

**PART 2A FORM ADV**  
**FIRM BROCHURE**

**Item 1.** Cover Page

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**This brochure is intended to present a general summary of the qualifications and business practices of Ionic Capital Management LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (212) 294-8500 and/or FormADV@ionicap.com. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.**

**Additional information about Ionic Capital Management LLC is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).**

**The information contained herein is accurate as of the date hereof and is likely to change.**

**Being a “registered investment adviser” or describing ourselves as being “registered” does not imply a certain level of skill or training.**

**Ionic Capital Management® is a registered trademark of Ionic Capital Management LLC that is protected in the United States, Canada and elsewhere around the world.**

**THIS BROCHURE SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER TO SELL OR THE  
SOLICITATION OF ANY OFFER TO BUY ANY SECURITY.**

## **Item 2.** Material Changes

Items 11 and 17 and the cover page have been updated to reflect Ionic’s new business address.

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## **Item 4.** Advisory Business

Ionic Capital Management LLC is a Delaware limited liability company that was founded in 2006. We and our affiliates, Ionic Capital Advisors LLC and Ionic Capital Partners LP (collectively, “Ionic”), provide advice on a discretionary basis to privately-offered pooled investment vehicles and separately managed investment vehicles. Ionic currently provides investment advisory services to:

(i) Ionic Capital LLC, Ionic Capital International Ltd., Ionic Capital International Intermediate Ltd., and Ionic Capital Master Fund Ltd. (collectively, the “Capital Funds”); (ii) Ionic Select Opportunities Fund LLC, and Ionic Select Opportunities Master Fund Ltd. (collectively, the “Select Opportunities Fund”); (iii) Ionic Enhanced Strategy Fund LLC, Ionic Enhanced Strategy Fund Ltd., Ionic Enhanced Strategy Intermediate Fund Ltd., and Ionic Enhanced Strategy Master Fund Ltd. (collectively, the “Enhanced Strategy Funds”); (iv) Ionic Event Driven Fund LLC, Ionic Event Driven Fund Ltd., Ionic Event Driven Intermediate Fund Ltd., Ionic Event Driven

Master Fund Ltd., Ionic Event Driven Fund II LLC, Ionic Event Driven Fund II Ltd., and Ionic Event Driven Master Fund II Ltd. (collectively, the “Event Driven Funds”); (v) Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Fund LLC, Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Master Fund Ltd., Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Fund II LLC, Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Fund II Ltd., Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Master Fund II Ltd., Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Fund III Ltd., and Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Master Fund III Ltd. (collectively, the “Volatility Arbitrage Funds”); (vi) Ionic Absolute Return Fund LLC (the “Absolute Return Fund”); (vii) the Aurora Horizons Fund (the “Aurora Horizons Fund”), a series of Trust for Professional Managers, an open-ended investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”); (viii) the JPMorgan Multi-Manager Alternatives Fund, (the “JPM Alternatives Fund”), a series of JPMorgan Trust III, an open-ended investment company registered under the 1940 Act; and (ix) the HFS Alternative Investment Strategies Fund (the “HFS Fund”).

The Capital Funds, the Enhanced Strategy Funds, the Select Opportunities Funds, the Volatility Arbitrage Funds and the Absolute Return Fund are collectively referred to herein as the “Legacy Ionic Funds,” and together with the Event Driven Funds, the “Ionic Funds”. The Aurora Horizons Fund, the JPM Alternatives Fund and the HFS Fund are collectively referred to herein as the “Sub-advised Funds”.

The Ionic Funds generally invest substantially all of their assets in the master funds (the “Master Funds”). Certain non-U.S.-domiciled Ionic Funds operate through a mini-master-feeder structure where such Ionic Funds invest substantially all of their assets in intermediate funds (the “Intermediate Funds”) that in turn invest substantially all of their assets in the applicable Master Fund. The operating and trading activities of the Ionic Funds are conducted, and the portfolios of the Ionic Funds are held, by the Master Funds.

Bart Baum, Adam Radosti and Daniel Stone, inclusive of their ownership of Ionic Capital Management Holdings LP, are the principal beneficial owners of Ionic Capital Management LLC and Ionic Capital Partners LP and through their ownership of ICA Holdco LLC are the principal beneficial owners of Ionic Capital Advisors LLC (collectively, the “Principals”). The Principals collectively control the operations and activities of Ionic and have done so since inception.

Ionic is an alternative asset manager that employs relative value arbitrage/long volatility and event driven investment strategies globally across asset classes. Ionic established its Event Driven Strategies Group in September of 2011 by hiring Mr. Jason Esralew (the “Event Driven Portfolio Manager”) and his team of investment professionals (collectively, the Event Driven Team”) to launch the Event Driven Funds. Unlike the Legacy Ionic Funds, the Principals are not involved in the day-to-day investment decisions for the Event Driven Funds.

Ionic manages assets on a discretionary basis. As of December 31, 2014, the total regulatory assets under management of the Ionic clients were approximately \$5,187,795,000. The investment strategies employed by Ionic may be modified from time to time, and the descriptions herein are not exhaustive.

Please see Items 8 (Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss) and 10 (Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations).

## **Item 5.** Fees and Compensation

Each Ionic Fund pays Ionic a monthly management fee generally ranging from approximately 0.0833% to 0.167% of the month-end gross asset value of each series of shares or each capital account (an annual rate ranging from 1.00% to 2.0%, as applicable) or a monthly base fee of 0.25% of the active risk target for each series of shares or capital account (an annual rate of 3.0%). For the non-U.S.-domiciled Ionic Funds, the management fee payable with respect to each series of shares is allocated equally among all shares of such series. The management fee and base fee are each calculated and paid in arrears as of the end of each month. In addition to the foregoing, the investment advisors of the Sub-advised Funds pay Ionic management fees equal to a certain percentage of each Sub-advised Fund's daily net assets.

For the Ionic Funds subject to performance allocations, each series of Master Fund or Intermediate Fund shares, as applicable, and each capital account of the U.S.-domiciled Ionic Funds, as of each December 31, is subject to a performance allocation ("Performance Allocation") made to Ionic Capital Advisors LLC generally ranging from 15% to 20% of any New Net Appreciation attributable to such series or capital account or 35% of the positive Cumulative DVA for each such series or capital account. "New Net Appreciation" is the amount, if any, by which the gross asset value of such series of shares or capital account (without reduction for the Performance Allocation then being made) exceeds the high water mark attributable to such series of shares or capital account, taking into account all fees, losses and expenses of the Ionic Fund directly or indirectly attributable to such shares or capital account. "Cumulative DVA" is an amount equal to the sum (whether positive or negative) of the monthly gross profit or loss (less the monthly benchmark) for each month in the period, commencing with the month in which the initial investment for each investor falls to and including the month in which the relevant calculation date falls. For the non-U.S.-domiciled Ionic Funds, any Performance Allocation is allocated equally among all outstanding shares of such series of shares, and all such shares have the same net asset value.

The high water mark attributable to a given series of shares or capital account is the highest net asset value of such series or capital account as of any preceding December 31 (or the date of initial purchase, if higher), after reduction for the Performance Allocation then made.

When an investor withdraws all or a portion of its investment in the Ionic Funds during any calendar year, a Performance Allocation (if due) is made with respect to the corresponding series of shares or capital account as if the withdrawal date were a December 31 (but only with respect to the shares or amount withdrawn).

If an investor withdraws all or a portion of its investment in the Ionic Funds at a time when all of the overall net losses have not been fully recovered, the amount of such unrecovered net losses will be reduced proportionally by the amount withdrawn by the investor.

Performance Allocations made upon a withdrawal are generally added to the amount of withdrawal request for dollar amounts, so that the investor receives net withdrawal proceeds in the amount of such investor's withdrawal request (doing so increases the number of shares or amount withdrawn and the resulting Performance Allocation).

The fact that Ionic Capital Advisors LLC is eligible to receive performance-based profit allocations from certain Ionic Funds may create an incentive for Ionic to make investments on behalf of the Ionic Funds that are riskier or more speculative than would be the case in the absence of such performance-based profit allocations. In addition, the performance-based profit allocations received by Ionic Capital Advisors LLC are calculated on the basis of the unrealized, as well as the realized, gains and losses. As a result, the performance-based profit allocations could be made to Ionic Capital Advisors LLC in respect of unrealized gains of the Ionic Funds that may never be realized.

Certain investors in the Capital Funds that withdraw or redeem their investment: (i) prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> calendar month-end after such investment was made are subject to a 3% early withdrawal or redemption charge payable to Ionic; and (ii) on and after the 12<sup>th</sup> calendar month-end but prior to the 24<sup>th</sup> calendar month-end after such investment was made are subject to a 1.5% early withdrawal or redemption charge payable to Ionic; in each instance less the aggregate base fees paid by such investor (collectively referred to herein as the “Soft Lock-Up Period”); provided, however, withdrawals or redemptions of Net Positive Returns (not subscription amounts) will not be subject to the early withdrawal or redemption charge if withdrawn or redeemed during the Soft Lock-Up Period. “Net Positive Returns” means, with respect to each investor, the net asset value of such investor’s investment as of any withdrawal or redemption date less the aggregate subscriptions by such investor (inclusive of the initial subscription). The early withdrawal or redemption charge is designed to compensate Ionic for accepting the fee structure for an investor subject to the Soft Lock-Up Period who, in fact, does not remain fully invested for the agreed upon minimum investment period.

Ionic may provide investment advisory services to additional clients in the future that may have similar or different fees than the fees and/or allocations described herein. Additionally, Ionic may waive, reduce or rebate management fees and/or Performance Allocations with respect to certain investors in the Ionic Funds, including, without limitation, the Principals, Ionic employees and their family members or other entities organized or formed by any of the foregoing for tax, estate planning or charitable purposes.

In addition, the Ionic Funds pay all operating and administrative costs and expenses of the Ionic Funds which include, without limitation: (i) brokerage commissions and other costs of executing transactions; (ii) investment expenses and all other expenses (including, without limitation, all commissions, clearing fees, interest and financing charges) related to the purchase, sale, transmittal or custody of investments and related items; (iii) legal, accounting, auditing and other professional fees and expenses, including consulting and appraisal fees and expenses; (iv) any taxes (including withholding and other taxes) and duties payable in any jurisdiction in connection with the Ionic Funds’ operations; (v) fees and expenses in connection with the custody of the Ionic Funds’ assets; (vi) administrative costs (including the fees and out-of pocket expenses of the administrator), paying agency, transfer agency, accounting verification (if any) and/or investor registrar services; (vii) certain software licensing fees, external programming and development, purchasing, and operating costs; (viii) any other operating or administrative costs or expenses related to accounting, research, due diligence and reporting; (ix) costs and expenses relating to regulatory compliance, including the costs of regulatory filings and inquiries; (x) directors’ fees and expenses; (xi) portions of premiums paid for errors and omissions insurance and any indemnification payments; and (xii) organizational expenses.

Please see Items 8 (Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss), 10 (Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations) and 12 (Brokerage Practices).

**Item 6.**        *Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management*

Certain Ionic Funds are subject to the Performance Allocations described above. The fact that Ionic Capital Advisors is eligible to receive performance-based profit allocations from certain Ionic Funds may create an incentive for Ionic to allocate more profitable investment opportunities and trades made on more advantageous terms to such Ionic Funds. Such conflicts, however, generally are mitigated by Ionic Capital's allocation policy, which requires Ionic Capital to allocate securities in a way that is fair and equitable to all clients over time. A detailed discussion of Ionic Capital's allocation policy is set forth in Item 10 (Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations).

Ionic may provide investment advisory services to additional clients in the future that may have similar or different fees than the fees and/or allocations described herein.

Please see Items 5 (Fees and Compensation) and 10 (Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations).

**Item 7.**        *Types of Clients*

Ionic currently serves as investment advisor to the Legacy Ionic Funds and the Event Driven Funds and serves as a sub-advisor to the Sub-advised Funds. Ionic may in the future provide investment advisory services to additional clients including, but not limited to, individuals, trusts, investment companies, pension plans, sovereign wealth funds, family offices and endowments.

Please see Items 4 (Advisory Business) and 10 (Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations).

**Item 8.**        *Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss*

Ionic is an alternative asset manager that employs relative value arbitrage/long volatility and event driven investment strategies globally across asset classes. The investment strategies currently employed by Ionic include convertible arbitrage, credit convexity, emerging market volatility arbitrage, equity option arbitrage, event driven, interest rate volatility arbitrage and volatility arbitrage.

Within the relative value investment strategies, Ionic focuses on generating negatively correlated returns and outperformance during uncertain markets. Ionic utilizes both explicit and imbedded options across asset classes, including equities, interest rates, currencies, commodities and credit in order to construct a portfolio that is typically positive convexity and long volatility. Within the event driven investment strategy, Ionic focuses on both announced and anticipated hard catalyst opportunities, seeking to drive returns from idiosyncratic company-specific events.

The investment strategies employed by Ionic may be modified from time to time, and the descriptions herein are not exhaustive.

Ionic has a well-defined investment process that it employs to select new positions within the long volatility/relative value strategies. The first step is asset allocation across the applicable investment strategies. The Principals make asset allocation decisions among the strategies through a top-down, team-oriented approach. This is a fluid, dynamic process which enables the Principals to make adjustments in real time in response to changing market conditions. Using its proposed strategy allocations as a guideline (if applicable), Ionic attempts to uncover the cheapest trades within each strategy using a bottom-up approach. Ionic does not typically make “fundamental” bets on individual companies.

The Event Driven Funds focus on an event driven investment strategy, and the Event Driven Portfolio Manager generally invests opportunistically across the event driven spectrum with a rigorous bottom-up, fundamental orientation. The Event Driven Team focuses on a global universe of both announced and anticipated “hard catalyst” opportunities — strategic, operational, financial, legal, regulatory, technical and other corporate catalysts that have the potential to significantly alter value and/or market perception. The Event Driven Team employs a disciplined top-down approach to portfolio construction and risk management, emphasizing diversification and liquidity and seeking to limit net market, industry, geographic and other common factor risk exposures.

Ionic invests assets globally with a majority in North America, moderate exposures in Europe, emerging markets and Asia and a minor exposure to markets in other geographic locations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, these geographic allocations are likely to change as investment strategies evolve and the markets change, in each case as determined by Ionic in its sole discretion.

Subject to any client-specific limitations, Ionic generally may invest client assets in all forms of securities and other financial instruments whatsoever including, without limitation: shares or other equity interests in the applicable Master Fund; share capital; stock; shares of beneficial interest; partnership interests and similar financial instruments; bonds; notes; debentures (whether subordinated, convertible or otherwise); commodities; currencies; interest rate, currency, commodity, equity and other derivative products, including, without limitation, (i) futures contracts (and options thereon) relating to stock indices, currencies, securities of any governments, other financial instruments and all other commodities, (ii) swaps, options, warrants, caps, collars, floors and forward rate agreements, (iii) spot and forward currency transactions and (iv) agreements relating to or securing such transactions; equipment lease certificates; equipment trust certificates; loans; credit paper; accounts and notes receivable and payable held by trade or other creditors; trade acceptances; contract and other claims; executory contracts; participations; mutual funds; money market funds; exchange traded funds; structured securities; repurchase agreements; obligations of any government and instrumentalities of any of them; commercial paper; certificates of deposit; bankers’ acceptances; choses in action; trust receipts; and other instruments or evidences of indebtedness of whatever kind or nature; in each case, of any person or government whether or not publicly traded or readily marketable or such other form of investment asset or financial instrument as Ionic or the client may from time to time determine (collectively, “Investment Assets”).

## **Description of the Strategies**

### *Convertible Arbitrage*

Convertible arbitrage strategies involve purchasing convertible securities, generally convertible bonds or mandatory convertible bonds, and may also involve purchasing equities, options and other securities and instruments that are convertible, exchangeable or equity-linked. The convertible arbitrage strategies generally involve hedging a portion of the equity, credit, interest rate and/or volatility risk inherent in the convertible securities by entering into interest rate swaps, credit default swaps, equity options and/or futures. Convertible bonds are often mispriced as a result of the complexities associated with the valuation of these hybrid securities. By neutralizing exposure to fairly priced components of a convertible bond, it is possible to profit from perceived mispricings of other components. For example, Ionic intends to generate profits by isolating the embedded call option of convertible bonds by shorting the underlying common stock and/or buying credit derivatives or entering into asset swaps. In certain circumstances, Ionic invests in deep-in-the-money convertible bonds (trading with a “high delta” to the share price of the issuer’s underlying stock).

### *Credit Convexity*

Credit convexity strategies attempt to utilize bonds and over-the-counter derivatives such as credit default swaps and swaptions, options on bonds or other derivatives to structure credit related positions. Within the credit convexity strategy, trades may be structured to capture anomalies in the “shape” of an underlying credit curve or to create undervalued synthetic securities (for example – forward credit default swaps). In addition, when credit spreads tighten in a manner improperly valuing default risk, it is possible to structure credit default puts either by purchasing credit default swaps or shorting corporate or sovereign bonds.

### *Emerging Market Volatility Arbitrage*

By utilizing techniques similar to those of volatility arbitrage, interest rate volatility arbitrage, and credit convexity, emerging markets volatility arbitrage strategies seek to extract value from inefficiencies and high volatility in the credit, foreign exchange, and interest rate markets of emerging market economies. For example, similar to credit convexity, these strategies may involve isolating the embedded option within a fixed income security; provided, however, in this strategy, such securities are issued by sovereign countries or instrumentalities thereof in emerging markets. Ionic also attempts to profit from mispricings in foreign exchange and interest rates using options, swaptions, forwards and volatility swaps.

### *Equity Option Arbitrage*

Equity option arbitrage strategies attempt to profit from changes in volatility or underlying price movements. Trades may be structured in an attempt to capture mispricings in the volatility of individual stocks, warrants, stock indices and exchange traded funds and/or dispersion (for example, trading options on the underlying constituents of an index versus trading the options on the index itself). Additionally, Ionic may enter into trades to profit from mean reversion and structural inefficiencies involving individual names and ETFs as well as volatility or variance swaps and options on variance swaps to capture mispricing over the whole option surface.



### *Interest Rate Volatility Arbitrage*

Interest rate volatility arbitrage strategies generally utilize over-the-counter options, swaps and swaptions as a means of trading changes in the volatility and absolute level of interest rates in developed markets. Ionic attempts to profit from such changes relating to interest rates through trades such as interest rate swaps, futures, payers and receivers, inflation swaps, caps, floors and bonds.

### *Volatility Arbitrage*

Volatility arbitrage strategies utilize options and other derivatives relating to indices, commodities and developed market currencies as a means of trading changes in volatility.

### *Event Driven*

The Event Driven Team's differentiated event driven strategy combines detailed event analysis with rigorous fundamental due diligence in an attempt to identify attractive investment opportunities in securities of companies that are involved in (or potentially involved in) significant corporate events such as:

- *Strategic* – mergers, consolidations, acquisitions, “strategic alternative reviews,” asset transfers, tender offers, spin-offs, proxy contests or shareholder activist campaigns;
- *Operational* – merger or acquisition integrations, restructurings or senior management changes;
- *Financial* – recapitalizations, refinancings, liquidations or bankruptcy proceedings;
- *Structural* – share class consolidations, tax reorganizations or holding company rationalizations;
- *Legal, Regulatory and Legislative* – litigation, regulatory or legislative developments; or
- *Technical* – equity offerings, relistings or “broken” risk arbitrage transactions.

The Event Driven Team believes that the occurrence of such “hard catalyst” events has the potential to (a) cause market inefficiencies to affect issuers' securities and/or (b) create (or destroy) substantial value or significantly alter market perception with respect to such securities. The Event Driven Team believes that this broad universe of event opportunities upon which it will focus, including cyclical, non-cyclical and counter-cyclical categories of opportunities, makes the strategy more robust across the business cycle. The Event Driven Funds attempt to realize their investment objective by investing in the equity or debt securities, or derivatives referencing such securities, which allow the Event Driven Team to best express its investment theses.

While the Event Driven Fund's approach is, first and foremost, one of bottom-up, company-specific idea generation, the Event Driven Team will also implement a disciplined top-down approach to portfolio construction and risk management. Through dynamic position and portfolio level hedges, the Event Driven Funds seek to limit net market, industry, geographic and

other common factor exposures, in an effort to deliver performance based on the idiosyncratic, company-specific catalysts and events upon which the Event Driven Team focuses. The Event Driven Funds also place an emphasis on diversification and liquidity.

### **Private and Illiquid Investments**

Ionic anticipates that the bulk of each client's portfolio will be maintained in liquid, readily marketable Investment Assets. However, Ionic believes that in certain cases the risk/reward profile of private, longer-term investments justify investing in assets for which there is no ready market or clear value. Such private investments are typically longer-term "value" positions, seeking to recognize gains when the actual value of an asset is recognized through a refinancing, public offering or private sale.

### **Hybrid and Other Strategies**

Ionic may implement hybrid strategies incorporating elements of directional, relative value, event-driven and other approaches, as well as a variety of opportunistic investment tactics. As market conditions and profit opportunities change, so will Ionic's market approaches and implementations.

### **Evolving Strategies and Allocations**

Ionic has complete flexibility in selecting the assets traded and the investment strategies implemented by the Ionic Funds and emphasizes the use of investment strategies in which Ionic believes that the proprietary valuation models, research capabilities and market experience of Ionic personnel provide a competitive advantage. The investment strategies, approaches and techniques discussed herein may – in fact, can be expected to, evolve over time due to, among other things, market developments and trends, the emergence of new or enhanced investment products, changing industry practice and/or technological innovation. As a result, these investment strategies, approaches and techniques may not reflect the investment strategies, approaches and techniques actually employed by Ionic. Nevertheless, the investments made on behalf of the Ionic Funds will be consistent with the Ionic Funds' investment objectives. Ionic anticipates that it will develop and implement new proprietary trading and investment strategies on an ongoing basis, as Ionic seeks to exploit profit and investment opportunities on a global basis. Except as described above, the Ionic Funds, in implementing their respective investment strategies, generally may trade any Investment Asset.

### **Risk Management**

Ionic seeks to identify investment opportunities which it believes have superior risk/reward parameters. In addition, Ionic closely monitors the risk parameters and expected volatility of each client's overall portfolio (not just the individual positions considered on a stand-alone basis) in an effort to prevent an over-concentration of the portfolio in any particular asset, strategy or market. Diversification is an integral part of Ionic's overall portfolio risk management strategy. Ionic establishes targeted limits with respect to the percentage of a client's assets that may be invested in any particular asset class, issuer, industry, sector, market, and investment strategy. Such limits, however, generally are not fixed guidelines and are monitored and adjusted from time to time by Ionic in its sole discretion.

In addition to risk limits, Ionic employs comprehensive scenario analysis. The emphasis is on stress testing the portfolio in order to monitor net convexity levels and to increase the likelihood that Ionic's strategies will be profitable in market crash and flight-to-quality scenarios. Ionic's risk software aggregates exposures enabling Ionic to monitor the net exposures to equities, interest rates, currencies, commodities, volatility and credit spreads, as applicable.

Ionic does not, in general, attempt to hedge all market or other risks inherent in the Ionic Funds' portfolios, and hedges certain risks, if at all, only partially (certain risks by their nature are not capable of being hedged). Specifically, Ionic may choose not, or may determine that it is economically unattractive, to hedge certain risks — either in respect of particular positions or in respect of a client's overall portfolio — and may rely instead on diversification in an attempt to mitigate such risks.

In investing in the Ionic Funds, investors are relying on the discretionary market judgment of Ionic, trading in a wide range of strategies, markets and instruments, as well as in investing in positions with a wide range of different durations, without being subject to any diversification, leverage or other form of trading limitations.

### General Risks

The following considerations, which do not purport to be a complete indication of all risks involved in an investment in the Ionic Funds, should be carefully evaluated before deciding whether to invest in one or more of the Ionic Funds. An investment in the Ionic Funds involves a high degree of risk. The Ionic Funds cannot assure any investor that any such Ionic Fund's investment objective will be achieved or that such investor will not lose all or substantially all of such investor's investment.

Not all of the risks listed below will apply to each of the Ionic Funds and to the extent a risk applies to more than one Ionic Fund, such risk may not apply equally to such Ionic Funds. In addition, Ionic serves as a sub-advisor to the Sub-advised Funds, each of which allocates its assets among multiple sub-advisors. Accordingly, the risks discussed below are intended to discuss the risks applicable only to the portion of the assets of the Sub-Advised Funds sub-advised by Ionic, and do not purport to indicate the risks associated with an investment in any of the Sub-Advised Funds. For ease of reference, the term "Ionic Funds" as used below and in Item 10 (Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations), should be deemed to include the portion of the assets of the Sub-Advised Funds sub-advised by Ionic.

### **Risk of Loss**

An investment in an Ionic Fund involves a high degree of risk, including the risk that the entire amount invested may be lost. The past performance of an Ionic Fund is not necessarily indicative of its future results — particularly given the speculative nature of its strategies and the rapidly changing conditions (structural, economic and regulatory) of the markets in such Ionic Fund invests.

## **“Emerging Manager” Status of the Event Driven Team**

Ionic has retained the Event Driven Portfolio Manager and the Event Driven Team specifically in order that they manage the Event Driven Funds. Other than the Event Driven Portfolio Manager and the Event Driven Team, Ionic has limited event driven expertise.

The Event Driven Portfolio Manager and the Event Driven Team may not be successful managing a stand-alone event driven fund as opposed to implementing event driven strategies as part of a diversified portfolio. In this respect, the Event Driven Portfolio Manager in respect of his management of the Event Driven Funds should be regarded effectively as an emerging manager — subject to many of the risks involved with emerging managers (with the exception of having the benefit of the established infrastructure of Ionic) — in addition to the risks of the event driven strategy on which the Event Driven Funds will focus.

## **Possible Positive Correlation with Stocks and Bonds**

One of the goals in incorporating a non-traditional investment such as the Ionic Funds into a portfolio is to provide a potentially valuable element of diversification, including a complement to a broader portfolio of long-biased investments and alternative investments. However, there can be no assurance, particularly during periods of market disruption and stress when the risk control benefits of diversification may be most important, that the Ionic Funds will, in fact, experience a low level of correlation with a traditional portfolio of stocks and bonds or with the debt or equity markets generally.

## **Financing Arrangements; Availability of Credit**

The use of leverage is integral to many of the investment strategies implemented by the Ionic Funds, and the Ionic Funds depend on the availability of credit in order to finance their portfolios. There can be no assurance that the Ionic Funds will be able to maintain adequate financing arrangements under all market circumstances.

As a general matter, the banks and dealers that provide financing to the Ionic Funds can apply essentially discretionary margin, haircut, financing, security and collateral valuation policies. Changes by banks and dealers in such policies, or the imposition of other credit limitations or restrictions, whether due to market circumstances or governmental, regulatory or judicial action, may result in margin calls, loss of financing, forced liquidation of positions at disadvantageous prices, termination of swap and repurchase agreements and cross-defaults to agreements with other dealers. Any such adverse effects may be exacerbated in the event that such limitations or restrictions are imposed suddenly and/or by multiple market participants at or about the same time. The imposition of such limitations or restrictions could compel the Ionic Funds to liquidate all or a portion of their portfolios at disadvantageous prices. In recent years banks and dealers have substantially curtailed financing activities and increased collateral requirements, forcing many hedge funds and other market participants to liquidate positions. 2008–2009 saw this chain of events repeated numerous times. There can be no assurance that the Ionic Funds will be able to obtain adequate financing to pursue their investment programs and achieve their objectives.

Additionally, the event driven transactions in which the Event Driven Funds will seek to invest may depend on the availability of substantial amounts of financing to provide the funds needed for acquisitions, tender offers, recapitalizations, etc. During periods of reduced credit availability, the profitability of the Event Driven Funds may be materially reduced due to a material reduction in the number of investment opportunities in which they will seek to invest. Furthermore, due to the lack of such opportunities, when they do arise, the competition to invest may substantially reduce the profit potential of doing so.

### **Credit Analysis and Credit Risk**

The investment strategies to be utilized by Ionic may require accurate and detailed analysis of the capital structure of issuers, including credit analysis. There can be no assurance that Ionic's credit analysis will be accurate or complete. The Ionic Funds may be subject to substantial losses in the event of credit deterioration or bankruptcy of one or more issuers in their portfolios. While the Ionic Funds generally intend to hedge their credit risk with short positions in both cash and synthetic securities, there can be no assurance the Ionic Funds will have the ability to establish such hedges in the market place or, if established, that the hedges will offset losses.

### **Credit Ratings**

The credit ratings of structured finance products as well as other debt instruments and investments represent the rating agencies' opinions regarding their credit quality and are not a guarantee of future credit performance of such securities. Rating agencies attempt to evaluate the safety of the timely payment of principal and interest (or preferred dividends) and do not evaluate the risks of fluctuations in market value. The ratings assigned to securities by rating agencies do not purport fully to reflect the true risks of an investment. Further, in recent years many highly rated structured securities have been subject to substantial losses as the economic assumptions on which their ratings were based proved to be materially inaccurate.

### **Reliance on Corporate Management and Financial Reporting**

Many of the strategies implemented by the Ionic Funds rely on the financial information made available by the issuers to which the Ionic Funds have exposure. Ionic has no ability to independently verify the financial information disseminated by the thousands of issuers included in its universe of potential investments and is dependent upon the integrity of both the management of these issuers and the financial reporting process in general. Recent history has demonstrated the material losses that investors such as the Ionic Funds can incur as a result of corporate mismanagement, fraud and accounting irregularities.

### **Potential Strategy Saturation**

Although the amount of capital committed to alternative investment strategies decreased during and immediately following the market turmoil of 2008, such amount of capital has generally increased dramatically during recent years and is expected to increase again. At the same time, market conditions have become significantly more adverse to many of such strategies than they were in previous years. The profit potential of the Ionic Funds may be materially reduced as a result of the "saturation" of the alternative investment field.

## **Counterparty Risk**

The Ionic Funds may invest in complex derivative instruments that seek to modify or replace the investment performance of particular financial instruments such as equities, options, commodities, currencies, interest rates or indices. These instruments generally have counterparty risk and may not perform in the manner expected by Ionic, thereby resulting in greater loss or gain to the Ionic Funds. These instruments are subject to additional risks that can result in a loss of all or part of an investment, in particular, interest rate and credit risk volatility, world and local market price and demand, and general economic factors and activity. Some of the markets in which the Ionic Funds may effect derivative transactions are “over-the-counter” or “interdealer” markets. The participants in such markets are typically not subject to credit evaluation and regulatory oversight to the same extent as are members of “exchange-based” markets. This exposes the Ionic Funds to the risk that a counterparty will not settle a transaction in accordance with its terms and conditions because of a credit or liquidity problem with the counterparty and the recent turbulence in the financial markets highlights the importance of being aware of counterparty risk resulting from “over-the-counter” derivative transactions. Delays in settlement may also result from disputes over the terms of the contract (whether or not bona fide) since such markets may lack the established rules and procedures for swift settlement of disputes among market participants found in “exchange-based” markets. These factors may cause the Ionic Funds to suffer a loss due to adverse market movements while replacement transactions are executed or otherwise. Such “counterparty risk” is present in all “over-the-counter” derivative transactions, and is accentuated for contracts with longer maturities where events may intervene to prevent settlement, or where the Ionic Funds have concentrated their transactions with a single or small group of counterparties. The Ionic Funds generally are not restricted from dealing with any particular counterparty or from concentrating any or all of their transactions with one counterparty.

The financial failure of a derivatives counterparty could also result in substantial losses as the Ionic Funds deal with such persons as principals, and there is no requirement that such parties segregate counterparty funds held by them in respect of such trading. Further, the Ionic Funds are subject to additional risks where they are a party to a securities lending arrangement and the counterparty to the arrangement becomes insolvent and/or defaults on its obligations, including, without limitation, the risk that collateral will not be returned and/or repurchased or the Ionic Funds will not be permitted to exercise their remedies in accordance with the provisions of the relevant securities lending agreement.

Recent collapses of large derivative dealers illustrate the risks of such trading.

## **Broker and Custodian Insolvency**

Especially in light of the recent turbulence in the financial markets, there are significant risks involved in dealing with the custodians or brokers who settle the Ionic Funds’ trades. Brokers that carry the accounts of the Ionic Funds generally segregate all customer assets. If such assets were not so segregated, the Ionic Funds would be subject to the risk of the failure of the broker. Even given proper segregation, in the event of the insolvency of a broker, the Ionic Funds may be subject to a risk of loss of its assets and may be able to recover only a pro rata share (together with all other securities customers of such broker) of their assets, including securities specifically

traceable to the relevant Ionic Fund's account. In broker insolvencies, customers typically have been unable to timely access assets in their accounts and/or recover from the broker's estate the full amount of their "customer property" and/or funds. In addition, under certain circumstances, such as the inability of another client of the broker or the broker itself to satisfy substantial deficiencies in such other client's account, a customer (including the Ionic Funds) may be subject to a risk of loss of its assets held with a broker, even if such assets are properly segregated.

The Ionic Funds may trade with or hold accounts at foreign brokers registered under the laws and regulations of other countries. Such brokers and/or dealers may not be subject to the same or similar customer fund regulations (including customer segregation requirements) as those existing in the United States and, in some jurisdictions, the Ionic Funds may only be an unsecured creditor of its broker or dealer in the event of the bankruptcy or administration of such broker or dealer.

The Lehman Brothers bankruptcies, as well as the ensuing events, led to a dramatic contraction in credit (including even inter-bank lending) and steep monetary losses in the financial sector. The ramifications of the Lehman Brothers bankruptcies are unlikely to be resolved for a number of years, but demonstrate the material level of systemic risk to which the financial sector was, and may still be, subject, and could be adverse to the prospects for the Ionic Funds and/or private investment funds in general. Moreover, the Lehman Brothers bankruptcies have demonstrated the systemic risks of any comparable failure. It is not possible to predict if or when one or more such failures might occur. Were this to happen, the results could be materially adverse to an Ionic Fund.

The earlier bankruptcy of Refco, Inc. had very little systemic effect, but demonstrated that a significant portion of customer funds on deposit with CFTC-regulated futures brokers are, as a matter of practice, maintained in "unregulated" rather than "regulated" accounts at the futures broker. The futures brokers do not have to maintain "net capital" with respect to amounts on deposit in unregulated accounts. Moreover, amounts in unregulated accounts are not subject to "customer protection" in the event of the futures broker's bankruptcy — in which case such amounts become simply unsecured debts of the futures broker.

The effects of the MF Global bankruptcy have yet to unfold. However, the MF Global situation suggests that the protections accorded to customer funds even though maintained in CFTC "segregated funds" may be inadequate, as well as that investors may have material exposure to speculative trading by their brokers.

### **Sub-Custodian Risk**

The Ionic Funds, their prime brokers or custodians may appoint sub-custodians in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions to hold the assets of the Ionic Funds. The Ionic Funds' primary custodians may not be responsible for cash or assets held by sub-custodians in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions, or for any losses suffered by the Ionic Funds as a result of the misconduct, bankruptcy or insolvency of any such sub-custodian. The Ionic Funds may therefore have potential exposure to the default of any sub-custodian and, as a result, many of the protections that would normally be provided to a fund by a U.S. custodian will not be available to the Ionic Funds. Custody services

in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions remain undeveloped and, accordingly, there is transaction and custody risk of dealing in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions. Given the undeveloped state of regulations on custodial activities and bankruptcy in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions, the ability of the Ionic Funds to recover assets held by a non-U.S. sub-custodian in the event of the sub-custodian's bankruptcy would be in doubt. Even where a custodian, including a registered broker-dealer, is located and regulated in the United States, U.S. protections and regulations may be insufficient and the ability of the Ionic Funds to recover assets could be delayed or in doubt. Each Ionic Fund reserves its right to change its brokerage and custodial arrangements without prior notice to, and without the consent of the investors in the relevant Ionic Fund; provided, however, the directors of the relevant Master Fund approve any new prime brokerage relationships.

### **Reliance on Principals and the Event Driven Portfolio Manager**

Ionic has a wide ranging mandate to direct the Ionic Funds' trading. While each of the Ionic Fund's investment strategies rely primarily on the Principals' or the Event Driven Portfolio Manager's market experience and judgment, certain aspects of the Legacy Ionic Funds may rely on quantitative trading systems and mathematical pricing and valuation models. When making the decision to invest, investors are relying on the general market performance and ability of the Principals or the Event Driven Portfolio Manager, not on any patented trading system or strategy.

### **Market Risks in General**

Ionic's investment strategies are subject to a wide range of both outright and derivative market risks. There can be no assurance that what is perceived as an investment opportunity will not, in fact, result in substantial losses due to one or more of a wide variety of factors. Certain general market conditions could materially reduce the Ionic Funds' profit potential, and even in favorable market conditions the Ionic Funds can only be successful if Ionic is able to invest successfully in the face of competition with funds and management firms with resources that materially exceed that of both the Ionic Funds and Ionic.

While Ionic generally will seek to limit net market and other risks, certain market and other risks, including idiosyncratic risks, by their nature are not capable of being hedged. Ionic's investment strategies are subject to such risks, as well as to risks that could be, but either are not, or are not properly, hedged. At the same time, hedging itself involves risks and expenses, and may not, in fact, reduce risk if expected correlations or non-correlations do not materialize.

To the extent that Ionic hedges, its hedges will not be static but rather will need to be continually adjusted based on Ionic's assessment of market conditions, as well as the expected degree of correlation or non-correlation between the hedges and the portfolio being hedged. The success of Ionic's hedging strategies will depend on Ionic's ability to implement such strategies efficiently and cost effectively, as well as on the accuracy of Ionic's ongoing judgments concerning the hedging positions to be acquired by the Ionic Funds.

Ionic's strategies are subject to some dimension of market risk: directional price movements, deviations from historical pricing relationships, changes in the regulatory environment, changes in market volatility, "flights to quality," "credit squeezes," etc. Ionic's style of alternative



investing (including its relative value trading) may be no less speculative than traditional investing strategies. On the contrary, alternative investment strategies have from time to time incurred sudden and dramatic losses.

The diversification of the Ionic Funds' positions and strategies may not always be significant and, even if significant, may not provide meaningful risk control, even though it may reduce the Ionic Funds' profit potential as a result of certain strategies being unprofitable while others are profitable.

The particular or general types of market conditions in which the Ionic Funds may incur losses or experience unexpected performance volatility cannot be predicted, and the Ionic Funds may materially underperform other investment funds with substantially similar investment objectives and approaches.

### **Volatility**

The prices of the instruments to be traded by the Ionic Funds have been subject to periods of excessive volatility in the past and such periods can be expected to recur. Price movements are influenced by many unpredictable factors, such as market sentiment, significant changes in inflation rates, interest rates, commodities, credit spreads, currencies and general economic and political conditions, as well as inflation, demand for commodities and currency exchange rate risks.

Volatility can disrupt historical or theoretical pricing relationships, causing what should otherwise be comparatively low risk positions to incur losses. On the other hand, the lack of volatility can also result in losses for many of the Ionic Funds' strategies that are effectively "long" volatility. In periods of trendless and/or stagnant markets, the Ionic Funds' strategies may have materially diminished prospects for profitability.

The majority of the investment strategies that are employed by the Ionic Funds rely for their profitability on market volatility contributing to the mispricings that they are designed to identify.

Volatility is one of the principal components of options pricing, and can result in the Ionic Funds incurring major losses on options sold (written) by the Ionic Funds that are never, in fact, "in the money."

### **Interest Rate Fluctuations**

The prices of portfolio investments may be sensitive to interest rate fluctuations and unexpected fluctuations in interest rates could cause the corresponding prices of the long and short portions of a position to move in directions that were not initially anticipated. In addition, interest rate increases generally will increase the interest carrying costs to the Ionic Funds of borrowed securities and leveraged investments.

## **The Risks of Trading Options Volatility**

Trading option volatility is one of the most complex of all financial strategies and requires significant quantitative and mathematical resources and capabilities. The pricing of options involves a wide variety of factors — including the variability of interest rates, the time to expiration, the price and volatility of the underlying security, and general market sentiment. Not only will different traders differ among themselves concerning the correct theoretical value for a given option, but actual and theoretical values may diverge for extended periods of time. There can be no assurance that Ionic will correctly value its options positions or that where theoretical and actual values of an option diverge the actual value will, in fact, regress to theoretical values; consequently, substantial losses could be incurred by the Ionic Funds.

## **Lack of Liquidity**

Certain Ionic Funds trade in markets that either are or may become illiquid. Lack of liquidity can make it economically unfeasible for such Ionic Funds to recognize profits on open positions or to close out open positions against which the market is moving. In addition, illiquidity can disconnect market values from the historical pricing indicators used in certain aspects of Ionic's investment analysis, as the fewer transactions that take place the greater the risk of market values not reflecting true pricing relationships or actual values.

If an event that Ionic believed would occur does not, in fact, occur, a number of traders implementing strategies generally similar to the one or more of the Ionic Funds are likely to seek to unwind similar positions in the same securities at or about the same time, likely exacerbating the market illiquidity and the losses incurred in the course of unwinding such positions

Trading in illiquid securities often requires more time and results in higher brokerage charges, dealer spreads and other transaction expenses — as well as the risk of an Ionic Fund's transactions having a significant impact on market prices of the securities in which the relevant Ionic Fund is attempting to transact — than are incurred in the trading of more liquid securities.

## **Market Disruptions**

Market disruptions can damage the Ionic Funds in ways which cannot be predicted. Such disruptions occur from time to time and typically result in material losses for many alternative investment strategies. In the case of the Event Driven Funds, a principal risk of market disruptions — whatever their cause — may reduce the number of investment opportunities for prolonged periods of time as well as increase the uncertainty around the consummation of transactions. Because of the leverage used by such strategies as well as the complexity that frequently characterizes the position, alternative investment strategies are dependent on a certain level of liquidity in the markets so that they may liquidate certain positions in order to meet the margin calls necessary to maintain their portfolio. In addition, during periods of market disruption, the terms of the credit extended to traders by dealers are commonly made materially more onerous by their dealers which may force the traders to liquidate their portfolios prematurely.

In 1994, 1998, 2001 and again in 2008-09, a sudden restriction of credit by the dealer community resulted (and may again result) in forced liquidations and major losses for a number of private

investment funds applying strategies similar to certain of those that are implemented by the Ionic Funds. Market disruptions caused by unexpected political, regulatory, military and terrorist events may from time to time cause dramatic losses for the Ionic Funds, and such events can result in otherwise historically low-risk strategies performing with unprecedented volatility and risk.

### **Suspension of Trading**

A financial exchange may from time to time suspend or limit trading. Such a suspension could render it difficult or impossible for the Ionic Funds to liquidate positions against which the market is moving. There is also no assurance that non-exchange markets will remain liquid enough for the Ionic Funds to close out positions.

### **No Material Limitations on Investment Strategies**

Ionic trades opportunistically and without restriction on behalf of the Ionic Funds. Except for certain investment restrictions applicable to the Sub-Advised Funds and the Absolute Return Fund, there are no material limitations on the instruments, markets or countries in which the Ionic Funds may invest or on the investment strategies they may employ.

The investment strategies currently implemented by Ionic will continually evolve, and Ionic is in no respects limited to applying only such strategies.

### **Single-Strategy Approach**

Because Ionic will generally engage only in event driven trades on behalf of the Event Driven Funds and certain concentrated volatility trades on behalf of the Volatility Arbitrage Funds, (in each case, inclusive of any hedges as determined by Ionic), the portfolio of such funds will be more concentrated than the portfolios of the other multi-strategy alternative investment vehicles, including the other Ionic Funds, which may expose the portfolios of such funds to higher volatility, greater mark-to-market fluctuations and greater risk of loss than other Ionic Funds.

### **Convertible Arbitrage Strategy Risk**

Convertible arbitrage generally involves acquiring convertible bonds or other securities and selling short a corresponding amount of the underlying equity security or vice versa. Risks that could affect the results of this strategy, include, but are not limited to the following: (i) a decrease or stagnation of volatility; (ii) dramatically rising interest rates or declining market volatility that adversely affects the relationship between securities; (iii) a constriction of the financing market that disrupts the convertible bond market generally; (iv) a widening in credit spreads without a corresponding move in rates that leads to a decrease in the price of convertible bonds without a corresponding increase in yield; (v) the difficulty in entering and profitably exiting relative value trades focused on convertible securities as compared to entering into two separate trades on the underlying securities, as convertible securities tend to be significantly less liquid and have wider bid/offer spreads than the underlying equity; (vi) the inherently imperfect and dynamic hedging relationship involved in convertible hedging which may change at any time (for example, based on changing volatility and interest rates) and must be adjusted on an ongoing basis; (vii) convertible arbitrage involves selling securities short (which was not

permissible for certain securities in the United States and certain international jurisdictions during periods of 2008 and thereafter and which may be banned again during future periods of similar market dislocation); and (viii) a material change in the dividend policy or credit rating of, or corporate actions or transactions by, the issuer of relevant convertible securities may have a material adverse effect on such convertible security's price.

Convertible arbitrage strategies generally incurred major losses in 2008 as regulatory limitations limited hedging and market liquidity and available leverage became severely restricted.

### **Event Driven Funds Strategy Risk**

The Event Driven Funds seek to invest in securities of companies that are involved in (or potentially involved in) significant strategic, operational, financial, legal and regulatory, structural, technical and other corporate events. The Event Driven Portfolio Manager focuses on these types of "hard catalyst" situations, believing that they have the potential to either create or destroy significant value for a company, and at such times, the securities of such a company are often mispriced relative to the potential outcome of these events. Examples of such strategic events may include companies that are involved in (or the target of) acquisition attempts, mergers, tender or exchange offers, asset divestitures, spin-offs or split-offs, proxy contests or shareholder activist campaigns. In addition, operational catalysts may include companies undergoing significant change, such as senior management turnover, merger or acquisition integration or other significant business restructuring; financial catalysts could include recapitalizations, refinancings, liquidations or bankruptcy proceedings; legal and regulatory events may include commercial litigation or legislative and regulatory developments; and structural catalysts may involve restructuring of complex organizational or shareholder ownership structures. By employing fundamental or technical analysis (or a combination thereof), Ionic anticipates profiting from movements in the prices of securities of such companies.

However, the Event Driven Funds' investment strategy is not true arbitrage — the perceived mispricings identified by the Event Driven Team will not necessarily be eliminated as different assets, the prices of which are intrinsically related, converge at a date certain (as, for example, is the case with futures contracts and cash market prices which necessarily converge upon expiration of the futures contract). On the contrary, there is no assurance whatsoever that even if the Event Driven Funds are able to hold a position indefinitely (which will not be the case), the positions they acquire will generate a profit. The "arbitrage" aspects of the strategy involve assessment, to varying degrees, of: (i) the likelihood that, and the timing within which, an event will occur or an event having been announced will, in fact, be consummated; (ii) the impact of the event (or lack of such event) on the company involved and the resulting valuations and trading prices of its securities; and (iii) how large an exposure to such event to acquire, when to do so, as well as how, whether and when to hedge such exposure. As a result, there can be no assurance that the Event Driven Funds will profit from an event driven situation, even where the occurrence or consummation of a corporate catalyst is properly identified. Furthermore, if the Event Driven Funds purchase securities in response to an announced event that is ultimately not consummated (or otherwise not successful), or in anticipation of the announcement of an event or catalyst that does not occur, the Event Driven Funds may be required to sell the securities at a substantial loss. In addition, when securities are purchased in anticipation of a significant event

catalyst, substantial time may elapse between the Event Driven Funds' purchase of securities and the occurrence (if ever) of the event. In such cases, a portion of the Event Driven Funds' assets may be committed during this period to the securities purchased, and the Event Driven Funds may incur significant interest expense (and other expenses) if borrowed funds were used to purchase such securities.

In the case of the "risk arbitrage" component of Ionic's event driven strategy, in particular, the Event Driven Funds will often purchase securities at prices only slightly below the anticipated value to be paid or exchanged for the securities in a proposed merger, exchange offer, cash tender offer or other similar transaction. The purchase price to the Event Driven Funds may be substantially above the prices at which such securities traded immediately prior to the announcement of such merger, exchange offer, cash tender offer or other similar transaction was announced. If the proposed merger, exchange offer, cash tender offer or other similar transaction appears likely not to be consummated, is in fact not consummated or is delayed, or if the value of a transaction is reduced, the market price of the security to be tendered or exchanged may, and likely will, decline sharply — and by an amount greater than the difference between the Event Driven Funds' purchase price and the anticipated consideration to be paid. In addition, if Ionic determines that the offer price for a security that is the subject of such a transaction is likely to be increased, either by the original bidder or by another party, Ionic may purchase securities above the offer price, thereby exposing the Event Driven Funds to an even greater degree of "asymmetric" risk of loss. In situations in which a security to be issued in a merger or exchange offer has been sold short by Ionic in the expectation that the short position will be covered by delivery of such security when issued, failure of the merger or exchange offer to be consummated may force the Event Driven Funds to cover their short sale, with a resulting, and perhaps significant, loss.

Where Ionic determines that it is probable that a transaction will not be consummated, Ionic may sell the securities of the target company short, at times significantly below the announced tender or offering prices for the securities in the transaction. If the transaction, or another transaction such as a "defensive" merger or a "friendly" tender offer, is consummated at the announced price or a higher price, Ionic would typically be forced to cover the short position in the market at a loss, perhaps a significant loss.

The consummation of mergers, exchange offers, cash tender offers or other similar transactions can be prevented or delayed by a variety of factors. An exchange offer or a cash tender offer by one company for the securities of another will often be opposed by the management or shareholders of the "target" company on the grounds that the consideration offered is inadequate or for a variety of other reasons. Such opposition may result in litigation which may significantly delay or prevent consummation of the transaction. Such litigation may allege, among other things, that the offering materials supplied by the offeror contains inadequate, false or misleading disclosures, that the offeror has, by its activities in connection with the offer, violated federal and/or state securities or takeover laws, or that the proposed acquisition would violate federal antitrust laws, margin regulations or other statutes or regulations. Even if the business terms and other relevant matters necessary to consummate the transaction have been agreed upon by the management of the companies involved, the consummation of such transaction may be prevented by: (i) the intervention of a government regulatory agency which might have regulatory power over the companies or the transaction, such as, in the case of a U.S. issuer, the SEC, the Antitrust

Division of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Federal Trade Commission; (ii) litigation brought by a shareholder; (iii) in the case of a merger, the failure to receive the necessary shareholder approvals; (iv) market conditions resulting in material changes in securities prices; and (v) a number of other circumstances, including, but not limited to, the failure to meet certain conditions customarily specified in acquisition agreements. Offerors in tender or exchange offers customarily reserve the right to cancel such offers in the above and a variety of other circumstances, including due to an insufficient response from shareholders of the target company. Even if the defensive activities of a target company or the actions of regulatory authorities fail to defeat a transaction, such activities may cause significant delays, during which the Event Driven Funds' capital will be committed to the transaction and interest charges on any funds borrowed, as well as other expenses, to finance the Event Driven Funds' activities in connection with the transaction may be incurred.

An exchange offer or a cash tender offer may also be made for less than all of the outstanding securities of an issuer, with the provision that, if a greater number of securities is tendered, securities will be accepted on a pro rata basis. Thus, after the completion of the offer and at a time when the market price of the securities has declined below their cost, the Event Driven Funds may have returned to them, and be forced to sell at a loss, a portion of the securities tendered.

Similar to the "risk arbitrage" sub-strategy employed by the Event Driven Portfolio Manager, other "hard catalyst" event situations on which it focuses also may maintain "asymmetric" risk-reward profiles in that the Event Driven Funds could incur substantially greater losses on failed transactions (or unsuccessful corporate events) than the gains it anticipates recognizing on consummated transactions (or successful corporate events). Examples include asset divestitures, debt refinancings and litigation or regulatory outcomes. Such other event situations also carry their own unique set of risks as to the likelihood and timing of consummation, including (among other factors) evolving equity and credit market conditions; shareholder reaction; and legal, regulatory and other delays. Further, in any investment in an unstable political or economic environment, there exists the risk of default, bankruptcy and/or insolvency with respect to both debt and equity securities. Because there is substantial uncertainty concerning the outcome of transactions involving financially troubled companies or situations in which the Event Driven Funds may invest, the Event Driven Funds could lose their entire investment in such companies.

### **Distressed and High Yield Investing**

The Ionic Funds from time to time will invest in securities issued by companies in weak and/or deteriorating financial condition, experiencing poor operating results, needing substantial capital investment, perhaps having negative net worth, facing special competitive or product obsolescence problems or involved in bankruptcy or reorganization proceedings. Investments of this type may involve substantial financial and business risks, which are often heightened by an inability to obtain reliable information concerning such issuers. Investments in companies that are or become involved in bankruptcy or reorganization proceedings also may be adversely affected by the laws of one or more jurisdictions relating to, among other things, "fraudulent conveyances" and other voidable transfers or payments, "lender liability" and the bankruptcy court's power to disallow, reduce, subordinate and/or disenfranchise particular claims. In liquidation (both in and out of bankruptcy) and other forms of corporate reorganizations, there is

the risk that the reorganization will be unsuccessful (due to, for example, failure to obtain requisite approvals), or significantly delayed (for example, until various liabilities, actual or contingent, have been satisfied) or will result in a distribution of cash or new assets the value of which is less than the purchase price to the Ionic Fund of the asset in respect of which such distribution was made. Such investments can result in significant or even total losses. In addition, the markets for distressed and high yield Investment Assets are subject to abrupt and erratic price movements and excessive price volatility, and are frequently illiquid.

### **Directional Trading**

Certain of the positions taken by the Ionic Funds may be designed to profit from forecasting absolute price movements in a particular instrument. Predicting future prices is inherently uncertain and the losses incurred, if the market moves against a position, will often not be hedged. The speculative aspect of attempting to predict absolute price movements is generally perceived to exceed that involved in attempting to predict relative price fluctuations.

### **Long/Short Trading**

In long/short strategies, certain of the Ionic Funds intend to assemble a long portfolio of stocks, or options thereon, expected to outperform or a short portfolio of stocks expected to underperform the general market. There can be no assurance that the stocks in question will be correctly identified, and as there will not be any pricing relationship between the stocks held long or short, or options thereon, both portfolios may incur losses at or about the same time.

### **Relative Value Strategies**

The success of the Ionic Funds' relative value trading is dependent on Ionic's ability to exploit relative mispricings among interrelated instruments. Although relative value positions are considered to have a lower risk profile than directional trades as the former attempt to exploit price differentials rather than overall price movements, relative value strategies are by no means without risk. Mispricings, even if correctly identified, may not converge within the time frame within which the Ionic Funds maintain their positions. Even pure "riskless" arbitrage — which is rare — can result in significant losses if the arbitrage cannot be sustained (due, for example, to margin calls) until expiration. The Ionic Funds' relative value strategies are subject to the risks of disruptions in historical price relationships, the restricted availability of credit and the obsolescence or inaccuracy of its or third-party valuation models. Market disruptions may also force the Ionic Funds to close out one or more positions. Such disruptions have in the past resulted in substantial losses for funds employing relative value strategies.

The Ionic Funds expect that a major component of their relative value trading will involve spreads between two or more positions. To the extent the price relationships between such positions remain constant, no gain or loss may occur. Such positions do, however, entail a substantial risk that the price differential could change unfavorably and, due to the leveraged nature of the Ionic Funds' spread trading, result in increased losses. Changes in the shape of the yield curve can cause significant changes in the profitability of hedging or spreading operations. In the event of an inversion of the yield curve, the reversal of the interest differential between

investments of different maturities can make previously profitable spread techniques unprofitable for the Ionic Funds.

In recent market conditions, the profitability of relative value trading has been materially reduced — in part due to the number of market participants seeking to exploit the same perceived mispricings. Additionally, given the Ionic Funds' emphasis on positive convexity, it will be difficult to generate outsized returns in stagnant, non-trending markets, and if there were to be a liquidity crisis and dislocation in the Ionic Funds' strategies (*e.g.*, summer 1998, first quarter 2005) the Ionic Funds would most likely experience a mark down.

### **Hybrid and Other Strategies**

In certain market conditions, the trading components combined in a hybrid strategy may detract from rather than complement each other, and the combination of these components may involve unanticipated risks.

### **Illiquid and Longer-Term Investments**

Certain Ionic Funds may invest in a variety of illiquid and longer-term positions, including thinly-traded securities and other less liquid assets, such as investments in private companies and in certain physical commodities.

Ionic may determine the fair value of the Ionic Funds' illiquid longer-term investments for accounting purposes using valuation models and market information. However, the Ionic Funds' valuation of these positions may differ materially from the value ultimately realized upon the liquidation of such investments, particularly as certain of such investments tend to have realization and/or events which cause their value to increase or decrease suddenly in a manner not previously reflected in the net asset value at which investors have recently subscribed and/or redeemed.

There will often be no trading market for the Ionic Funds' illiquid longer-term investments, and the Ionic Funds might only be able to sell these positions, if at all, at materially disadvantageous prices.

### **Developing Investment Strategies**

Ionic generally applies strategies based on those the Principals or the Event Driven Portfolio Manager have implemented in the past, but these strategies will necessarily develop and change on an ongoing basis as Ionic's resources and infrastructure change. In addition, Ionic may add new strategies to those the Principals or the Event Driven Portfolio Manager have previously implemented. Ionic is not restricted from using certain of the Ionic Funds' capital to develop and incubate new strategies, including those in which the Principals have limited experience. There can be no assurance that Ionic will be successful in developing existing or implementing new strategies or that such Ionic Funds will not suffer material losses as a result of the development or incubation of a given strategy.



## **Diversification Policies**

Diversification is an integral part of Ionic's overall portfolio risk management strategy. Ionic has established targeted limits with respect to the percentage of the assets of certain Ionic Funds that may be invested in any particular issuer, industry, sector, market and investment strategy. Such limits, however, generally are not fixed guidelines and are monitored and adjusted from time to time by Ionic in its sole discretion.

## **Equity Securities**

A number of Ionic's trades are based on attempting to predict the future price level of different equity or equity-related securities. Numerous inter-related and difficult-to-quantify economic factors, as well as market sentiment, subjective and extraneous political, climate-related and other factors, influence the cost of equities; there can be no assurance that Ionic will be able to predict future price levels correctly.

Equity price levels are particularly subject to actual or perceived mismanagement and/or accounting irregularities at issuers.

Ionic's directional equity positions are typically leveraged, so that even comparatively minor adverse market movements can result in substantial losses.

## **Debt Securities**

The debt securities in which certain Ionic Funds may invest may be subject to price volatility due to various factors including, but not limited to, changes in interest rates, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity. In addition to high investment grade debt securities, certain Ionic Funds may invest in low investment grade or non-investment grade debt securities, which are typically subject to greater market fluctuations and risks of loss of income and principal than lower yielding, investment grade securities and are often influenced by many of the same unpredictable factors which affect equity prices. In addition to the sensitivity of debt securities to overall interest-rate movements, debt securities involve a fundamental credit risk based on the issuer's ability to make principal and interest payments on the debt it issues. The applicable Ionic Funds' investments in debt securities may experience substantial losses due to adverse changes in interest rates and the market's perception of issuers' creditworthiness.

## **CDO Investment Related Risks**

The market value of CDOs will generally fluctuate with, among other things, the financial condition of the obligors on the underlying debt obligations or, with respect to Synthetic Securities (as defined below), of the obligors on or issuers of the Reference Obligations (as defined below), general economic conditions, the condition of certain financial markets, political events, developments or trends in any particular industry and changes in prevailing interest rates. Prospective investors must understand that certain securities may constitute all or a significant portion of the underlying securities held by a CDO, Synthetic Security or other investment of the Ionic Funds and that CDOs are therefore subject to risks particular to such securities.

CDOs are subject to credit, liquidity and interest rate risks. In particular, investment-grade CDOs will have greater liquidity risk than investment grade sovereign or corporate bonds. There is no established, liquid secondary market for many of the CDO securities the Ionic Funds may purchase. The lack of such an established, liquid secondary market may have an adverse effect on the market value of such CDO securities and the Ionic Funds' ability to sell them. Further, CDOs will be subject to certain transfer restrictions that may further restrict liquidity. Therefore, no assurance can be given that if an Ionic Fund were to dispose of a particular CDO held by the Ionic Fund, it could dispose of such investment at the previously prevailing market price.

The performance of CDOs is adversely affected by macroeconomic factors, including (i) general economic conditions affecting capital markets and participants therein; (ii) the economic downturns and uncertainties affecting economies and capital markets worldwide; (iii) the effects of, and disruptions and uncertainties resulting from, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the actual and potential military responses thereto and other consequences thereof and similar events; (iv) recent concern about financial performance, accounting and other issues relating to various publicly traded companies; and (v) recent and proposed changes in accounting and reporting standards and bankruptcy legislation.

"Synthetic Security" is any derivative financial instrument with respect to a debt instrument, in the form of a swap transaction or other form of derivative purchased or entered into, by an Ionic Fund with or from a synthetic security counterparty, which investment contains similar probability of default, recovery upon default (or a specific percentage thereof) and expected loss characteristics as those of the related Reference Obligation (without taking account of such considerations as they relate to the counterparty), but which contain a maturity, interest rate and other non-credit characteristics that may be different from the Reference Obligation to which the credit risk of the Synthetic Security relates.

"Reference Obligation" means a debt security or other obligation upon which a Synthetic Security is based.

"Reference Entity" means the relevant obligor of a Reference Obligation.

### **Synthetic Securities**

To the extent an Ionic Fund has a position in a Synthetic Security but not the underlying Reference Obligation, it will typically have a contractual relationship only with the counterparty of the Synthetic Security, and not with the Reference Entity that issued or, in some circumstances, guarantees the Reference Obligation. The Ionic Fund will have no right pursuant to the Synthetic Security to directly enforce compliance by the Reference Entity with the terms of the Reference Obligation nor will it have any rights of setoff against the Reference Entity or rights with respect to the Reference Obligation. The Ionic Fund will not directly benefit from the collateral supporting the Reference Obligation and will not have the benefit of the remedies that would normally be available to a cash holder of such Reference Obligation. In addition, in the event of the insolvency of the counterparty, the Ionic Fund generally will be treated as a general unsecured creditor of such counterparty, and will not have any claim with respect to the Reference Obligation. Consequently, the Ionic Fund will be subject to the credit risk of the counterparty as well as that of the Reference Entity. As a result, concentrations of Synthetic

Securities entered into with any one counterparty create an additional degree of risk with respect to defaults by such counterparty as well as by the Reference Entity.

### **Insolvency of Issuers of CDOs**

If a court in a lawsuit brought by an unpaid creditor or representative of creditors of a U.S. issuer of a CDO, such as a trustee in bankruptcy, were to find that the issuer did not receive fair consideration or reasonably equivalent value for incurring the indebtedness constituting the CDO and, after giving effect to such indebtedness, the issuer (i) was insolvent; (ii) was engaged in a business for which the remaining assets of such issuer constituted unreasonably small capital; or (iii) intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay such debts as they matured, such court could determine to invalidate, in whole or in part, such indebtedness as a fraudulent conveyance, to subordinate such indebtedness to existing or future creditors of the issuer or to recover amounts previously paid by the issuer in satisfaction of such indebtedness. The measure of insolvency for this purpose varies. Generally, an issuer would be considered insolvent at a particular time if the sum of its debts was then greater than all of its property at a fair valuation or if the present fair saleable value of its assets was then less than the amount that would be required to pay its probable liabilities on its existing debts as they became absolute and matured. There can be no assurance as to what standard a court would apply in order to determine whether the issuer was insolvent after giving effect to the incurrence of the indebtedness constituting the CDO or that, regardless of the method of valuation, a court would not determine that the issuer was insolvent upon giving effect to such incurrence. In addition, in the event of the insolvency of an issuer of a CDO, payments made on such CDO could be subject to avoidance as a preference if made within a certain period of time (which may be as long as one year) before insolvency.

In general, if payments on a CDO are voidable, whether as fraudulent conveyances or preferences, such payments can be recaptured.

The preceding description applies only to issuers of CDOs organized in the United States. Insolvency considerations will differ depending on the country in which each issuer is located or domiciled and may differ depending on whether the issuer is a non-sovereign or a sovereign entity.

### **Asset-Backed Securities**

Asset-backed securities are subject to interest rate risk and prepayment risk. Asset-backed securities are subject to additional risks in that, unlike mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities generally do not have the benefit of a security interest in the related collateral. Each type of asset-backed security also entails unique risks depending on the type of assets involved and the legal structure used. 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 debtors the right to set off certain amounts owed on the credit cards, thereby reducing the balance due. Asset-backed securities typically experience credit risk. For example, there is an increasing supply of subordinated securities rated lower than AA (down to B or first loss) and senior securities that may be rated lower than AAA, as well. There is also the possibility that recoveries on repossessed collateral may not, in some cases, be available to

support payments on these securities because of the inability to perfect a security interest in such collateral.

## **Hybrid Debt Securities**

The Ionic Funds may invest in certain hybrid debt arrangements, which are subject to risks in addition to overall interest-rate movements and the issuers' ability to pay the debt in accordance with its terms. For example, if an Ionic Fund invests in syndicated debt such as loan participations, it would be subject to certain additional risks as a result of having no direct contractual relationship with the borrower of the underlying loan. In such circumstances, the Ionic Fund would generally depend on the lender to enforce its rights and obligations under the loan arrangements in the event of a default by the borrower on the underlying loan and would generally have no voting rights with respect to the issuer, as such rights are typically retained by the lender. Such investments are subject to the credit risk of the lender (as well as the borrower) since they will depend upon the lender forwarding payments of principal and interest received on the underlying loan. There can be no assurance that the lender will not default on its obligations under such arrangements, resulting in substantial losses to the Ionic Fund.

## **Derivatives**

The Ionic Funds invest in certain derivative financial instruments, including, without limitation, warrants, options, swaps, swaptions, options on convertible securities, notional principal contracts, contracts for differences, forward contracts, futures contracts and options thereon, and may use derivative techniques for hedging and for other trading purposes. The use of derivative instruments involves a variety of material risks, including the extremely high degree of leverage often embedded in such instruments and the possibility of counterparty non-performance as well as of material and prolonged deviations between the theoretical and realizable value of a derivative (*i.e.*, due to nonconformance to anticipated or historical correlation patterns). These anticipated risks (and other risks that may not be anticipated) may make it difficult as well as costly to the Ionic Funds to close out positions in order either to realize gains or to limit losses.

Many of the derivatives currently traded by the Ionic Funds are principal-to-principal or "over-the-counter" contracts between the relevant Ionic Fund and a third party entered into privately, rather than on an exchange. As a result, the Ionic Funds will not be afforded the regulatory and financial protections of an exchange or its clearinghouse (or of the government regulator that oversees such exchange and clearinghouse). In privately negotiated transactions, the risk of the negotiated price deviating materially from actual value is substantial, particularly when there is no active market available from which to derive benchmark prices.

Many derivatives are valued on the basis of dealers' pricing of these instruments. However, the price at which dealers value a particular derivative and the price which the same dealers would be willing to pay for such derivative should the relevant Ionic Fund wish or be forced to sell such position may be materially different. Such differences can result in an overstatement of the Ionic Fund's net asset value and may have a material adverse effect on the Ionic Fund in situations in which the Ionic Fund is required to sell derivative instruments. The Ionic Funds' use of derivatives and other techniques (such as short sales) for hedging purposes involves certain additional risks, including (i) imperfect correlation between movements in the asset on which the

derivative is based and movements in the asset being hedged; and (ii) possible impediments to effective portfolio management or the ability to meet short-term obligations because of the percentage of the Ionic Funds' assets segregated to secure its obligations under derivatives contracts. By hedging a particular position, an Ionic Fund limits the potential gain from an increase in value of such position, but may not achieve a commensurate increase in risk control.

Substantial disruption in the derivatives markets followed the recent bankruptcies and insolvencies of major financial institutions and market participants. Given the uncertainty relating to the government bailout of certain market participants and relating to various other government interventions, such disruption may occur again. Such disruption can cause substantial losses if related events trigger early termination provisions of derivatives transactions. The early termination of derivative transactions may result in substantial losses for the Ionic Funds as the Ionic Funds may not be able to replace the terminated positions and accordingly may be exposed to previously hedged risks, may be forced to close out of valuable or potentially valuable positions and may be forced to close out of other positions at a loss. Additionally, where the events described above have caused the bankruptcy or default by an Ionic Fund's counterparty, the relevant Ionic Fund may experience a significant delay in receipt or complete loss of payment owed to the Ionic Fund by the counterparty upon early termination. The relevant Ionic Fund's losses may extend to collateral it has posted to its counterparty.

The Ionic Funds may utilize a wide range of derivative instruments as part of their trading strategies. The terms of many derivative contracts that will be entered into will generally allow the counterparty to terminate such derivative contracts in numerous circumstances, including based upon credit-risk related contingent features (*e.g.*, significant redemptions or decline in net asset value) and various other default provisions. Additionally, if a counterparty terminates its derivatives contracts with an Ionic Fund based upon such credit-risk related contingent features or default provisions, cross-acceleration provisions in that Ionic Fund's trading documents, including without limitation master derivatives agreements, may be triggered giving that Ionic Fund's other counterparties the right to close out that Ionic Fund's positions under all of its trading documents. Such an event would have a material adverse effect on the value of that Ionic Fund's portfolio.

Ionic Funds may have a unilateral optional early termination right (*i.e.*, in a non-default scenario) under such derivative contracts, but may be required to pay breakage fees and expenses to terminate certain derivative contracts pursuant to such an optional early termination provision.

## **Options**

The seller (writer) of a call option that is covered (*i.e.*, the writer holds the underlying security) assumes the risk of a decline in the market price of the underlying security below the purchase price of the underlying security less the premium received, and gives up the opportunity for gain on the underlying security above the exercise price of the option. The seller of an uncovered call option assumes the risk of a theoretically unlimited increase in the market price of the underlying security above the exercise price of the option. The securities necessary to satisfy the exercise of the call option may be unavailable for purchase by such writer except at much higher prices. Purchasing securities to satisfy the exercise of the call option can itself cause the price of the

securities to rise further, sometimes by a significant amount, thereby exacerbating the loss. The buyer of a call option assumes the risk of losing its entire investment in the call option.

The seller (writer) of a put option that is covered (*i.e.*, the writer has a short position in the underlying security) assumes the risk of an increase in the market price of the underlying security above the sales price (in establishing the short position) of the underlying security plus the premium received, and gives up the opportunity for gain on the underlying security below the exercise price of the option. The seller of an uncovered put option assumes the risk of a decline in the market price of the underlying security below the exercise price of the option. The buyer of a put option assumes the risk of losing its entire investment in the put option.

## **Currency Markets**

The Ionic Funds may invest in currencies and foreign exchange. Such transactions involve a significant degree of risk and the markets in which foreign exchange transactions are effected are volatile, specialized and technical. Significant changes, including changes in liquidity and prices, can occur in such markets within very short periods of time, often within minutes. Foreign exchange trading risks include, but are not limited to, exchange rate risk, maturity gaps, interest rate risk and potential interference by foreign governments through regulation of local exchange markets, foreign investment or particular transactions in foreign currency.

## **Credit Derivatives**

The Ionic Funds may purchase and sell credit derivatives. Credit derivatives trading is subject not only to the credit risk of the issuer of the underlying obligations to which such derivatives are referenced, but also to the credit risk of the counterparty entering into the credit derivative itself. In certain cases, the credit derivatives market is significantly less liquid than the market in the underlying debt obligations, due to the generally customized and individually negotiated terms of certain of such derivatives. In addition, over-the-counter derivatives have been the subject of recent legislative proposals that would require them to be cleared on exchanges.

## **Credit Default Swap Agreements**

The Ionic Funds may be either the buyer or seller in credit default swap transactions. The “buyer” in a credit default contract is obligated to pay the “seller” a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract, as well as an upfront payment in certain circumstances, in return for a contingent payment upon the occurrence of a “credit event” with respect to the underlying Reference Entity. Generally, a credit event means the bankruptcy or insolvency of the Reference Entity, the failure to pay a debt obligation by the Reference Entity and in some instances the restructuring of one or more debt obligations of the Reference Entity. If a credit event occurs, the seller typically must pay the contingent payment to the buyer up to the notional amount of the contract. Credit default swaps may be cash or physically settled following a credit event. Under cash settled credit default swaps, the seller is required to pay to the buyer the notional amount of the contract less the recovery amount (*i.e.*, the post-default market value) of a debt obligation of the Reference Entity with a principal amount equal to the notional amount of the contract. Under physically settled credit default swaps, the seller is required to pay to the buyer

the notional amount of the contract upon receipt from the buyer of any deliverable obligation of the Reference Entity in a principal amount equal to the notional amount of the contract.

Following recent industry efforts to improve the credit derivatives trading infrastructure, a “determinations committee” comprised of active credit default swap dealers and a limited number of other market participants was established to make binding determinations with respect to credit default swaps for issues such as whether a credit event has occurred; whether a settlement auction will be held; and whether a particular obligation is “deliverable” (*i.e.*, may be used as a basis for valuation in the auction). As a result of the related documentation standardization, the majority of standard credit default swaps are cash settled through centralized auctions. In circumstances where the determination committee determines not to hold an auction and the credit default swap is physically settled following a credit event, if an Ionic Fund, as a buyer of the credit default swap, does not own any of the debt obligations that are deliverable under the credit default swap, that Ionic Fund would be exposed to the risk that deliverable obligations will not be available in the market, or will be available only at unfavorable prices, as would be the case in a so-called “short squeeze.” In certain recent instances of a potential credit event with respect to a Reference Entity, it has been unclear whether such event met the actual definition of credit event under the standard industry documentation for credit default swaps. Similarly, there have been recent circumstances in which there did not exist the publicly available information required by the standard industry documentation for credit default swaps to enable the determinations committee to consider whether a credit event has occurred. In either of these cases, the Ionic Fund as a buyer of a credit default swap, may not be able to realize the full value of the credit default swap even though the Ionic Funds may have concluded that a credit event has occurred. Furthermore, if the determinations committee determines that a “succession event” has occurred with respect to a Reference Entity (as a result of a merger, restructuring or similar event) the credit default swap may be deemed to be amended to reference one or more successor Reference Entities. If such a succession event occurs, certain or all obligations that would have been deliverable under the credit default swap prior to such deemed amendment may not be deliverable under the amended credit default swap, which may have a material adverse effect on the value of the credit default swap to the buyer.

As a seller of credit default swaps, an Ionic Fund would incur leveraged exposure to the credit of the Reference Entity and is subject to many of the same risks it would incur if it were holding debt obligations of the Reference Entity. However, the Ionic Fund would not have any legal recourse against the Reference Entity and would not benefit from any collateral securing the Reference Entity’s debt obligations. In addition, where a credit default swap is physically settled, the credit default swap buyer would have broad discretion within parameters established upon entry into the credit default swap to select which of the Reference Entity’s debt obligations to deliver to the Ionic Fund following a credit event and would likely choose the obligations with the lowest market value (the “cheapest to deliver”) in order to maximize the net payment it receives from the Ionic Fund.

Credit default swaps involve additional risks than if the Ionic Fund had invested in the deliverable obligation directly. In addition to general market risks, credit default swaps are subject to liquidity risk, counterparty credit risk and regulatory risk. A buyer also may lose its investment and recover nothing should no credit event occur under the relevant credit default swap(s). If a credit event were to occur, the value of the deliverable obligation received by the

seller (or the market value of the deliverable obligation used to calculate a cash settlement payment), coupled with the periodic payments previously received, may be less than the full notional value it pays to the buyer, resulting in a loss of value to the seller.

In addition to the settlement risk discussed above with respect to physically settled credit default swaps, payment under either physically settled or cash settled credit default swaps may be delayed beyond the time frame originally anticipated by the counterparties. Such delays may adversely impact the relevant Ionic Fund's ability to otherwise productively deploy any capital that is committed with respect to such contracts or to settle related hedges timely.

### **Futures Contracts**

The Ionic Funds may from time to time hold futures contracts. Futures markets are highly volatile and are influenced by complex and inter-related factors, such as, among other things, changing supply and demand relationships, changes in interest and exchange rates, governmental, commercial and trade programs and policies designed to influence prices and/or exchange rates and world political and economic events. Trading in futures and futures options contracts involves a high degree of leverage. The Ionic Funds' futures positions may also be subject to periods of illiquidity due to "daily price fluctuation limits" or "daily limits" imposed by certain exchanges. During a single trading day no trades may be executed at prices beyond the daily limits. Once the price of a contract for a particular futures contract has increased or decreased by an amount equal to the daily limit, positions in such contract can generally neither be taken nor liquidated. This could prevent the Ionic Funds from promptly liquidating unfavorable positions and subject it to losses.

### **Structured Investment Products**

The Ionic Funds may invest in a variety of different structured investment products – *e.g.*, total return swaps, contracts for differences, participating notes, options and collateralized debt obligations. These structured products involve not only the risk of the underlying "reference asset," but also the risks (including acceleration of the financing embedded in the structure and/or restrictions imposed on the management and nature of the permissible reference assets) and costs of creating the structured products.

### **Non-U.S. Securities and Emerging Markets**

The Ionic Funds may trade and invest in securities of companies domiciled or operating in one or more non-U.S. countries and make other investments in entities located outside the U.S., including in countries that are considered to be "emerging markets." Investing in these securities involves considerations and possible risks not typically involved in investing in securities of companies domiciled and operating in the United States, including instability of some non-U.S. governments, the possibility of expropriation, limitations on the use or removal of funds or other assets, more limited disclosure and access to information from issuers than is customary in the U.S., changes in governmental administration or economic or monetary policy (in the United States or abroad) or changed circumstances in dealings between nations.

The application of non-U.S. tax laws (*e.g.*, the imposition of withholding taxes on dividend or interest payments, income taxes and excise taxes) or confiscatory taxation, as well as various



other laws and regulations, including anti-money laundering laws, may affect the Ionic Funds' investment in non-U.S. securities and its other investments in entities located outside the U.S. The Ionic Funds may incur higher expenses from investment in non-U.S. securities and outside the U.S., in particular, in emerging markets, than from investment in U.S. securities and in non-emerging markets because of the costs that must be incurred in connection with conversions between various currencies and because non-U.S. brokerage commissions may be higher than commissions in the United States. Non-U.S. markets also may be less liquid, more volatile and subject to less stringent governmental supervision than in the United States. The Ionic Funds' investments in non-U.S. countries could be adversely affected by other factors not present in the United States, including lack of uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and potential difficulties in enforcing contractual obligations and in hedging market risk.

### **Commodities Trading and Investing**

The Ionic Funds may invest in certain commodities markets, including energy and energy-related markets, metals, agriculture and crude oil, through investments in derivative instruments.

The energy and energy-related markets (*i.e.*, derivatives instruments related to electricity, natural gas and oil) are susceptible to significant short-term price volatility, potentially to a greater extent than the financial instruments markets, as a result of a variety of factors, including weather-related events, the inability to store electricity and rate and tariff regulation and consumer advocacy. The energy markets are also subject to price volatility as a result of breakdowns in the facilities necessary to produce, transport, store and deliver physical energy.

The price of metals has fluctuated widely over the past several years. Several factors may affect the price of metals, including: global supply and demand, which is influenced by such factors as forward selling by producers, purchases made by producers to unwind hedge positions, central bank purchases and sales, and production and cost levels in major metals producing countries; investors' expectations with respect to the rate of inflation; currency exchange rates; interest rates; investment and trading activities of hedge funds and commodity funds; and global or regional political, economic or financial events. The volatility of metals prices may increase the risk of loss to the relevant Ionic Funds.

Trading in agricultural products is subject to the risks affecting supply and demand, including climatic conditions, transportation difficulties, natural disasters and other events which affect the availability of agricultural staples in certain models. As the agricultural markets tend to be less liquid than at least certain financial markets, the risk of a limited group of investors materially affecting prices are likely to be greater in the agricultural market. The restrictions on "insider trading" and the broad dissemination of information are generally not applicable to the agricultural markets. Consequently, the Ionic Funds may often be trading in these markets at a material disadvantage to other market participants with better market access and/or information sources.

### **Private Investments; Illiquid Investments; Estimated Values**

Certain Ionic Funds may from time to time invest in illiquid and restricted, as well as thinly-traded, instruments (including privately placed securities). There is often no trading market for

these investments, and the Ionic Funds might only be able to liquidate these positions, if at all, at disadvantageous prices. The Ionic Funds may be required to hold such investments despite adverse price movements. In addition, if an Ionic Fund makes a short sale of an illiquid holding, it may have difficulty in covering the short sale, resulting in a potentially unlimited loss on that position.

Ionic values the illiquid investments in the Ionic Funds' portfolio in its good faith discretion. Although there can be no assurance that these valuations accurately predict the price at which an arm's-length buyer would be willing to purchase the investments, these valuations are part of the calculation of the Ionic Funds' respective net asset values.

In order to ascertain the net asset values of the Ionic Funds, Ionic uses an estimated fair value (determined by Ionic) for its illiquid investments. Any such fair value may differ materially from the value ultimately realized upon the liquidation of these investments. Nevertheless, management fees are paid, performance allocations made, the participation of new subscriptions in the profits and losses of the Ionic Funds determined and redemption proceeds calculated based on the fair value determinations. Inevitably, using such fair values may adversely affect investors over time.

## **Model Risk**

Certain of Ionic's strategies require the use of quantitative valuation models that it has developed, as well as valuation models developed by third parties and made available to Ionic. As market dynamics (for example, due to changed market conditions and participants) shift over time, a previously highly successful model is subject to becoming outdated or inaccurate, likely without Ionic being able to recognize that fact before substantial losses are incurred. There can be no assurance that Ionic will be successful in continuing to develop and maintain effective quantitative models.

The Ionic Funds' model risk extends to the valuation of a number of its less liquid investments which are made on the basis of internal models, taking into account market inputs, where available, and the results of any valuation analyses of independent valuation consultants retained by Ionic, in the absence of any readily-determinable market values. The valuations so determined may differ materially from the value ultimately realized upon the liquidation of such investment.

## **Importance of Market Judgment**

Although Ionic uses quantitative valuation models in evaluating the economic components of certain prospective trades, Ionic's strategies are by no means wholly systematic; the market judgment and discretion of Ionic's personnel are fundamental to the implementation of these strategies. The greater the importance of subjective factors, the more unpredictable a trading strategy becomes.

## **Duration of Investment Positions**

Certain Ionic Funds are expected to be heavily comprised of relative value and arbitrage trades that can require a long holding period to realize returns. While such trades can have very attractive long-term risk-reward characteristics, in the short-term there can be high mark-to-

market volatility. Ionic typically will not know (except in the case of certain options or derivatives positions which have pre-established expiration dates) the maximum — or, often, even the expected (as opposed to optimal) — duration of any particular position at the time of initiation. The length of time for which a position is maintained varies significantly, based on Ionic’s subjective judgment of the appropriate point at which to liquidate a position so as to augment gains or reduce losses.

Many of the Ionic Funds’ transactions involve acquiring related positions in a variety of different instruments or markets at or about the same time. Frequently, optimizing the probability of being able to exploit the pricing anomalies among these positions requires holding periods of significant length — often many months to a year or more. Actual holding periods depend on numerous market factors which can both expedite and disrupt price convergences. There can be no assurance that the Ionic Funds will be able to maintain any particular position, or group of related positions, for the duration required to realize the expected gains, or avoid losses, from such positions.

The Ionic Funds’ investments may not have a defined time horizon to the extent that they are based upon the realization of the enterprise value of an investment as it develops and evolves. The longer the duration of an investment by the Ionic Funds, the greater the exposure of such position to the risks of general economic changes as well as changes in the Ionic itself.

The Ionic Funds’ ability to realize value from illiquid investments is often dependent on a “valuation” event — an initial public offering, sale, refinancing, etc. The specific “exit strategy” for such investments may not be determined at the time that the Ionic Fund commits to such investment, and changing market conditions may preclude the execution of the “exit strategy” that Ionic might have expected to implement.

## **Short Sales**

As an integral part of its trading strategies, the Ionic Funds routinely sell securities “short.” A short sale is effected by selling a security that the relevant Ionic Fund does not own, or selling a security that the Ionic Fund owns but that it does not deliver upon consummation of the sale. In order to make delivery to the buyer of a security sold short, the relevant Ionic Fund must borrow the security. In so doing, it incurs the obligation to replace that security, whatever its price may be, at the time it is required to deliver it to the lender. The relevant Ionic Fund must also pay to the lender of the security any dividends or interest payable on the security during the borrowing period and may have to pay a premium to borrow the security. This obligation must, unless such Ionic Fund then owns or has the right to obtain, without payment, securities identical to those sold short, be collateralized by a deposit of cash or marketable securities with the lender. Short selling is subject to a theoretically unlimited risk of loss because there is no limit on how much the price of a security may appreciate before the short position is closed out. There can be no assurance that the securities necessary to cover the short position will be available for purchase by the relevant Ionic Fund. In addition, purchasing securities to close out the short position can itself cause the price of the relevant securities to rise further, thereby increasing any loss incurred by such Ionic Fund. Furthermore, the Ionic Fund may be forced to close out a short position prematurely if a counterparty from which the relevant Ionic Fund borrowed securities demands their return, resulting in a loss on what might otherwise have been a profitable position.

Furthermore, U.S. and non-U.S. regulatory authorities have recently instituted new limitations on short sales, including temporary bans and ongoing reporting requirements, while also restoring the “uptick rule” in certain circumstances, in which case it is generally prohibited to initiate a short sale unless the last quote for a stock was higher than the immediately prior quote. The long-term impact of such requirements on strategies that make material use of short sales is unclear, but if bans on short sales continue to be reinstated such bans may make it impracticable or uneconomical to implement some of the Ionic Funds’ investment strategies.

### **Securities Lending**

The Ionic Funds may borrow and lend securities on an ongoing basis.

Third parties that borrow securities from an Ionic Fund may not be able to return those securities on demand (possibly causing an Ionic Fund to default on its obligations to other parties), or may default on the payment obligations owed to an Ionic Fund in connection with such securities loans, potentially resulting in substantial losses to the Ionic Fund.

Conversely, the third parties that lend securities to an Ionic Fund may recall such securities at any time — potentially requiring such Ionic Fund prematurely to close out the related positions, resulting in substantial losses.

### **Hedging**

Ionic will cause the Ionic Funds to enter into hedging transactions with the intention of reducing or controlling risk. However, even if Ionic is successful in doing so, the hedging will reduce the Ionic Funds’ returns. Furthermore, it is possible that hedging strategies will not be effective in controlling risk, due to unexpected non-correlation (or even positive correlation) between the hedging instrument and the position being hedged, increasing rather than reducing both risk and losses.

To the extent that Ionic hedges, its hedges will not be static but rather will need to be continually adjusted based on Ionic’s assessment of market conditions, as well as the expected degree of non-correlation between the hedges and the portfolio being hedged. The success of Ionic’s hedging strategies will depend on Ionic’s ability to implement such strategies efficiently and cost-effectively, as well as on the accuracy of Ionic’s ongoing judgments concerning the hedging positions to be acquired by the Ionic Funds.

Ionic will not, in general, attempt to hedge all market or other risks inherent in the Ionic Funds’ positions, and will hedge certain risks only partially, if at all. Specifically, Ionic may choose not to hedge certain risks or determine that hedging is economically unattractive — either in respect of particular positions or in respect of the Ionic Funds’ overall portfolio. The Ionic Funds’ portfolio composition may result in various directional market risks remaining unhedged, although Ionic may rely on diversification to control such risks to the extent that Ionic believes it is desirable to do so.

Ionic may not have the ability to hedge many of the Ionic Funds’ illiquid investments as there are no instruments available to do so, given the illiquid nature of such investments.

## **Leverage**

Certain Ionic Funds may invest on a highly leveraged basis, both through their borrowings and through the significant degree of leverage typically embedded in the derivative instruments in their portfolios. Ionic measures total leverage as a fraction with the numerator being the total long market value of all positions in the relevant Ionic Fund as calculated by Ionic in accordance with its internal models and assumptions and the denominator being the net asset value. This method of calculating leverage captures borrowings by the relevant Ionic Fund but does not capture the embedded leverage in the derivative instruments in the portfolio. Utilizing other measurements of risk or exposure, such as gross notional exposure or value at risk, could yield materially different results.

In markets with fewer opportunities, Ionic anticipates decreasing leverage and in very cheap and/or dislocated markets it might increase leverage. Different strategies will have different degrees of leverage. Losses incurred on the Ionic Funds' leveraged investments increase in direct proportion to the degree of leverage employed.

Leverage includes not only increased risk, but substantial interest expense. Irrespective of the risk of increased losses resulting from leverage, even if the leveraged positions are profitable but do not generate incremental gains in excess of the interest expense incurred, the Ionic Funds will incur losses on such positions.

In addition, investment restrictions applicable to the Aurora Horizons Fund and the Absolute Return Fund require Ionic to manage the use of leverage by such funds differently from the way it manages the use of leverage by the other Ionic Funds.

## **Trade Execution Risk**

Certain of the trading techniques that may be utilized by the Ionic Funds require the rapid and efficient execution of transactions. Inefficient executions can eliminate the small pricing differentials that Ionic seeks to exploit and impact, possibly materially, the profitability of the Ionic Funds' positions.

## **Trading Error Risk**

Trading errors are an intrinsic factor in any complex investment process, and will occur, notwithstanding the execution of due care and special procedures designed to prevent such errors. If trading errors do occur, and unless the relevant investment advisory agreement or other similar agreement states otherwise, such errors are for the account of the relevant Ionic Fund, unless they are the result of conduct inconsistent with the standard of care set forth in the relevant investment advisory agreement.

## **High Portfolio Turnover**

Certain of the strategies employed by the Ionic Funds require frequent trading, increasing portfolio turnover, brokerage commissions and other transaction fees and expenses, as well as the risk of trading errors, which could have an adverse effect on the performance of strategies employed by the Ionic Funds.

## **“New Issue” Trading**

Certain of the Ionic Funds invest in “new issues” as defined under rules of FINRA. Pursuant to FINRA Rule 5130 and Rule 5131, certain investors are restricted from fully participating in the profits and losses generated by “new issues.” In addition, the Ionic Funds, in certain cases, may limit the participation of certain investors in “new issues” to a greater extent than required by FINRA Rule 5130 or Rule 5131. To date, the Ionic Funds have never allocated profits and losses from “new issues” to restricted investors (who elect to participate) pursuant to a “*de minimis*” exemption under FINRA Rule 5130 or Rule 5131, rather than allocating all such profits and losses to non-restricted investors. An Ionic Fund may revisit this policy in the future and will notify its investors of any change.

## **Settlement Problems**

Delays in settlement can result in temporary periods when a portion of the assets of the Ionic Funds is uninvested and no return is earned thereon. The inability of the Ionic Funds to make intended security purchases due to settlement problems could cause the Ionic Funds to miss attractive investment opportunities or cause delays in distributing redemption proceeds. The inability to dispose of securities due to settlement problems could result either in losses to any Ionic Fund due to subsequent declines in value of the security or, if the Ionic Fund has entered into a contract to sell the securities, could result in possible liability to the purchaser.

## **Governmental Intervention; Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act**

In recent years, the global financial markets have gone through pervasive and fundamental disruptions that have led to extensive and unprecedented governmental intervention — a process which is continuing. Such intervention has in certain cases been implemented on an “emergency” basis, suddenly and substantially eliminating market participants’ ability to continue to implement certain strategies or manage the risk of their outstanding positions. In addition — as one would expect given the complexities of the financial markets and the limited time frame within which governments have felt compelled to take action — these interventions have typically been unclear in scope and application, resulting in confusion and uncertainty which in itself has been materially detrimental to the efficient functioning of the markets as well as previously successful investment strategies.

In response to the 2008–2009 financial crises, the U.S. government enacted sweeping reforms of the U.S. financial regulatory system by passing the Dodd-Frank Act in July 2010. The Dodd-Frank Act seeks to regulate markets, market participants and financial instruments that previously have been unregulated and substantially alters the regulation of many other markets, market participants and financial instruments. Because many provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act require rulemaking by the applicable regulators before becoming fully effective and the Dodd-Frank Act mandates multiple agency reports and studies (which could result in additional legislative or regulatory action), it is difficult to predict the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on the Ionic Funds, Ionic, and the markets in which they trade and invest. To date, a significant amount of such rule-making has been delayed, and it may prove impracticable to implement a number of the Dodd-Frank Act’s provisions in the foreseeable future. It is possible, however, that the

Dodd-Frank Act could eventually result in certain aspects of the Ionic Funds' strategies becoming non-viable or non-economic to implement. The Dodd-Frank Act and regulations adopted pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act could have a material adverse effect on the profit potential of the Ionic Funds.

### **Regulatory Inquiries; “Insider Trading”**

In recent months, there has been significantly increased scrutiny by the SEC as well as certain U.S. Attorneys' offices on funds involved in equity investments and on the sources, such as “expert networks,” from which they obtain information concerning the issues in which they invest. Preannouncement event driven investing — in which the Event Driven Portfolio Manager will engage on behalf of the Event Driven Funds — is a particularly sensitive area in terms of how traders determine that management is likely to approve participating in a certain event driven transaction. It is possible that — despite being in full compliance with law — Ionic could become — either alone or along with other investors and investment funds — the subject of regulatory inquiry into the possibility that Ionic or third-parties might have engaged in “insider trading” or other violations of the federal securities and/or other laws. Even if the Ionic Funds or Ionic are not a “target” or even a “subject” of such inquiries, either or both could be required to respond — requiring both significant cost and a significant commitment of resources — to such inquiries.

Regulatory inquiries are often protracted. Irrespective of the object or merits of such inquiries, the longer they continue the more likely investors may be to exercise their relatively unrestricted redemption rights offered by the Ionic Funds, knowing that they can always reinvest after the inquiries conclude. A number of funds have dissolved — without any liability being assessed on any of the parties involved — simply due to investors redeeming rather than remaining invested during the course of a protracted (and often publicized) regulatory inquiry.

Ionic has not engaged, and does not currently intend to engage, any “expert networks.”

Please see Items 4 (Advisory Business), 10 (Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations), 11 (Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in *Client* Transactions and Personal Trading) and 12 (Brokerage Practices).

### **Item 9. Disciplinary Information**

None.

### **Item 10. Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

Ionic Capital Management LLC, and one of its relying advisors, Ionic Capital Partners LP, each is registered as a “commodity pool operator” with the CFTC and is a member of the NFA. Ionic Capital Management LLC also is registered as a “commodity trading advisor” with the CFTC.

The following is a list of the Ionic Funds together with the names of the applicable investment advisor, sub-advisor and/or manager:

<b><u>Ionic Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Investment Advisor</u></b>	<b><u>Manager</u></b>
Ionic Absolute Return Fund LLC	Ionic Capital Management LLC	Ionic Capital Advisors LLC
Ionic Capital LLC	Ionic Capital Partners LP	Ionic Capital Advisors LLC
Ionic Capital International Ltd.	Ionic Capital Partners LP	N/A
Ionic Capital International Intermediate Ltd.	Ionic Capital Partners LP	N/A
Ionic Capital Master Fund Ltd.	Ionic Capital Partners LP	N/A
Ionic Enhanced Strategy Fund LLC	Ionic Capital Management LLC	Ionic Capital Advisors LLC
Ionic Enhanced Strategy Fund Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Enhanced Strategy Intermediate Fund Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Enhanced Strategy Master Fund Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Event Driven Fund LLC	Ionic Capital Management LLC	Ionic Capital Advisors LLC
Ionic Event Driven Fund Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Event Driven Intermediate Fund Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Event Driven Master Fund Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Event Driven Fund II LLC	Ionic Capital Management LLC	Ionic Capital Advisors LLC
Ionic Event Driven Fund II Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Event Driven Master Fund II Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Select Opportunities Fund LLC	Ionic Capital Management LLC	Ionic Capital Advisors LLC
Ionic Select Opportunities Master Fund Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Fund LLC	Ionic Capital Management LLC	Ionic Capital Advisors LLC
Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Master Fund Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Fund II	Ionic Capital Management LLC	Ionic Capital Advisors LLC



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Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Fund II Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Master Fund II Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Fund III Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Ionic Volatility Arbitrage Master Fund III Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC	N/A
Aurora Horizons Fund*	Ionic Capital Management LLC*	Aurora Investment Management L.L.C.*
JPMorgan Multi-Manager Alternatives Fund*	Ionic Capital Management LLC*	J.P. Morgan Alternative Asset Management, Inc.*
HFS Alternative Strategies Fund, Ltd.	Ionic Capital Management LLC*	J.P. Morgan Alternative Asset Management, Inc.*

\*Ionic Capital Management LLC acts as sub-advisor while Aurora Investment Management L.L.C., and J.P. Morgan Alternative Asset Management, Inc., respectively, act as investment advisor.

### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

The Ionic Funds are subject to a number of actual and potential conflicts of interest, as described below:

#### **Management Time; Other Clients; Allocation of Investment Opportunities**

Ionic and its affiliates, owners, officers, directors, managers and employees (“Ionic Parties”) are required to devote only such business time and attention to the conduct of the business and affairs of the Ionic Funds as Ionic may deem necessary or advisable. Ionic Parties are free to devote such time and attention as they may determine to other Ionic Funds or to other activities unrelated to the affairs of a single Ionic Fund. Neither an Ionic Fund nor its investors (in its capacity as such) has any rights in or to such other activities or the income or profits derived therefrom.

Each Ionic Fund may have different terms of investment such as different fee and liquidity terms. Ionic utilizes many of the same investment strategies for each of the Ionic Funds. There are no restrictions on the ability of Ionic to in the future manage accounts of other clients, whether the accounts follow the same or different investment objectives, philosophy and strategies as those used by the Ionic Funds. Ionic may in the future render investment advisory and other services to other persons or entities with respect to Investment Assets which advice may be identical, dissimilar or contrary to the advice that Ionic provides to the Ionic Funds.

Ionic may determine that an investment opportunity is appropriate for a particular Ionic Fund, but not for one or more other Ionic Funds. Situations may arise in which certain Ionic Funds have made investments that would have been suitable for investment by other Ionic Funds but,

for various reasons, were not pursued by, or available to, such other Ionic Funds. The ability of one or more of the Ionic Funds to invest in the same investment or to invest in the same amounts or on the same terms may be adversely affected by any limitation on the availability of the investment. In addition, Ionic may be required to choose among one or more of the Ionic Funds in allocating investments, and considers a variety of factors when choosing to allocate investments among the Ionic Funds. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Ionic allocates investment opportunities among Ionic Funds in a manner which it believes is fair and equitable to all Ionic Funds over time, taking into account necessary considerations.

In the event that a determination is made that more than one Ionic Fund should participate in a trade or trades made on the same day, the securities traded will be allocated among the Ionic Funds in a manner which Ionic believes to be fair and equitable to the Ionic Funds receiving a portion of such trade(s), taking into account the circumstances of each such Ionic Fund, such as, for example, their investment strategies, current investment positions, relative capitalizations and available cash, investment time horizons, leverage ratios, etc. As a result, allocations of trades in which multiple Ionic Funds participate may not be made on a *pro rata* basis due to the consideration of such factors. For example, Ionic, in its good faith discretion, may determine that a particular Ionic Fund should receive less than a *pro rata* allocation of one or more trades for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, because the investment strategy of such Ionic Fund is narrower than the investment strategies of other Ionic Funds being allocated a portion of the trade, because such Ionic Fund already has reached targeted exposures or guidelines, or because such Ionic Fund has less available capital. Circumstances may occur, however, in which allocations made in a way Ionic believes to be fair and equitable still have adverse effects on one or more Ionic Funds with respect to the price or size of securities positions obtainable or saleable.

The investment advisory agreements with the Ionic Funds authorize Ionic to combine purchase and sale orders on behalf of the Ionic Funds and to allocate securities or other assets so purchased or sold on an average price basis among such Ionic Funds. Therefore, when Ionic has determined that more than one Ionic Fund should participate in a specific trade, Ionic generally combines (i.e., aggregates) the quantity of securities to be traded and places an order that, once executed, will be allocated among multiple Ionic Funds on an average price basis.

From the standpoint of the Ionic Funds, aggregated trades may, in certain market conditions, decrease the prices received, and increase the prices required to be paid, by the Ionic Funds for their portfolio sales and purchases. Further, even in circumstances where it is consistent with the investment objectives of multiple Ionic Funds to participate in an aggregated trade, it may not always be possible for each Ionic Fund to do so at the same time or at the same price; however, even when such circumstances exist, all transactions will be made on a “best execution” basis.

### **Information Sharing with Other Portfolio Managers**

Ionic’s portfolio managers expect to occasionally discuss trading ideas, market conditions and related matters with the staff of competing fund managers. Ionic believes that such discussions are generally beneficial to the Ionic Funds and that the individual portfolio managers (who have no direct business relationship with the other funds or portfolio managers with whom they engage in discussions) will not have a conflict of interest in doing so. However, from time to

time, the Ionic Funds may lose a trading opportunity because material nonpublic information conveyed to one of Ionic's portfolio managers by the portfolio managers of other funds may cause the Ionic Funds to be restricted due to confidentiality obligations or regulatory restrictions.

## **Personal Trading**

Personnel associated with Ionic will trade for their personal and perhaps other accounts at the same time that they will be trading for the Ionic Funds. While Ionic has adopted a code of ethics in an attempt to prevent any such trading harming the Ionic Funds, Ionic's personnel will have a conflict of interest in devoting time to trading such other accounts (including personal accounts) and trading for the Ionic Funds.

Please see Items 4 (Advisory Business), 8 (Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss), 11 (Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in *Client* Transactions and Personal Trading) and 12 (Brokerage Practices).

### **Item 11.** Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in *Client* Transactions and Personal Trading

Ionic has adopted a code of ethics adopted pursuant to SEC rule 204A-1. Our code of ethics requires compliance with all applicable laws and regulations governing the provision of investment management services to our clients. In addition, our code of ethics highlights the fiduciary duty that we owe to our clients, including the affirmative duty to act in the best interests of our clients and to make full and fair disclosure of all material facts. We expect each supervised person to act with integrity, competence, dignity, and in an ethical manner when dealing with the public, Ionic's clients, investors and prospective investors in the Ionic Funds, service providers and fellow supervised persons. We also expect supervised persons to adhere to the highest standards with respect to any potential conflict of interest with clients.

Our code of ethics has specific provisions relating to identifying potential conflicts of interest. The provisions prohibit a supervised person from directing client transactions for the purpose of obtaining a personal benefit. They also generally prohibit certain personal business dealings with clients, investors or service providers without the prior approval of our Chief Compliance Officer or his designee. The code of ethics includes provisions relating to accepting offers of gifts or entertainment from third parties.

Access persons are required to conduct all personal securities transactions in full compliance with our code of ethics, and should not take any action in connection with personal securities transactions that could cause even the appearance of unfairness or impropriety, relative to our clients. Access Persons are required to promptly bring ambiguous situations to the attention of our Chief Compliance Officer or his designee, and such situations will be resolved in favor of client interests.

Additionally, our code of ethics requires access persons, among other things, to: (i) have all personal securities transactions involving reportable securities pre-approved by our Chief Compliance Officer or his designee and are subject to a holding period; (ii) report all their personal securities transactions involving reportable securities to our Chief Compliance Officer

or his designee periodically in accordance with Rule 204A-1; and (iii) certify their compliance with our code of ethics on at least an annual basis.

Finally our code of ethics requires access persons to promptly report all violations of the code of ethics to our Chief Compliance Officer or his designee, who is primarily responsible for administering and enforcing our code of ethics.

We will provide any client or prospective client with a copy of our code of ethics upon request by contacting our Chief Compliance Officer at the following address:

c/o Ionic Capital Management LLC  
475 Fifth Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10017  
Attention: Chief Compliance Officer  
Telephone: 212-294-8500  
FormADV@ioniccapi.com

We and our related persons do not recommend to clients, or buy or sell for client accounts, securities in which we or our related persons have a material financial interest. Although the Principals, employees and officers may buy and sell securities for their own account or the account of others, they may not buy securities from or sell securities to the Ionic Funds.

Please see Items 10 (Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations) and 12 (Brokerage Practices).

#### **Item 12. Brokerage Practices**

Ionic determines the broker or dealer to be used for each securities transaction for its clients. In selecting a broker for each specific transaction, we will use our best judgment to choose the broker most capable of providing “best execution” on an over-all basis taking into account the circumstances of each specific transaction. Brokers are selected on the basis of our evaluation of the overall value and quality of the services provided by the broker. No one factor controls our decision. Among other things, we consider the price of the security, commission rate, execution speed, confidentiality, market depth, capital commitment, recent order flow, knowledge of the other side of the trade and the quality of the broker’s service (including, but not limited to, accuracy, reputation, timeliness, research, responsiveness and any soft dollar arrangements, if applicable). In selecting brokers or dealers to execute transactions for clients, Ionic is not required to solicit competitive bids and has no obligation to seek the lowest available commission cost. Ionic does not always negotiate “execution only” commission rates; accordingly, clients may be deemed to be paying for other services provided by the broker to Ionic’s clients, Ionic or their respective affiliates that are included in the commission rate.

Our application and importance of the specific criteria will vary depending upon the nature of the transaction, the asset class, the market in which it is effected, and the extent to which it is possible to select from among multiple brokers or dealers capable of effecting the transaction.

When we use client brokerage commissions to obtain research or other products or services, we receive a benefit because we do not have to produce or pay for such research, products or services that we might otherwise have to pay for ourselves. We have an incentive to select or recommend a broker-dealer based on our interest in receiving the research or other products or services, rather than based on our clients' interest in receiving the most favorable execution. Such research or other products and services are utilized in the management of all client assets and the costs are generally proportionally allocated; provided, however, certain clients may generate more than their overall pro rata share of the soft credits generated given the different investment strategies and assets under management of each client.

The products and services obtained using client brokerage commissions during our last fiscal year include items acquired from third parties, such as web based market research subscription services, market data from certain exchanges, quotation or other third party pricing services. Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, provides a "safe harbor" to investment managers who use soft dollars generated by their advised accounts to obtain investment research and brokerage services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to us in the performance of investment decision-making responsibilities. The agreements we have with our clients permit us to use "soft dollars" for expenses that do not fall within the safe harbor of Section 28(e). However, Ionic, in all cases, attempts to limit its use of "soft dollar" services in accordance with the safe harbor established by Section 28(e) of the Exchange Act, as interpreted by the SEC.

We consider investor referrals in selecting or recommending the prime brokers for the Ionic Funds and have an incentive to select or recommend prime brokers based upon investor referrals, rather than just the most favorable execution. As part of the selection process for the prime brokers to be utilized for the Ionic Funds, the quality of the capital introduction services is a factor in making such decision. However, Ionic does not direct trades to the prime brokers in return for investor referrals.

Ionic will generally aggregate trades, unless it believes that doing so would conflict or otherwise be inconsistent with its duty to seek best execution for its clients, and/or the terms of the respective investment advisory contracts and other agreements and understandings relating to the accounts for which trades are being aggregated. When Ionic believes that it can effectively obtain best execution for its clients by aggregating trades, it will do so for all clients for which the trades are both suitable and consistent with the respective investment advisory contracts, investment guidelines, and other agreements and understandings relating to such accounts.

We have established a brokerage committee to, among other things, review and make determinations on a periodic basis relating to the broker-dealers with whom we execute transactions and the soft dollar benefits we receive.

### **Item 13.**      Review of Accounts

We review the accounts of the Ionic Funds on a monthly basis. During the month-end reconciliation process with the administrator, our Chief Financial Officer and Controller are primarily responsible for reviewing the accounts of the Ionic Funds. As part of that process, they reconcile the internal general ledger, portfolio, and profits and losses to the administrators' independent net asset value calculation prior to the administrator's release of the net asset value

statements to investors in the Ionic Funds. In addition, our pricing committee formally meets to approve the month-end estimates and final net asset value for each of the Ionic Funds.

Ionic will furnish to each investor in the Ionic Funds a report of the applicable Ionic Fund's estimated performance as soon as practicable after the end of each week and after the end of each month, as well as its month-end risk report and such other information as Ionic may deem appropriate. In addition, the administrator will send to each investor a monthly statement reflecting the net asset value, including any increase or decrease, of such investor's investment during the preceding month. As soon as practicable after the end of each fiscal year, the Ionic Funds furnish to each investor audited financial statements as of the end of such fiscal year.

**Item 14.**      *Client Referrals and Other Compensation*

Please see Items 10 (Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations) and 12 (Brokerage Practices).

**Item 15.**      *Custody*

Not applicable.

**Item 16.**      *Investment Discretion*

Pursuant to the investment advisory agreements and other similar agreements with our clients, as applicable, we and our affiliates have discretionary authority to manage the assets of our clients. These agreements generally include a power of attorney given to us and our affiliates.

Except for certain investment restrictions applicable to the Sub-advised Funds and the Absolute Return Fund, there are no limitations on Ionic's investment authority.

Please see Item 4 (Advisory Business).

**Item 17.**      *Voting Client Securities*

We have been delegated the authority and right to vote proxies received by clients. We have adopted a proxy voting policy that requires us to act in the best interests of our clients when exercising proxy voting authority. We monitor corporate events and vote proxies on behalf of each client that has expressly or implicitly authorized us to do so. If we accept proxy voting authority from a client, we analyze the issues involved with shareholder votes, evaluate the probable impact on corporate operations, and vote proxies in what we view to be in accordance with the best interests of our clients.

Our proxy voting policy does not mandate that we vote every proxy that we receive in regard to securities held in client accounts. There may be circumstances when refraining from voting a proxy is in a client's best interest, such as when and if we determine that the costs of voting the proxy exceeds the expected benefit to the client (such costs include the value of our time). Further, we will not vote proxies for which a client has expressly retained voting authority.

If a proxy vote creates a material conflict between our interests and the interests of clients, we will resolve the conflict before voting the proxies. We will either disclose the conflict to the applicable clients or take other steps designed to ensure that a decision to vote the proxy is based on our determination of the client's best interest and is not the product of the conflict.

Clients cannot generally direct how we vote in a particular situation.

Clients may obtain, free of charge, a copy of our proxy voting policies and procedures and/or a record of proxy votes cast since the effective date of our registration with the SEC by contacting our Chief Compliance Officer at the following address:

c/o Ionic Capital Management LLC  
475 Fifth Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10017  
Attention: Chief Compliance Officer  
Telephone: 212-294-8500  
FormADV@ionicap.com

**Item 18.** Financial Information

There is no current financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our contractual commitments to our clients.

**Item 19.** Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

Not applicable.