Specific details regarding each Trustee's principal occupations during the past five years are included in the table above.

Leadership Structure and Oversight Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for oversight of the Fund rests with the Board. The Fund has engaged the Investment Adviser to manage the Fund on a day-to-day basis. The Board is responsible for overseeing the Investment Adviser and other service providers in the operations of the Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Investment Company Act, applicable provisions of state and other laws and the Fund's Declaration of Trust. The Board is currently composed of four members, three of whom are Independent Trustees. The Board will meet in person at regularly scheduled meetings four times each year. In addition, the Board may hold special in-person or telephonic meetings or informal conference calls to discuss specific matters that may arise or require action between regular meetings. The Independent Trustees have also engaged independent legal counsel to assist them in performing their oversight responsibility. The Independent Trustees will meet with their independent legal counsel in person prior to and during each quarterly in-person board meeting. As described below, the Board has established an Audit Committee and a Nominating Committee, and may establish ad hoc committees or working groups from time to time to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities.

The Board has appointed David Lee, an Independent Trustee, to serve in the role of Chairman. The Chairman's role is to preside at all meetings of the Board and to act as liaison with the Investment Adviser, other service providers, counsel and other Trustees generally between meetings. The Chairman serves as a key point person for dealings between management and the Trustees. The Chairman may also perform such other functions as may be delegated by the Board from time to time. The Board has determined that the Board's leadership structure is appropriate because it allows the Board to exercise informed and independent judgment over matters under its purview and it allocates areas of responsibility among committees of Trustees and the full Board in a manner that enhances effective oversight.

The Fund is subject to a number of risks, including investment, compliance, operational and valuation risks, among others. Risk oversight forms part of the Board's general oversight of the Fund and is addressed as part of various Board and committee activities. Day-to-day risk management functions are subsumed within the responsibilities of the Investment Adviser and other service providers (depending on the nature of the risk), which carry out the Fund's investment management and business affairs. The Investment Adviser and other service providers employ a variety of processes, procedures and controls to identify various events or circumstances that give rise to risks, to lessen the probability of their occurrence and/or to mitigate the effects of such events or circumstances if they do occur. Each of the Investment Adviser and other service providers has its own independent interests in risk management, and their policies and methods of risk management will depend on their functions and business models. The Board recognizes that it is not possible to identify all of the risks that may affect the Fund or to develop processes and controls to eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects. The Board will require senior officers of the Fund, including the President, Treasurer and Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") and the Investment Adviser, to report to the full Board on a variety of matters at regular and special meetings of the Board, including matters relating to risk management. The Board and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm on internal control and financial reporting matters. The Board also receives reports from certain of the Fund's other primary service providers on a periodic or regular basis, including the Fund's custodian, distributor and administrator. The Board may, at any time and in its discretion, change the manner in which it conducts risk oversight.

Committees of the Board of Trustees

Audit Committee

The Board has formed an Audit Committee that is responsible for overseeing the Fund's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, its internal controls, and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers; overseeing the quality and objectivity of the Fund's financial statements and the independent audit of those financial statements; and acting as a liaison between the Fund's independent auditors and the full Board. In performing its responsibilities, the Audit Committee will select and recommend annually to the entire Board a firm of independent certified public accountants to audit the books and records of the Fund for the ensuing year, and will review with the firm the scope and results of each audit. The Audit Committee currently consists of each of the Fund's Independent Trustees. The Audit Committee held two meetings during the last fiscal year.

Nominating Committee

The Board has formed a Nominating Committee that is responsible for selecting and nominating persons to serve as Trustees of the Fund. The Nominating Committee is responsible for both nominating candidates to be appointed by the Board to fill vacancies and for nominating candidates to be presented to Shareholders for election. In performing its responsibilities, the Nominating Committee will consider candidates recommended by management of the Fund and by Shareholders and evaluate them both in a similar manner, as long as the recommendation submitted by a Shareholder includes at a minimum: the name, address and telephone number of the recommending Shareholder and information concerning the Shareholder's interests in the Fund in sufficient detail to establish that the Shareholder held Shares on the relevant record date; and the name, address and telephone number of the recommended nominee and information concerning the recommended nominee's education, professional experience, and other information that might assist the Nominating Committee in evaluating the recommended nominee's qualifications to serve as a trustee. The Nominating Committee may solicit candidates to serve as trustees from any source it deems appropriate. With the Board's prior approval, the Nominating Committee may employ and compensate counsel, consultants or advisers to assist it in discharging its responsibilities. The Nominating Committee currently consists of each of the Fund's Independent Trustees. The Nominating Committee did not hold any meetings during the last fiscal year.

Trustee and Officer Ownership of Securities

As of December 31, 2024, none of the Trustees owned Shares of the Fund.

As of July 1, 2025, the Trustees and officers of the Fund as a group owned less than one percent of the outstanding Shares of the Fund.

Independent Trustee Ownership of Securities

As of December 31, 2024, none of the Independent Trustees (or their immediate family members) owned beneficially or of record securities of the Investment Adviser, or of an entity (other than a registered investment company) controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Investment Adviser.

Trustee Compensation

In consideration of the services rendered by the Independent Trustees, the Fund pays each Independent Trustee an annual retainer of \$16,000 per fiscal year, as well as (i) \$2,500 for each Audit Committee meeting attended; (ii) \$3,000 per each special Board meeting attended; and (iii) \$1,500 per each special non-Board meeting attended. Trustees who are interested persons will be compensated by the Fund's administrator and/or its affiliates and will not be separately compensated by the Fund.

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, the Fund compensated the Trustees as follows:

Name of Trustee	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund	
<u>Independent Trustees:</u>		
David G. Lee	\$	19,813
Robert Seyferth	\$	19,813
Gary E. Shugrue	\$	19,813
<u>Interested Trustee:</u>		
Terrance P. Gallagher		None

CODES OF ETHICS

The Fund, the Investment Adviser and the Distributor have each adopted a code of ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 of the Investment Company Act, which is designed to prevent affiliated persons of the Fund, the Investment Adviser and the Distributor from engaging in deceptive, manipulative, or fraudulent activities in connection with securities held or to be acquired by the Fund. The codes of ethics permit persons subject to them to invest in securities, including securities that may be held or purchased by the Fund, subject to a number of restrictions and controls. Compliance with the codes of ethics is carefully monitored and enforced.

The codes of ethics are included as exhibits to the Fund's registration statement filed with the SEC and are available on the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at <https://www.sec.gov>, and may also be obtained after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following E-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov.

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES

The Investment Adviser

First Trust Capital Management L.P. serves as the investment adviser to the Fund. The Investment Adviser is an investment adviser registered with the SEC under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Subject to the general supervision of the Board, and in accordance with the investment objective, policies, and restrictions of the Fund, the Investment Adviser is responsible for the management and operation of the Fund and the investment of the Fund's assets. The Investment Adviser provides such services to the Fund pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement (the "Investment Management Agreement").

The Investment Management Agreement became effective as of May 31, 2023 and will continue in effect for an initial two-year term. Thereafter, the Investment Management Agreement will continue in effect from year to year provided such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by (i) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund or a majority of the Board, and (ii) the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees of the Fund, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the Investment Management Agreement is available in the Fund's annual report to Shareholders for the period ended March 31, 2025.

Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement, the Fund pays the Investment Adviser a monthly investment management fee ("Investment Management Fee") equal to 1.05% on an annualized basis of the Fund's average daily net assets during the month, subject to certain adjustments. The Investment Management Fee will be paid to the Investment Adviser before giving effect to any repurchase of Shares in the Fund effective as of that date, and will decrease the net profits or increase the net losses of the Fund that are credited to its Shareholders. NAV means the total value of all assets of the Fund, less an amount equal to all accrued debts, liabilities and obligations of the Fund; provided that for purposes of determining the Investment Management Fee payable to the Investment Adviser for any month, NAV will be calculated prior to any reduction for any fees and expenses of the Fund for that month, including, without limitation, the Investment Management Fee payable to the Investment Adviser for that month.

The Investment Adviser has entered into an expense limitation and reimbursement agreement (the “Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement”) with the Fund, whereby the Investment Adviser has agreed to waive fees that it would otherwise have been paid, and/or to assume expenses of the Fund (a “Waiver”), if required to ensure the Total Annual Expenses (excluding any taxes, leverage interest, brokerage commissions, dividend and interest expenses on short sales, acquired fund fees and expenses, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, and extraordinary expenses, such as litigation expenses) do not exceed 2.45% and 1.70% of the average daily net assets of Class A Shares and Class I Shares, respectively (the “Expense Limit”). The Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement may not be terminated by the Fund or the Investment Adviser before May 31, 2026. After this date, the Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement may be terminated by the Fund or the Investment Adviser upon 30 days’ written notice. Unless it is terminated, the Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement automatically renews from year to year. For a period not to exceed three years from the date on which a Waiver is made, the Investment Adviser may recoup amounts waived or assumed, provided it is able to effect such repayment and remain in compliance with the Expense Limit in effect at the time of the Waiver and the Expense Limit at the time of the repayment. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, the Investment Adviser waived fees of \$513,982. At March 31, 2025, \$1,179,647 is subject for recoupment through March 31, 2028.

For the fiscal period from July 3, 2023 (commencement of operations) to March 31, 2024, the Fund paid the Investment Adviser management fees (after waivers and reimbursements) and the Investment Manager waived management fees and reimbursed expenses, as follows:

	Management Fees	Waivers	Reimbursements	Management Fees Paid (After Waivers and Reimbursements)
Investment Adviser	\$ 340,971	\$ (340,971)	\$ --	\$ --

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, the Fund paid the Investment Adviser management fees (after waivers and reimbursements) and the Investment Adviser waived management fees and reimbursed expenses, as follows:

	Management Fees	Waivers	Reimbursements	Management Fees Paid (After Waivers and Reimbursements)
Investment Adviser	\$ 558,463	\$ (513,982)	\$ --	\$ 44,481

The Portfolio Managers

The personnel of the Investment Adviser who will have primary responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Fund’s portfolio (the “Portfolio Managers”) are Michael Peck and Brian Murphy.

Other Accounts Managed by the Portfolio Managers⁽¹⁾

Type of Accounts	Total # of Accounts Managed	Total Assets (\$mm)	# of Accounts Managed for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance	Total Assets for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance (\$mm)
1. Michael Peck				
Registered Investment Companies:	8	\$ 4,035.35	2	\$ 92.48
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	15	\$ 707.73	9	\$ 298.46
Other Accounts:	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0
2. Brian Murphy				
Registered Investment Companies:	8	\$ 4,035.35	2	\$ 92.48
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	22	\$ 760.96	9	\$ 298.46
Other Accounts:	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0

(1) As of March 31, 2025

Conflicts of Interest

The Investment Advisers and Portfolio Managers may manage multiple funds and/or other accounts, and as a result may be presented with one or more of the following actual or potential conflicts:

The management of multiple funds and/or other accounts may result in the Investment Adviser or a Portfolio Manager devoting unequal time and attention to the management of each fund and/or other account. The Investment Adviser seeks to manage such competing interests for the time and attention of a Portfolio Manager by having the Portfolio Manager focus on a particular investment discipline. Most other accounts managed by a Portfolio Manager are managed using the same investment models that are used in connection with the management of the Fund.

If the Investment Adviser or a Portfolio Manager identifies a limited investment opportunity which may be suitable for more than one fund or other account, a fund may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity due to an allocation of filled purchase or sale orders across all eligible funds and other accounts. To deal with these situations, the Investment Adviser has adopted procedures for allocating portfolio transactions across multiple accounts.

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

Compensation of the Portfolio Managers

Mr. Peck and Mr. Murphy receive base salaries and bonuses, neither of which is based on performance, and are eligible to avail themselves of life insurance, medical and dental benefits offered to all employees of the Investment Adviser and to participate in the Investment Adviser's 401(k) plan. In addition, they are members of VFT Holdings LP and receive compensation based on the overall profitability of the firm and its affiliates.

Portfolio Managers' Ownership of Shares

Name of Portfolio Manager:	Dollar Range of Shares Beneficially Owned by Portfolio Manager ⁽¹⁾ :
Michael Peck	\$10,000 - \$50,000
Brian Murphy	\$0 - \$10,000

(1) As of March 31, 2025.

BROKERAGE

It is the policy of the Fund to obtain the best results in connection with effecting its portfolio transactions taking into account factors such as price, size of order, difficulty of execution and operational facilities of a brokerage firm and the firm's risk in positioning a block of securities. In most instances, the Fund will purchase interests in an Investment Fund directly from the Investment Fund, and such purchases by the Fund may be, but are generally not, subject to transaction expenses. Nevertheless, the Fund anticipates that some of its portfolio transactions (including investments in Investment Funds) may be subject to expenses. The Investment Funds incur transaction expenses in the management of their portfolios, which will decrease the value of the Fund's investment in the Investment Funds. Each Investment Fund is responsible for placing orders for the execution of its portfolio transactions and for the allocation of its brokerage. The Investment Adviser will have no direct or indirect control over the brokerage or portfolio trading policies employed by the Underlying Managers.

During the fiscal period from July 3, 2023 (commencement of operations) to March 31, 2024, the Fund paid no brokerage commissions. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, the Fund paid no brokerage commissions.

TAXES

The following summarizes certain additional tax considerations generally affecting the Fund and Shareholders that are not described in the Prospectus. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of the tax treatment of the Fund or its Shareholders, and the discussions here and in the Prospectus are not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning. Potential investors should consult their tax advisers with specific reference to their own tax situations.

The discussions of the federal tax consequences in the Prospectus and this SAI are based on the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") and the regulations issued under it, and court decisions and administrative interpretations, as in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions may significantly alter the statements included herein, and any such changes or decisions may be retroactive.

General

The Fund intends to qualify as a regulated investment company ("RIC") under the Code. As a RIC, the Fund will generally not be subject to federal corporate income taxes, provided that it distributes out to Shareholders its taxable income and gain each year. To qualify for treatment as a RIC, the Fund must meet three important tests each year.

First, the Fund must derive with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currencies, other income derived with respect to its business of investing in stock, securities or currencies, or net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships.

Second, generally, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, at least 50% of the value of the Fund's assets must consist of cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other RICs, and securities of other issuers (as to which the Fund has not invested more than 5% of the value of its total assets in securities of the issuer and as to which the Fund does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer), and no more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of (1) any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities and securities of other RICs), (2) two or more issuers that the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or (3) one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships.

Third, the Fund must distribute an amount equal to at least the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (net investment income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) and 90% of its tax-exempt income, if any, for the year.

The Fund intends to comply with this distribution requirement. If the Fund were to fail to make sufficient distributions, it could be liable for corporate income tax and for excise tax in respect of the shortfall or, if the shortfall is large enough, the Fund could be disqualified as a RIC. If for any taxable year the Fund were not to qualify as a RIC, all its taxable income would be subject to tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for distributions to Shareholders. In that event, taxable Shareholders would recognize dividend income on distributions to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, although Shareholders that are corporations could be eligible for the dividends-received deduction.

The Code imposes a nondeductible 4% excise tax on RICs that fail to distribute each year an amount equal to specified percentages of their ordinary taxable income and capital gain net income (excess of capital gains over capital losses). The Fund intends to make sufficient distributions or deemed distributions each year to avoid liability for this excise tax.

The Fund may be required to liquidate positions in order to fund the repurchase of shares. The Fund will seek to manage its ability to meet the RIC requirements in light of any asset liquidations necessary to repurchase shares. However, in some circumstances, repurchases could impact the Fund's ability to meet the above-described requirements. For example, amounts used to repurchase shares are unavailable for the Fund to use to meet its distribution requirements, or the disposition of Fund assets may affect its ability to continue to meet the asset diversification test described above.

The Fund will own interests in entities that are classified as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. As a partner in a partnership, the Fund will be required to recognize its allocable share of taxable income, if any, from the partnership, whether or not such income is actually distributed from the partnership to the Fund. Accordingly, the Fund may need to borrow money or dispose of its interests in Investment Funds to make the required distributions. Additionally, the Fund may receive an allocation of items of income or deduction that are tax preferences or adjustments to income for alternative minimum tax purposes which will be passed through to Fund's shareholders. The character of the income recognized by the partnership flows through to the Fund including for purposes of determining whether at least 90% of the income of the Fund is qualifying income. Accordingly, if a partnership derives income other than qualifying income, such income will not count toward meeting the 90% requirement. To the extent that income expected to be received from a partnership may not be qualifying income or a partnership's underlying assets may prevent the Fund from meeting the asset diversification requirements, the Fund will limit its investments in partnerships.

Certain of the Fund's investments will require the Fund to recognize taxable income in a taxable year in excess of the cash generated on those investments during that year. Additionally, some of the CLOs in which the Fund invests may constitute passive foreign investment companies, or under certain circumstances, controlled foreign corporations. Because the Fund may be required to recognize income in respect of these investments before, or without receiving, cash representing such income, the Fund may have difficulty satisfying the annual distribution requirements applicable to RICs and avoiding Fund-level U.S. federal income and/or excise taxes. Accordingly, the Fund may be required to sell assets, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, raise additional debt or equity capital, make taxable distributions of its shares or debt securities, or reduce new investments, to obtain the cash needed to make these income distributions. If the Fund liquidates assets to raise cash, the Fund may realize gain or loss on such liquidations; in the event the Fund realizes net capital gains from such liquidation transactions, the Fund shareholders may receive larger capital gain distributions than they would in the absence of such transactions.

The Fund may invest a portion of its net assets in below investment grade instruments. Investments in these types of instruments may present special tax issues for the Fund. U.S. federal income tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as when the Fund may cease to accrue interest, or market discount, when and to what extent deductions may be taken for bad debts or worthless instruments, how payments received on obligations in default should be allocated between principal and income and whether exchanges of debt obligations in a bankruptcy or workout context are taxable. These and other issues will be addressed by the Fund to the extent necessary to seek to distribute sufficient income that it does not become subject to U.S. federal income or excise tax.

State and Local Taxes

Although the Fund expects to qualify as a RIC and to be relieved of all or substantially all federal income taxes, depending upon the extent of its activities in states and localities in which its offices are maintained, in which its agents or independent contractors are located or in which it is otherwise deemed to be conducting business, the Fund may be subject to the tax laws of such states or localities.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM; LEGAL COUNSEL

Ernst & Young LLP, located at principal business address 155 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, serves as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm, providing audit services.

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, One Logan Square, Suite 2000, Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996, serves as counsel to the Fund and the Independent Trustees.

ADMINISTRATOR

The Fund has contracted with UMB Fund Services, Inc. (the “Administrator”) to provide it with certain administrative and accounting services. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, the Fund paid the Administrator \$53,188, in accounting and administration fees. For the fiscal period from July 3, 2023 (commencement of operations) to March 31, 2024, the Fund paid the Administrator \$34,118, in accounting and administration fees.

CUSTODIAN

UMB Bank, n.a. (the “Custodian”), serves as the primary custodian of the assets of the Fund, and may maintain custody of such assets with U.S. and non-U.S. subcustodians (which may be banks, trust companies, securities depositories and clearing agencies) in accordance with the requirements of Section 17(f) of the Investment Company Act. Assets of the Fund are not held by the Investment Adviser, or commingled with the assets of other accounts other than to the extent that securities are held in the name of the Custodian or U.S. or non-U.S. subcustodians in a securities depository, clearing agency or omnibus customer account of such custodian. The Custodian’s principal business address is 1010 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. The Custodian is an affiliate of UMB Fund Services, Inc., which serves as the Fund’s administrator.

DISTRIBUTOR

First Trust Portfolios L.P. (“Distributor” or “FT Portfolios”) is the distributor of Shares and is located at 120 E. Liberty Drive, Suite 400, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, the Distributor acts as the agent of the Fund in connection with the continuous offering of Shares of the Fund. The Distributor continually distributes Shares of the Fund on a commercially reasonable efforts basis. The Distributor has no obligation to sell any specific quantity of Shares. The Distributor and its officers have no role in determining (i) the investment policies of the Fund, (ii) which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Fund, or (iii) the valuation of the Fund’s assets and liabilities. The Distributor is affiliated with the Investment Adviser.

ADDITIONAL PAYMENT TO FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

FT Portfolios or its affiliates may from time to time make payments, out of their own resources, to certain financial intermediaries that sell shares of the Fund and other products for which FT Portfolios serves as Distributor (collectively, “FT Portfolios Funds”) to promote the sales and retention of FT Portfolios Fund shares by those firms and their customers. The amounts of these payments vary by intermediary. The level of payments that FT Portfolios or an affiliate is willing to provide to a particular intermediary may be affected by, among other factors, (i) the firm’s total assets or FT Portfolios Fund shares held in and recent net investments into FT Portfolios Funds, (ii) the value of the assets invested in the FT Portfolios Funds by the intermediary’s customers, (iii) redemption rates, (iv) its ability to attract and retain assets, (v) the intermediary’s reputation in the industry, (vi) the level and/or type of marketing assistance and educational activities provided by the intermediary, (vii) the firm’s level of participation in FT Portfolios Funds’ sales and marketing programs, (viii) the firm’s compensation program for its registered representatives who sell FT Portfolios Fund shares and provide services to FT Portfolios Fund shareholders, and (ix) the asset class of the FT Portfolios Funds for which these payments are provided. Such payments are generally asset-based but also may include the payment of a lump sum.

FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates may also make payments to certain intermediaries for certain administrative services and shareholder processing services, including record keeping and sub-accounting of shareholder accounts pursuant to a sub-transfer agency, omnibus account service or sub-accounting agreement. All fees payable by FT Portfolios or an affiliate under this category of services may be charged back to the FT Portfolios Fund, subject to approval by the Board.

FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates may make payments, out of its own assets, to those firms as compensation and/or reimbursement for marketing support and/or program servicing to selected intermediaries that are registered as holders or dealers of record for accounts invested in one or more of the FT Portfolios Funds or that make FT Portfolios Fund shares available through certain selected FT Portfolios Fund no-transaction fee institutional platforms and fee-based wrap programs at certain financial intermediaries. Program servicing payments typically apply to employee benefit plans, such as retirement plans, or fee-based advisory programs but may apply to retail sales and assets in certain situations. The payments are based on such factors as the type and nature of services or support furnished by the intermediary and are generally asset-based. Services for which an intermediary receives marketing support payments may include, but are not limited to, business planning assistance, advertising, educating the intermediary’s personnel about FT Portfolios Funds in connection with shareholder financial planning needs, placement on the intermediary’s preferred or recommended fund list, and access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the intermediary. In addition, intermediaries may be compensated for enabling representatives of FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates to participate in and/or present at conferences or seminars, sales or training programs for invited registered representatives and other employees, client and investor events and other events sponsored by the intermediary. Services for which an intermediary receives program servicing payments typically include, but are not limited to, record keeping, reporting or transaction processing and shareholder communications and other account administration services, but may also include services rendered in connection with Fund investment selection and monitoring, employee enrollment and education, plan balance rollover or separation, or other similar services. An intermediary may perform program services itself or may arrange with a third party to perform program services. These payments, if any, are in addition to the service fee and any applicable omnibus sub-accounting fees paid to these firms with respect to these services by the FT Portfolios Funds out of FT Portfolios Fund assets.

From time to time, FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates, at its expense, may provide other compensation to intermediaries that sell or arrange for the sale of shares of the FT Portfolios Funds, which may be in addition to marketing support and program servicing payments described above. For example, FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates may: (i) compensate intermediaries for National Securities Clearing Corporation networking system services (e.g., shareholder communication, account statements, trade confirmations and tax reporting) on an asset-based or per-account basis; (ii) compensate intermediaries for providing FT Portfolios Fund shareholder trading information; (iii) make one-time or periodic payments to reimburse selected intermediaries for items such as ticket charges (i.e., fees that an intermediary charges its representatives for effecting transactions in FT Portfolios Fund shares) or exchange order, operational charges (e.g., fees that an intermediary charges for establishing the FT Portfolios Fund on its trading system), and literature printing and/or distribution costs; (iv) at the direction of a retirement plan's sponsor, reimburse or pay direct expenses of an employee benefit plan that would otherwise be payable by the plan; and (v) provide payments to broker-dealers to help defray their technology or infrastructure costs.

When not provided for in a marketing support or program servicing agreement, FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates may also pay intermediaries for enabling FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates to participate in and/or present at conferences or seminars, sales or training programs for invited registered representatives and other intermediary employees, client and investor events and other intermediary-sponsored events, and for travel expenses, including lodging incurred by registered representatives and other employees in connection with prospecting, asset retention and due diligence trips. These payments may vary depending upon the nature of the event. FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates make payments for such events as it deems appropriate, subject to its internal guidelines and applicable law.

FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates occasionally sponsor due diligence meetings for registered representatives during which they receive updates on various FT Portfolios Funds and are afforded the opportunity to speak with portfolio managers. Although invitations to these meetings are not conditioned on selling a specific number of shares, those who have shown an interest in FT Portfolios Funds are more likely to be considered. To the extent permitted by their firm's policies and procedures, all or a portion of registered representatives' expenses in attending these meetings may be covered by FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates.

The amounts of payments referenced above made by FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates could be significant and may create an incentive for an intermediary or its representatives to recommend or offer shares of the FT Portfolios Funds to its customers. The intermediary may elevate the prominence or profile of the FT Portfolios Funds within the intermediary's organization by, for example, placing the FT Portfolios Funds on a list of preferred or recommended funds and/or granting FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates preferential or enhanced opportunities to promote the FT Portfolios Funds in various ways within the intermediary's organization. These payments are made pursuant to negotiated agreements with intermediaries. The payments do not change the price paid by investors for the purchase of a share or the amount the FT Portfolios Fund will receive as proceeds from such sales. Furthermore, many of these payments are not reflected in the fees and expenses listed in the fee table section of the FT Portfolios Fund's Prospectus because they are not paid by the FT Portfolios Fund. The types of payments described herein are not mutually exclusive, and a single intermediary may receive some or all types of payments as described.

Other compensation may be offered to the extent not prohibited by state laws or any self-regulatory agency, such as FINRA. Investors can ask their intermediaries for information about any payments they receive from FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates and the services it provides for those payments. Investors may wish to take intermediary payment arrangements into account when considering and evaluating any recommendations relating to FT Portfolios Fund shares.

PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Board has delegated responsibility for decisions regarding proxy voting for securities held by the Fund to the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will vote such proxies in accordance with its proxy voting policies and procedures. Copies of the Investment Adviser's proxy policies and procedures are included as Appendix A to this SAI. The Board will periodically review the Fund's proxy voting record.

The Fund is required to file Form N-PX, with its complete proxy voting record for the twelve months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. The Fund's Form N-PX filing, once available, will be available: (i) without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund at 1-(877) 779-1999, (ii) by visiting the SEC's website at www.sec.gov, or (iii) by visiting the Investment Advisor's website at www.firsttrustcapital.com.

CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

The following table sets forth the information concerning beneficial and record ownership as of June 30, 2025, of the Fund's shares by each person who owned of record, or who was known by the Fund to own beneficially, 5% or more of any class of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund's Class A Shares and Class I Shares. The Fund's shares are sold through channels including broker-dealer intermediaries that may establish single, omnibus accounts with the Fund's transfer agent. The beneficial owners of these shares, however, are the individual investors who maintain accounts within these broker-dealer intermediaries.

Name of Shareholder	Shares Owned	Percentage of Outstanding Shares (Class)	Percentage of Outstanding Shares (Fund)
Class A Shares			
First Trust Capital Management LP 225 West Wacker Dr. Suite 2100 Chicago, IL 60606	103	8%	0%
Pershing LLC P.O. Box 2052 Jersey City, NJ 07303-9998	1,168	92%	0%
Class I Shares			
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	4,658,064	91%	91%

As of June 30, 2025, there were no other record or beneficial owners of 5% or more of the Fund or any Share class.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Fund's audited financial statements and financial highlights for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025 (including the report of Ernst & Young LLP, the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm) are available in the Fund's [Annual Report](#) and are incorporated by reference into this SAI. The Fund's audited financial statements and financial highlights for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024 (including the report by Grant Thornton LLP, the Fund's former independent registered public accounting firm) are incorporated by reference into this SAI. No other parts of the Annual Report are incorporated by reference herein. You may obtain the Annual Report free of charge by writing to the Fund, c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc., 235 West Galena Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212, by calling the Fund toll-free at (877) 779-1999 or by following the above hyperlink.

APPENDIX A — PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



First Trust Capital Management L.P.

PROXY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

INTRODUCTION

First Trust Capital Management L.P. (“FTCM”) acts as either the advisor or sub-advisor to a number of registered investment companies, and manager or general partner to a number of non-registered private investment companies (referred to collectively as the “Funds”). In accord with Rule 206(4)-6 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, FTCM has adopted the following policies and procedures to provide information on FTCM’s proxy policy (the “Proxy Policy and Procedure”). These policies and procedures apply only to FTCM. Investment managers engaged as a sub-advisor for at least one of the Funds are required to vote proxies in accord with their own policies and procedures and any applicable management agreements, as agreed upon in the sub-advisory agreement.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

FTCM’s Proxy Policy and Procedure is designed to ensure that proxies are voted in a manner (i) reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the Funds and their shareholders¹ and (ii) not affected by any material conflict of interest. FTCM considers shareholders’ best economic interests over the long term (*i.e.*, addresses the common interest of all shareholders over time). Although shareholders may have differing political or social interests or values, their economic interest is generally uniform.

FTCM has adopted voting guidelines to assist in making voting decisions on common issues. The guidelines are designed to address those securities in which the Funds generally invest and may be revised in FTCM’s discretion. Any non-routine matters not addressed by the proxy voting guidelines are addressed on a case-by-case basis, considering all relevant facts and circumstances at the time of the vote, particularly where such matters have a potential for major economic impact on the issuer’s structure or operations. In making voting determinations, FTCM typically will rely on the individual portfolio managers who invest in and track particular companies as they are the most knowledgeable about, and best suited to make decisions regarding, particular proxy matters. In addition, FTCM may conduct research internally and/or use the resources of an independent research consultant. FTCM may also consider other materials such as studies of corporate governance and/or analyses of shareholder and management proposals by a certain sector of companies and may engage in dialogue with an issuer’s management.

FTCM acknowledges its responsibility to identify material conflicts of interest related to voting proxies. FTCM’s employees are required to disclose to the Chief Compliance Officer (“CCO”) any personal conflicts, such as officer or director positions held by them, their spouses or close relatives, in any publicly traded company. Conflicts based on business relationships with FTCM, any affiliate or any person associated with FTCM, will be considered only to the extent that FTCM has actual knowledge of such relationships. FTCM then takes appropriate steps to address identified conflicts. Typically, in those instances when a proxy vote may present a conflict between the interests of the Fund, on the one hand, and FTCM’s interests or the interests of a person affiliated with FTCM on the other, FTCM will abstain from making a voting decision and will document the decision and reasoning for doing so.

In some cases, the cost of voting a proxy may outweigh the expected benefits. For example, casting a vote on a foreign security may involve additional costs such as hiring a translator or traveling to the foreign country to vote the security in person. In such situations, FTCM may abstain from voting a proxy if the effect on shareholders’ economic interests or the value of the portfolio holding is indeterminable or insignificant.

In certain cases, securities on loan as part of a securities lending program may not be voted. Nothing in the proxy voting policies shall obligate FTCM to exercise voting rights with respect to a portfolio security if it is prohibited by the terms of the security or by applicable law or otherwise.

FTCM will not discuss with members of the public how they intend to vote on any particular proxy proposal.

¹ Actions taken in accord with the best interests of the Funds and their shareholders are those which align most closely with the Funds’ stated investment objectives and strategies.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The registered investment companies are subject to the restrictions of Sections 12(d)(1)(A)(i) and (B)(i) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “Act”). Generally, these provisions require that any fund and any entity controlled by that fund (including ETFs that are registered investment companies) may not (i) own, in the aggregate, more than three percent (3%) of the total outstanding voting securities of any registered open-end or closed-end investment company, including money market funds²; (ii) invest more than 5% of its total net assets in any one investment company; or (iii) invest more than 10% of its total assets in the securities of other investment companies. Section 12(d)(1)(F) of the Act provides that the Section 12(d)(1) limitations do not apply to the securities acquired by a fund if (x) immediately after the purchase or acquisition of not more than 3% of the total outstanding stock of such registered investment company is owned by the fund and all affiliated persons of the fund, and (y) the fund is not proposing to offer or sell any security issued by it through a principal underwriter or otherwise at a public or offering price which includes a sales load of more than one and a half percent (1.5%). In the event that one of Funds relies upon Section 12(d)(1)(F), FTCM, acting on behalf of the Fund, will, when voting with respect to any investment company owned by the Fund, comply with either of the following voting restrictions:

- Seek instruction from the Fund’s shareholders with regard to the voting of all proxies and vote in accordance with such instructions, or
- Vote the shares held by the Fund in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of such security.
- In addition to Section 12(d)(1)(F), Rule 12d1-4 under the Act states that a registered investment company (“Acquiring Fund”) may purchase or otherwise acquire the securities issued by another registered investment company (the “Acquired Fund”) in excess of the limits of Section 12(d)(1) and an Acquired Fund may sell or otherwise dispose of the securities issued by the Acquiring Fund in excess of the limits of Section 12(d)(1) if certain conditions are met. One of the conditions is that if the Acquiring Fund and its advisory group (as defined by Rule 12d1-4), in aggregate (A) hold more than 25% of the outstanding voting securities of an Acquired Fund that is a registered open-end management investment company or registered unit investment trust as a result of a decrease in the outstanding voting securities of an Acquired Fund, or (B) hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of an Acquired Fund that is a registered closed-end management investment company or business development company, each of those holders will vote its securities in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of such securities. When relying on Rule 12d1-4, the Fund will comply with such voting restrictions as required by Rule 12d1-4 and any applicable provision in the respective Fund of Funds Agreement with the Acquired Fund.

ISS PROXYEDGE

FTCM has a contractual relationship with Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (“ISS”) through which ISS provides certain proxy management services to FTCM’s portfolio management teams. Specifically, ISS (i) provides access to the ISS ProxyExchange web-based voting and research platform to access vote recommendations, research reports, execute vote instructions and run reports relevant to Subscriber’s proxy voting environment; (ii) implements and maps FTCM’s designated proxy voting policies to applicable accounts and generates vote recommendations based on the application of such policies; and (iii) monitors FTCM’s incoming ballots, performs ballot-to-account reconciliations with FTCM and its third party providers to help ensure that ISS is receiving all ballots for which FTCM has voting rights. As part of our compliance procedures, FTCM’s Compliance Department reviews ISS on a periodic basis. The procedures performed include obtaining and reviewing certain compliance and operational related documents and reviewing a sample of proxies voted during the year to ensure compliance with our proxy voting policies and procedures.

ISS provides two options for how proxy ballots are executed:

1. Implied Consent: ISS executes ballots on FTCM’s behalf based on policy guidelines chosen at the time FTCM entered into the relationship with ISS.
2. Mandatory Signoff: ISS is not permitted to mark or process any ballot on FTCM’s behalf without first receiving FTCM’s specific voting instructions via ProxyExchange.

FTCM has opted for Option 1. Implied Consent and in so doing has chosen to allow ISS to vote proxies on its behalf “with management’s recommendations.” FTCM has the option, however, to change its vote from the “with management’s recommendations” default at any point prior to the voting deadline if the portfolio managers following the subject company determine it is in the best interests of the Funds and their shareholders to do so. In those instances when the subject company’s management has not provided a voting recommendation, FTCM will either vote based on its own determination of what would align most closely with the best interests of the Funds and their shareholders or will opt to allow ISS to submit an “abstain” vote on its behalf. In addition, in those limited instances when share blocking³ may apply, FTCM has instructed ISS not to cast a vote on FTCM’s behalf unless FTCM provides specific instructions via ProxyExchange.

FUND OF FUNDS-SPECIFIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Several of the Funds are “Fund of Funds” that invest primarily in general or limited partnerships or other private investment vehicles (collectively, “Investment Funds”). While it is unlikely that the Fund of Funds will receive notices or proxies from Investment Funds, to the extent that the Fund of Funds do receive such notices or proxies and the Fund of Funds have voting interests in such Investment Funds, the responsibility for decisions regarding proxy voting for securities held by the Fund of Funds lies with FTCM as their advisor. FTCM will vote such proxies in accordance with the proxy policies and procedures noted above.

² The three percent (3%) limit is measured at the time of investment.

³ Proxy voting in certain countries requires share blocking. Shareholders wishing to vote their proxies must deposit their shares shortly before the meeting date with a designated depository. During this blocking period, any shares held by the designated depository cannot be sold until the meeting has taken place and the shares have been returned to FTCM’s custodian banks. FTCM generally opts not to participate in share blocking proxies given these restrictions on their ability to trade.

REGISTERED INVESTMENT COMPANIES-SPECIFIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Each Fund that is registered under the Act is required to file Form N-PX annually, with its complete proxy voting record for the twelve (12) months ended June 30th, no later than August 31st of each year. The Fund's Form N-PX filing is available (i) without charge, upon request, from the Fund's administrator or (ii) by visiting the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

APPENDIX B — RATINGS OF INVESTMENTS DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES RATINGS

Short-Term Credit Ratings

An *S&P Global Ratings* short-term issue credit rating is generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market. The following summarizes the rating categories used by S&P Global Ratings for short-term issues:

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

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

“A-3” – A short-term obligation rated “A-3” exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken an obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

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

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

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

Local Currency and Foreign Currency Ratings – S&P Global Ratings’ issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. A foreign currency rating on an issuer can differ from the local currency rating on it when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, versus obligations denominated in a foreign currency.

“NR” – This indicates that a rating has not been assigned or is no longer assigned.

Moody’s Investors Service (“Moody’s”) short-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment.

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

“P-1” – Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-1 reflect a superior ability to repay short-term obligations.

“P-2” – Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-2 reflect a strong ability to repay short-term obligations.

“P-3” – Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-3 reflect an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations.

“NP” – Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated issuer, obligation and/or program.

Fitch, Inc. / Fitch Ratings Ltd. (“Fitch”) short-term issuer or obligation rating is based in all cases on the short-term vulnerability to default of the rated entity and relates to the capacity to meet financial obligations in accordance with the documentation governing the relevant obligation. Short-term deposit ratings may be adjusted for loss severity. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations whose initial maturity is viewed as “short-term” based on market convention.⁴ Typically, this means up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign, and structured obligations and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets. The following summarizes the rating categories used by Fitch for short-term obligations:

“F1” – Securities possess the highest short-term credit quality. This designation indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added “+” to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

“F2” – Securities possess good short-term credit quality. This designation indicates good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

“F3” – Securities possess fair short-term credit quality. This designation indicates that the intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.

“B” – Securities possess speculative short-term credit quality. This designation indicates minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

“C” – Securities possess high short-term default risk. Default is a real possibility.

“RD” – Restricted default. Indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other financial obligations. Typically applicable to entity ratings only.

“D” – Default. Indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a short-term obligation.

“NR” – Is assigned to an issue of a rated issuer that are not and have not been rated.

The **Morningstar® DBRS Ratings Limited (“Morningstar DBRS”)** short-term obligation ratings provide Morningstar DBRS’s opinion on the risk that an issuer will not meet its short-term financial obligations in a timely manner. The obligations rated in this category typically have a term of shorter than one year. The R-1 and R-2 rating categories are further denoted by the subcategories “(high)”, “(middle)”, and “(low)”.

The following summarizes the ratings used by Morningstar DBRS for commercial paper and short-term debt:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁴ A long-term rating can also be used to rate an issue with short maturity.

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

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

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

Long-Term Issue Credit Ratings

The following summarizes the ratings used by *S&P Global Ratings* for long-term issues:

“AAA” – An obligation rated “AAA” has the highest rating assigned by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is extremely strong.

“AA” – An obligation rated “AA” differs from the highest-rated obligations only to a small degree. The obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is very strong.

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

“BBB” – An obligation rated “BBB” exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

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

“BB” – An obligation rated “BB” is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions that could lead to the obligor’s inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

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

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

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

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

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

Plus (+) or minus (-) – Ratings from “AA” to “CCC” may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the rating categories.

“NR” – This indicates that a rating has not been assigned, or is no longer assigned.

Local Currency and Foreign Currency Ratings - S&P Global Ratings’ issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. A foreign currency rating on an issuer can differ from the local currency rating on it when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, versus obligations denominated in a foreign currency.

Moody’s long-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of eleven months or more. Such ratings reflect both on the likelihood of default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment. The following summarizes the ratings used by Moody’s for long-term debt:

“Aaa” – Obligations rated “Aaa” are judged to be of the highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk.

“Aa” – Obligations rated “Aa” are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.

“A” – Obligations rated “A” are judged to be upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.

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

“Ba” – Obligations rated “Ba” are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.

“B” – Obligations rated “B” are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.

“Caa” – Obligations rated “Caa” are judged to be speculative of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.

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

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

Note: Moody’s appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from “Aa” through “Caa.” The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

“NR” – Is assigned to unrated obligations, obligation and/or program.

The following summarizes long-term ratings used by **Fitch**:

“AAA” – Securities considered to be of the highest credit quality. “AAA” ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

“AA” – Securities considered to be of very high credit quality. “AA” ratings denote expectations of very low credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

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

“BBB” – Securities considered to be of good credit quality. “BBB” ratings indicate that expectations of credit risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.

“BB” – Securities considered to be speculative. “BB” ratings indicates an elevated vulnerability to credit risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.

“B” – Securities considered to be highly speculative. “B” ratings indicate that material credit risk is present

“CCC” – A “CCC” rating indicates that substantial credit risk is present.

“CC” – A “CC” rating indicates very high levels of credit risk.

“C” – A “C” rating indicates exceptionally high levels of credit risk.

Defaulted obligations typically are not assigned “RD” or “D” ratings but are instead rated in the “CCC” to “C” rating categories, depending on their recovery prospects and other relevant characteristics. Fitch believes that this approach better aligns obligations that have comparable overall expected loss but varying vulnerability to default and loss.

Plus (+) or minus (-) may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the “AAA” obligation rating category, or to corporate finance obligation ratings in the categories below “CCC”.

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated issue of a rated issuer.

The Morningstar DBRS long-term obligation ratings provide Morningstar DBRS’s opinion on the risk that investors may not be repaid in accordance with the terms under which the long-term obligation was issued. The obligations rated in this category typically have a term of one year or longer. All rating categories from AA to CCC contain subcategories “(high)” and “(low)”. The absence of either a “(high)” or “(low)” designation indicates the rating is in the middle of the category. The following summarizes the ratings used by Morningstar DBRS for long-term debt:

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

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

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

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

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

“B” – Long-term debt rated “B” is of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet financial obligations.

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

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

Municipal Note Ratings

An **S&P Global Ratings** U.S. municipal note rating reflects S&P Global Ratings' opinion about the liquidity factors and market access risks unique to the notes. Notes due in three years or less will likely receive a note rating. Notes with an original maturity of more than three years will most likely receive a long-term debt rating. In determining which type of rating, if any, to assign, S&P Global Ratings' analysis will review the following considerations:

- Amortization schedule - the larger the final maturity relative to other maturities, the more likely it will be treated as a note; and
- Source of payment - the more dependent the issue is on the market for its refinancing, the more likely it will be treated as a note.

Municipal Short-Term Note rating symbols are as follows:

"SP-1" – A municipal note rated "SP-1" exhibits a strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus (+) designation.

"SP-2" – A municipal note rated "SP-2" exhibits a satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

"SP-3" – A municipal note rated "SP-3" exhibits a speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

"D" – This rating is assigned upon failure to pay the note when due, completion of a distressed debt restructuring, or the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions.

Moody's uses the global short-term Prime rating scale (listed above under Short-Term Credit Ratings) for commercial paper issued by U.S. municipalities and nonprofits. These commercial paper programs may be backed by external letters of credit or liquidity facilities, or by an issuer's self-liquidity.

For other short-term municipal obligations, Moody's uses one of two other short-term rating scales, the Municipal Investment Grade ("MIG") and Variable Municipal Investment Grade ("VMIG") scales provided below.

Moody's uses the MIG scale for U.S. municipal cash flow notes, bond anticipation notes and certain other short-term obligations, which typically mature in three years or less.

MIG Scale

"MIG-1" – This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

"MIG-2" – This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.

"MIG-3" – This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.

"SG" – This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.

"NR" – Is assigned to an unrated obligation, obligation and/or program.

In the case of variable rate demand obligations ("VRDOs"), Moody's assigns both a long-term rating and a short-term payment obligation rating. The long-term rating addresses the issuer's ability to meet scheduled principal and interest payments. The short-term payment obligation rating addresses the ability of the issuer or the liquidity provider to meet any purchase price payment obligation resulting from optional tenders ("on demand") and/or mandatory tenders of the VRDO. The short-term payment obligation rating uses the VMIG scale. Transitions of VMIG ratings with conditional liquidity support differ from transitions of Prime ratings reflecting the risk that external liquidity support will terminate if the issuer's long-term rating drops below investment grade.

Moody's typically assigns the VMIG rating if the frequency of the payment obligation is less than every three years. If the frequency of the payment obligation is less than three years but the obligation is payable only with remarketing proceeds, the VMIG short-term rating is not assigned and it is denoted as "NR".

“VMIG-1” – This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by the superior short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

“VMIG-2” – This designation denotes strong credit quality. Good protection is afforded by the strong short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

“VMIG-3” – This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Adequate protection is afforded by the satisfactory short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

“SG” – This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Demand features rated in this category may be supported by a liquidity provider that does not have a sufficiently strong short-term rating or may lack the structural and/or legal protections.

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated obligation, obligation and/or program.

About Credit Ratings

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

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

Fitch’s credit ratings are forward-looking opinions on the relative ability of an entity or obligation to meet financial commitments. Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) are assigned to corporations, sovereign entities, financial institutions such as banks, leasing companies and insurers, and public finance entities (local and regional governments). Issue-level ratings are also assigned and often include an expectation of recovery, which may be notched above or below the issuer-level rating. Issue ratings are assigned to secured and unsecured debt securities, loans, preferred stock and other instruments. Credit ratings are indications of the likelihood of repayment in accordance with the terms of the issuance. In limited cases, Fitch may include additional considerations (i.e., rate to a higher or lower standard than that implied in the obligation’s documentation).

Morningstar DBRS offers independent, transparent, and innovative credit analysis to the market. Credit ratings are forward-looking opinions about credit risk that reflect the creditworthiness of an issuer, rated entity, security and/or obligation based on Morningstar DBRS’s quantitative and qualitative analysis in accordance with applicable methodologies and criteria. They are meant to provide opinions on relative measures of risk and are not based on expectations of, or meant to predict, any specific default probability. Credit ratings are not statements of fact. Morningstar DBRS issues credit ratings using one or more categories, such as public, private, provisional, final(ized), solicited, or unsolicited. From time to time, credit ratings may also be subject to trends, placed under review, or discontinued. Morningstar DBRS credit ratings are determined by credit rating committees.