

**ITEM 1**  
**COVER PAGE**

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

**EMPYREAN CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP**

March 27, 2024

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*This brochure (this “Brochure”) provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Empyrean Capital Partners, LP (“Empyrean”), an investment adviser registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the “Advisers Act”). If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact Empyrean’s Chief Compliance Officer at 310-843-3000. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the SEC or by any state securities authority.*

*Registration with the SEC does not imply a certain level of skill or training.*

*This Brochure contains certain material information in the manner and format promulgated by the SEC. Additional information, which must be read and considered with the information in this Brochure, may be found in other documents, including, as applicable, offering memoranda and/or investment management agreements, among others. Please read and understand the entire Brochure as responses to certain items may also respond to or provide additional or fuller information regarding the responses to other items.*

*Additional information about Empyrean also is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).*

## **ITEM 2**

### **MATERIAL CHANGES**

The most recent annual update to Empyrean's brochure was filed with the SEC on March 31, 2023. This Brochure amends the most recent annual update to incorporate certain changes and updates that Empyrean does not believe constitute material changes.

Clients and prospective Clients should carefully review this Brochure in its entirety.

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## ITEM 4 ADVISORY BUSINESS

### A. General Description of Advisory Firm.

Empyrean commenced operations in 2004. Amos Meron is the principal owner of Empyrean and its general partner, Empyrean Capital, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the “Empyrean General Partner”). Mr. Meron is the managing member of the Empyrean General Partner and controls Empyrean.

Empyrean has its principal office and place of business in Los Angeles and an office located at 499 Park Avenue, 28th Floor, New York, New York 10022.

### B. Description of Advisory Services

Empyrean serves as the investment adviser with discretionary trading authority to private pooled investment vehicles, the securities of which are offered to Investors (as defined in Item 7) on a private placement or other basis (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”). The Funds include (i) Empyrean Capital Overseas Fund, Ltd., a Cayman Islands exempted company (the “Offshore Fund”), (ii) Empyrean Capital Overseas ERISA Fund, Ltd, a Cayman Islands exempted company (the “ERISA Fund”), (iii) Empyrean Capital Fund, LP, a Delaware limited partnership (the “Domestic Fund”), and (iv) Empyrean Capital Overseas Master Fund, Ltd., a Cayman Islands exempted company (the “Master Fund”). The Domestic Fund, the Offshore Fund, and the ERISA Fund invest all of their investable assets through a “master-feeder” structure in the Master Fund. While Empyrean is responsible for the Domestic Fund’s investment activities, it is subject to the oversight of the general partner of the Domestic Fund, Empyrean Associates, LLC (the “Onshore General Partner”). “Client” or “Clients” generally refers to one or more of the Funds. and any other existing or future fund, investment company, pooled-investment vehicle or managed account that Empyrean manages or may, from time to time, manage, as applicable.

Empyrean, on behalf of its Funds, generally employs a fundamentally-oriented, fully-integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to event-oriented investing. Empyrean believes that in order to fully exploit current event-oriented market opportunities, an investment manager requires an integrated combination of credit, equity, volatility and process expertise. Please see Item 8 of this Brochure for a more detailed description of Empyrean’s investment strategies. Investors may also ask Empyrean to, and Empyrean may, provide investment advice and advisory services and other services with respect to other investment securities and instruments as is consistent with each respective Investor’s investment objective, including through managed accounts, other investment partnerships, other funds or investment management companies that are registered with the SEC under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Such other funds and accounts may follow similar or different investment programs to that of Empyrean’s Funds.

This Brochure includes general information about Empyrean and its relationships with its Clients and affiliates. While much of this Brochure applies to all such Clients and affiliates, certain information included herein applies only to the Funds or affiliates.

This Brochure does not constitute an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy any securities.

C. Availability of Customized Services for Individual Clients

Empyrean has full discretionary authority with respect to investment decisions made on behalf of the Funds, and its advice is given in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set forth in the Funds' respective offering memoranda. In the event that Empyrean advises a managed account Client, Empyrean would tailor its advisory services to the specific needs of such Client as agreed to in its investment management agreement.

From time to time, Empyrean offers co-investment opportunities. Such co-invest vehicles will typically invest alongside Funds to the extent they have similar investment objectives.

D. Wrap Fee Programs

Empyrean does not offer or participate in wrap fee programs.

E. Assets Under Management

Empyrean manages, and has discretionary authority over, approximately \$4,987,749,891 in regulatory assets under management as of January 31, 2024.

## ITEM 5 FEES AND COMPENSATION

### A. Advisory Fees and Compensation.

Empyrean generally receives management fees and performance-based compensation for investment advisory services provided to the Funds pursuant to certain investment management agreements. Empyrean reduces or waives management fees and/or performance fees for certain affiliates and related persons of Empyrean, including, without limitation, limited partners that are employees or partners (including former) of Empyrean and/or its affiliates and their immediate family members, and accounts established for the benefit of such persons. Empyrean reserves the right to reduce, waive or calculate differently the fees of certain investors in a Fund and certain investors are subject to reduced fees. Additionally, management fees, performance-based compensation and other economic terms can vary from those described herein on a client-by-client basis. The fees applicable to each Fund are set forth in detail in each Fund's offering documents. A brief summary of such fees is provided below.

#### 1. The Domestic Fund:

With respect to the Domestic Fund, Empyrean generally is paid quarterly in advance a management fee of (i) 0.375% (1.50% annualized), (ii) 0.3125% (1.25% annualized) or (iii) 0.25% (1.00% annualized) of the beginning value of each capital account (depending on the class and series of interests) of the limited partners of the Domestic Fund.

At the end of the Domestic Fund's fiscal year, the Onshore General Partner generally receives incentive allocations from the Domestic Fund of 20% of (i) the net capital appreciation (depending on the class and series of interests) of the Domestic Fund, less (ii) the management fee deducted from the limited partner capital account (but without reduction for any investor-related taxes). Net capital appreciation generally includes both realized gains and losses and unrealized appreciation and depreciation of securities held in the Domestic Fund's portfolio. Generally, any net capital depreciation in a fiscal year allocated to any limited partner of the Domestic Fund is carried forward so that no incentive allocation is charged to such limited partner unless the losses have been recouped, subject to certain adjustments.

#### 2. The Offshore Fund:

With respect to the Offshore Fund, Empyrean generally is paid quarterly in advance a management fee of (i) 0.375% (1.50% annualized), (ii) 0.3125% (1.25% annualized) or (iii) 0.25% (1.00% annualized) of the net asset value ("NAV") of each series of each class of shares (depending on the share class and series) of the Offshore Fund.

At the end of the Offshore Fund's fiscal year, Empyrean generally receives incentive fees from the Offshore Fund of 20% of the net realized and unrealized appreciation in the NAV of each series of each class of shares (depending on the share class and series) of the Offshore Fund. An incentive fee will only be paid with respect to the net realized and unrealized appreciation in the NAV of a series of a class of shares (appropriately adjusted for redemptions) in excess of the "Prior High NAV" of such series of such class of shares. The Prior High NAV of a series of a class of shares is the NAV of that series of that class immediately after the

determination of a year-end incentive fee with respect to such series of such class. The Prior High NAV of a series of a class of shares will be reduced pro rata for interim year redemptions of shares of such series of such class and reduced by any investor-related taxes accrued or paid subsequent to either such date.

3. The ERISA Fund:

With respect to the ERISA Fund, Empyrean generally is paid quarterly in advance a management fee of (i) 0.375% (1.50% annualized), (ii) 0.3125% (1.25% annualized) or (iii) 0.25% (1.00% annualized) of the NAV of each series of each class of shares (depending on the share class and series) of the ERISA Fund.

At the end of the ERISA Fund's fiscal year, Empyrean receives incentive fees from the ERISA Fund of 20% of the net realized and unrealized appreciation in the NAV of each series of each class of shares of the ERISA Fund. An incentive fee will only be paid with respect to the net realized and unrealized appreciation in the NAV of a series of a class of shares (appropriately adjusted for redemptions) in excess of the "Prior High NAV" of such series of such class of shares. The Prior High NAV of a series of a class of shares is the NAV of that series of that class immediately after the determination of a year-end incentive fee with respect to such series of such class. The Prior High NAV of a series of a class of shares will be reduced pro rata for interim year redemptions of shares of such series of such class and reduced by any investor-related taxes accrued or paid subsequent to either such date.

4. Other Clients

Empyrean reserves the right to impose on future Clients, fee arrangements that differ from those fee arrangements described above.

5. Side Letters

Empyrean and the Funds have entered into agreements ("Side Letters") with certain Investors that waive or modify the application of, or grant special or more favorable terms to, such Investors than the terms applicable to other Investors in the Fund to the extent permitted by applicable law. As a result of such Side Letters, certain Investors receive additional benefits which other Investors will not receive (e.g., lower fees, lower contribution thresholds for access to certain classes or series of interest, more frequent or detailed reporting, different withdrawal rights or information rights and other terms in many cases, to accommodate the legal, regulatory, sovereign or tax requirements of particular investors).

B. Payment of Fees

Fees and compensation paid or allocated to Empyrean and/or the Onshore General Partner by Funds are generally deducted from the assets of such Funds. As discussed above, the management fees are generally deducted on a quarterly basis in advance and the performance compensation is generally deducted on an annual basis.

### C. Other Types of Fees and Expenses

In addition to the management and incentive fees described above, each of the Offshore Fund, Domestic Fund and ERISA Fund (each a "Feeder Fund") will generally bear its own organizational, offering, operating and other expenses, as well as its pro rata share of the Master Fund's expenses including, without limitation:

- investment-related expenses of the Master Fund, whether or not consummated (e.g., brokerage commissions, interest on margin accounts and other indebtedness, borrowing charges on securities sold short, custodial fees, clearing and settlement, arranger fees, interest expense, travel and lodging expenses that are primarily connected to investment activities (excluding travel related to marketing activities), due diligence expenses, expenses related to reorganizations, restructurings, workouts, investigations, litigations and other disputes – please see Item 12 of this Brochure for a discussion regarding brokerage practices);
- research-related expenses, including, without limitation, news and quotation equipment and services, statistical and market data, investment conferences, research-related software, and consulting; fees and expenses of the administrator;
- legal expenses and other professional fees (including, without limitation, expenses of consultants, investment bankers, experts and accountants);
- expenses of proxy research and voting services;
- regulatory filings specific to a Feeder Fund, the Master Fund or its portfolio holdings (e.g., Regulation D, Schedules 13D and 13G and Form 13F);
- auditing and tax preparation expenses; costs of printing and mailing reports and notices, including investor reports and notices;
- expenses relating to side letter negotiation and compliance;
- expenses relating to obtaining insurance for the benefit of a Feeder Fund, Empyrean and its affiliates from liabilities to third parties in connection with the Feeder Fund's and Master Fund's affairs (including liability premiums);
- corporate licensing fees and other professional fees;
- remuneration to members of the board of directors of the Master Fund;
- fees and expenses (including director registration fees) of the Master Fund's board of directors and officers (including any anti-money laundering officers appointed pursuant to applicable law in the Cayman Islands);
- custodial and bank service fees;
- withholding and transfer fees;



- taxes;
- other expenses related to the purchase, sale or transmittal of Fund assets; expenses related to organizing and operating alternative investments or special purpose vehicles through which investments may be made;
- extraordinary expenses and other similar expenses related to a Feeder Fund or the Master Fund, including indemnification expenses, fees and expenses incurred in connection with any tax audit by any taxing authority, including any related administrative settlement and judicial review, and fees and expenses incurred in connection with the reorganization, dissolution, winding-up or termination of a Feeder Fund, the Master Fund or any trading vehicle.

#### Expense Allocation Methodologies

Any expense common to all Funds typically will be paid pro rata by such Funds based on the size of the Fund or the approximate size of the investment relating to such expense (or in any other manner deemed fair and equitable by Empyrean in its sole discretion).

To the extent that expenses to be borne by a Fund are paid by Empyrean or the Onshore General Partner (in the case of the Domestic Fund), the Fund will reimburse such party for such expenses. A portion of research-related expenses will be paid for using “soft dollars” (i.e., commission dollars and transaction fees generated through agency and certain riskless principal transactions) – please see Item 12 of this Brochure for further information regarding soft dollars. In addition, the Feeder Funds bear their pro rata share of the Master Fund’s expenses.

Each Investor must review the applicable Fund offering memoranda for a more detailed discussion and understanding of all the fees, expenses and other compensation Empyrean and other parties may obtain or receive from, or in connection with, Funds and Investors.

Certain of Empyrean’s determinations with respect to whether specific expenses should be borne by Empyrean or by the Funds require subjective judgments. Empyrean has a conflict of interest when making such judgments because Empyrean will bear the costs of any expenses not allocated to a Fund. Empyrean seeks to allocate expenses in a manner that it deems to be fair and equitable.

#### D. Prepayment of Fees

Generally, each Fund pays Empyrean a management fee quarterly in advance based on the values of the capital accounts of Investors in the Fund (in the case of the Domestic Fund) or the NAV of each Fund (in the case of the Offshore Fund and the ERISA Fund). In the event that Investors’ capital accounts in a Fund or a Fund’s NAV is reduced in connection with a withdrawal or redemption by an Investor of such Fund other than as of the last day of a quarter, Empyrean will pay such Fund an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the management fee, based on the actual number of days remaining in such quarter, and such Fund will distribute such amount to the Investor.

E. Additional Compensation and Conflicts of Interest

Neither Empyrean nor any of its supervised persons accepts compensation (e.g., brokerage commissions) for the sale of securities or other investment products.

**ITEM 6**  
**PERFORMANCE-BASED FEES AND SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT**

As generally described in Item 5, Empyrean currently accepts performance-based fees from all Funds. As a result, Empyrean does not face the conflicts of interest that may arise when an investment adviser accepts performance-based fees from some Clients, but not from other Clients, or if Clients are charged different performance-based fees. However, these conflicts could arise in the future if Empyrean has Clients with different performance-based fee arrangements. As noted in response to Item 11, Empyrean currently manages a single master-feeder fund structure, and therefore only makes investments on behalf of a single master fund.

## **ITEM 7 TYPES OF CLIENTS**

Empyrean provides investment advice to the Funds, the securities of which are offered to investors on a private placement or other basis, as described above.

Persons and entities that invest in the Funds (“Investors”) may include individuals, U.S. and non-U.S. pension and profit-sharing plans, fund-of-funds, insurance and financial institutions, private funds, pooled investment vehicles, family offices, pension consultants, state or local government plans, sovereign wealth funds, union plans, trusts, endowments, foundations, charitable organizations and other types of entities, including other investment advisers and hedge funds.

The minimum investment for an Investor in the Funds generally will be determined by Empyrean and/or the board of directors of such Fund or the Onshore General Partner, as applicable, and will generally be set out in the offering documents and/or investment management or other agreements. Such minimum investment amounts may be waived by Empyrean and/or the board of directors of such Fund or the Onshore General Partner, as applicable, if permissible under relevant law.

## **ITEM 8**

### **METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS**

The descriptions set forth in this Brochure of specific advisory services that Empyrean offers to Clients, and investment strategies pursued and investments made by Empyrean on behalf of its Clients, should not be understood to limit in any way Empyrean's investment activities. Empyrean may offer any advisory services, engage in any investment strategy and make any investment, including any not described in this Brochure, that Empyrean considers appropriate, subject to each Client's investment objectives and guidelines. For example, Empyrean may advise Clients structured as co-invest opportunities with a single investment objective. The investment strategies Empyrean pursues are speculative and entail substantial risks. There can be no assurance that the investment objectives of any Client will be achieved. In fact, the practices of short selling, employing leverage and other investment techniques which Empyrean may employ from time to time can, in certain circumstances, increase the adverse impact to which a Client's investment portfolio may be subject. Empyrean's risk management approach seeks to isolate and mitigate, not eliminate, risks and there may be certain risks which Empyrean determines should not be or cannot be hedged against. Accordingly, Empyrean's activities could result in substantial losses under certain circumstances.

Set forth below is a non-exhaustive list of risks associated with investments Empyrean may make on behalf of Clients. Investors should refer to a Fund's offering documents for a more detailed description of the methods of analysis employed by Empyrean, a Fund's investment strategy and the risk of loss associated with an investment in a Fund.

#### **A. Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategy:**

Empyrean employs a fundamentally-oriented, multi-disciplinary approach to event-oriented investment opportunities. Its approach integrates credit, equity, volatility and process expertise in a single platform. Empyrean maintains a single investment portfolio with a predominantly North American geographic focus that is generally diversified by industry, issuer, asset class, and security with capital concentrated generally in 15-35 core ideas. Clients generally do not have any pre-determined asset allocation targets or securities biases. Instead, Empyrean seeks to invest in situations where identifiable catalysts exist (companies undergoing transformative events and/or securities exhibiting price dislocations) and, invests in the most attractive securities and instruments regardless of asset class.

Empyrean seeks to invest in situations where there is the potential for significant returns through either capital appreciation or ongoing income, and where identifiable catalysts exist which can unlock value and close the gap between market value and intrinsic value. It seeks to purchase securities and other financial instruments at prices it believes represent discounts to intrinsic value, or sell short securities it believes trade at a premium to intrinsic value. Each strategy is composed of a security or group of securities with a common event catalyst and any related hedges. Each strategy may be implemented through the purchase or sale of an issuer's securities or derivative and volatility instruments related to such securities in a single trade or a series of trades which involve multiple instruments in order to achieve the targeted net exposure.

Empyrean seeks to limit downside exposure through the purchase of securities or instruments at discounts to intrinsic value or that process favorable structural, contractual, or collateral characteristics. Empyrean also seeks to control risk through a variety of credit, equity and volatility hedging strategies. Examples of the event-oriented investment opportunities that Empyrean will pursue include, but are not limited to, special situation equity and credit strategies, equity, convertible and capital structure arbitrage, and other volatility, derivative, and option-based opportunities.

Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, generally invests, both long and short, in a variety of public and private primary and secondary market securities, instruments and obligations. Instruments may include, but are not limited to, trade claims, revolving and term loan credit facilities, public and private debt obligations, public and private convertible debt and convertible preferred stock, public and private common stock and other types of equity investments, litigation finance, futures, options, warrants and derivative instruments. Generally, Empyrean will invest in these securities and instruments on a passive basis, although occasionally, Empyrean will assume a more active role. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, will sell securities short, purchase puts and calls, write uncovered puts and calls, purchase options on stock indices and bond indices and utilize other derivative instruments, including, without limitation, CDS, futures, forward contracts and swaps and may invest in virtual currencies, crypto-currencies, or digital coins/tokens (collectively, “Digital Assets”). Empyrean views the use of hedging strategies both as independent profit opportunities for Clients and as an integral part of each Client’s investment program. Empyrean may also use repurchase agreements in its investment program, and certain strategies may be pursued by investing in investment vehicles managed by third parties.

Empyrean’s investment process consists of (i) opportunity identification; (ii) investment research; (iii) investment selection; and (iv) risk management. Opportunities are identified across asset classes and securities through Empyrean’s deep presence and multi-product expertise within a variety of financial markets. Empyrean’s research process is characterized by a rigorous “bottom-up” approach which combines fundamental cash flow and valuation analyses with volatility and event analyses in order to identify and quantify (i) disparities between intrinsic value and market value; (ii) the potential distribution of event outcomes and their impact on securities’ valuation; and (iii) upside potential versus downside risk. Empyrean’s fundamental research includes a thorough evaluation of a variety of aspects of an issuer and its securities including, but not limited to, its (i) industry position; (ii) business position; (iii) financial and accounting position; (iv) valuation; (v) legal and financial structure; and (vi) management and stakeholders. The investment process developed by Empyrean is applied to the entirety of an issuer’s capital structure, in addition to any related derivative and volatility instruments. The investment selection process involves a risk-weighted evaluation of instruments within an issuer’s capital structure and a comparison across alternative investment opportunities. Empyrean’s risk management process is intended to balance a “bottom-up” approach to security selection with portfolio-level risk filters, guidelines and limits and may employ a variety of risk management tools. Empyrean also systematically applies position-level, asset class-level and portfolio-level hedging strategies through a variety of instruments in an effort to reduce market exposure.

Empyrean seeks to maximize returns for its Clients and believes that identifying environmental, social and corporate governance (“ESG”) considerations that may have a material impact on investment performance plays an important role in better understanding opportunities, effectively managing risk, and achieving its Clients’ return objectives. In line

with Empyrean's broader goal of generating strong risk-adjusted returns, it does not incorporate restrictive screening or exclusionary criteria in its investment process, but rather seeks to integrate ESG considerations into its discussion of potential opportunities and risks where it believes those considerations may materially impact performance of the respective investment.

**B. Material Risks Relating to Investment Strategies and Techniques:**

Empyrean does not guarantee the future performance of any account, the success of any investment decision or strategy that Empyrean employs or the success of Empyrean's overall management of any account. An investment in the Clients advised by Empyrean involves a high degree of risk, including the risk that the entire amount invested may be lost. The following list of risk factors (set forth in Section B and C of this Item 8) does not purport to be a complete enumeration or explanation of the risks involved in an investment in the Clients advised by Empyrean. Because these risk factors are not a complete list or explanation of the risks to Investors, all such Investors should read this Brochure together with any offering memorandum and/or other governing documents of the particular Client before making an investment in the Client. These risk factors only include those risks Empyrean believes to be material, significant or unusual and relate to particular investment strategies, types of securities or methods of analysis employed by Empyrean. In addition, as Empyrean's investment program develops and changes over time, an investment in the Clients advised by Empyrean may be subject to additional and different risk factors.

No Material Limitation on Strategies. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, will opportunistically implement whatever strategies or discretionary approaches it believes from time to time may be best suited to prevailing market conditions. There can be no assurance that Empyrean will be successful in applying any strategy or discretionary approach to its Clients' trading.

Risk of Loss. No guarantee or representation is made that Empyrean's investment strategies, diversification strategies or risk monitoring goals, will be successful. Investment results may vary substantially over time.

No assurance can be made that profits will be achieved or that substantial or complete losses will not be incurred. Past investment results of Empyrean or a Client are not necessarily indicative of their future performance.

Securities Believed To Be Undervalued or Incorrectly Valued. Securities that Empyrean believes are fundamentally undervalued or incorrectly valued may not ultimately be valued in the capital markets at prices and/or within the time frame Empyrean anticipates. In such event, Clients may incur a substantial loss.

Event-Oriented Strategy. The success of the event-oriented investment strategy Empyrean implements on behalf of its Clients depends upon Empyrean's ability to make predictions about (i) the likelihood that an event will occur and (ii) the impact such event will have on the value of a company's securities. If the event fails to occur or it does not have the expected impact, losses can result. For example, the adoption of new business strategies, completion of asset dispositions or debt reduction programs by a company may not be valued as highly by the market as Empyrean had anticipated, resulting in losses. In addition, a company may announce a plan of restructuring that promises to enhance value, but fail to implement it, which can result in losses to Investors. In liquidations and other forms of corporate

reorganization, the risk exists that the reorganization either will be unsuccessful, will be delayed or will result in a distribution of cash or a new security, the value of which will be less than the purchase price to the Client of the security in respect of which such distribution was made. The consummation of mergers and tender and exchange offers can be prevented or delayed by a variety of factors, including: (i) opposition of the management or stockholders of the target company, which will often result in litigation to enjoin the proposed transaction; (ii) intervention of a U.S. federal or state regulatory agency; (iii) efforts by the target company to pursue a “defensive” strategy, including a merger with, or a friendly tender offer by, a company other than the offeror; (iv) in the case of a merger, failure to obtain the necessary stockholder approvals; (v) market conditions, such as industry weakness, resulting in material changes in securities prices; (vi) compliance with any applicable U.S. federal or state securities laws or antitrust restrictions; (vii) inability to obtain adequate financing; and (viii) political factors.

The success of the convertible arbitrage strategy Empyrean implements on behalf of its Clients depends upon Empyrean’s ability to identify convertible securities that appear incorrectly valued relative to their theoretical value, and then to purchase (or sell short) such convertible security and sell short (or purchase) the underlying security for which the convertible security can be exchanged to exploit price differentials.

There can be no assurance that Empyrean will be able to identify convertible arbitrage opportunities or that changes in price differentials will not cause losses. Borrowing and lending against such investments involves substantial risks. The prices of these investments can be volatile, market movements are difficult to predict, and financing sources and related interest and exchange rates are subject to rapid change. Certain corporate securities may be subordinated (and thus exposed to the first level of default risk) or otherwise subject to substantial credit risks.

The success of Empyrean’s capital structure arbitrage strategy depends upon Empyrean’s ability to identify and exploit the relationships between movements in different securities within an issuer’s capital structure (including, bank debt, convertible and non-convertible senior and subordinated debt and preferred and common stock). Identification and exploitation of opportunities within an issuer’s capital structure involve uncertainty. There can be no assurance that Empyrean will be able to locate investment opportunities or to correctly exploit price discrepancies. A reduction in the pricing inefficiency of the markets in which Empyrean seeks to invest on behalf of its Clients will reduce the scope for such Client’s investment strategies. In the event that the perceived mispricings underlying each Client’s positions fail to materialize, these investment strategies could be unsuccessful or result in losses.

Because of the inherently speculative nature of event-oriented investing, the results of a Client’s operations may be expected to fluctuate from period to period. Accordingly, Investors should understand that the results of a particular period will not necessarily be indicative of future results.

Opportunistic Strategies. Opportunistic investment strategies generally use spread trades consisting of a long position in one security offset by a short position in another. Such offsetting positions are meant to neutralize or reduce risk. The portfolio profits if Empyrean’s relative valuation leads to a rise in the value of the long position(s) and/or a decline in the value of the short position(s).



The success of the opportunistic investment strategy Empyrean implements on behalf of its Clients depends on Empyrean's ability to identify and exploit perceived inefficiencies in the pricing of securities, financial products, or markets. Identification and exploitation of such discrepancies involve uncertainty. There can be no assurance that Empyrean will be able to locate investment opportunities or to exploit pricing inefficiencies in the securities markets. Mispricings, even if correctly identified, may not be corrected by the market, at least within a timeframe over which it is feasible for Empyrean to maintain a position on behalf of its Clients. Even pure arbitrage positions can result in significant losses if Empyrean is not able to maintain both sides of the position until expiration/maturity. A reduction in the pricing inefficiency of the markets in which Empyrean seeks to invest on behalf of its Clients will reduce the scope for Empyrean's investment strategies. In the event that perceived mispricings underlying a Client's positions fail to converge toward, or diverge further from, relationships expected by Empyrean, the Client may incur losses. Even if the opportunistic investment strategy is successful, it may result in high portfolio turnover and, consequently, high transaction costs.

Diversification Policies. Generally, Clients have not imposed any limits on the concentration of their investments in particular industries, companies or geographic regions. Client portfolios have a predominantly North American geographic focus, and it may become significantly concentrated in securities related to a single or a limited number of issuers, industries, sectors, strategies, countries or geographic regions. The investment risk of a portfolio that is concentrated in particular industries, companies or geographic regions is greater than if the portfolio is invested in a more diversified.

Merger Arbitrage. The success of Empyrean's merger or "risk" arbitrage strategy depends upon Empyrean's ability to identify and exploit merger activity to capture (or sell short) the spread between current market values of securities and their values after successful completion of a merger, restructuring or similar corporate transaction. Merger arbitrage investments often incur significant losses when anticipated merger or acquisition transactions are not consummated. The consummation of mergers, tender offers and exchange offers can be prevented or delayed by a variety of factors, including: (i) regulatory and antitrust restrictions; (ii) political factors; (iii) industry weakness; (iv) stock-specific events; and (v) failed financings. Merger arbitrage positions also are subject to the risk of overall market movements. To the extent that a general increase or decline in equity values affects the stocks involved in a merger arbitrage position differently, the position may be exposed to loss. Merger arbitrage strategies also depend for success on the overall volume of merger activity, which historically has been cyclical in nature.

Proxy Contests and Unfriendly Transactions. Empyrean may direct Clients to purchase securities of a company that is the subject of a proxy contest with the expectation that new management will be able to improve the company's performance or effect a sale or liquidation of its assets so that the price of the company's securities will increase. If the incumbent management of the company is not defeated or if new management is unable to improve the company's performance or sell or liquidate the company, the market price of the company's securities will typically fall, which may cause Clients to suffer a loss.

In addition, where an acquisition or restructuring transaction or proxy fight is opposed by the subject company's management, the transaction often becomes the subject of litigation. Such litigation involves substantial uncertainties and may impose substantial cost and expense on the company participating in the transaction.

Financing Arrangements; Availability of Credit. When Empyrean utilizes leverage, it will depend on the availability of credit in order to finance the applicable Client's portfolio. There can be no assurance that Empyrean will be able to maintain adequate financing arrangements on behalf of its Clients under all market circumstances. As a general matter, certain of the dealers that provide financing to Clients can apply essentially discretionary margin, haircut, financing, security and collateral valuation policies. Changes by dealers in such financing policies, or the imposition of other credit limitations or restrictions, whether due to market circumstances or governmental, regulatory or judicial action, may result in large 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.

Trading and Investing Through Affiliates. Empyrean, on behalf of its current and future Clients, pursues certain investment activities through special purpose vehicles ("SPVs"). An SPV may admit additional members. In certain cases, Clients will be issued participation rights by an SPV for investments made by the SPV based upon their pro rata participation in, and funding of, a particular investment. A creditor having a claim that relates to a particular investment held by the SPV may be able to satisfy such claim against all assets of the SPV, without regard to the rights of the Clients or other members of the SPV in the assets of the SPV.

Investment in Other Investment Vehicles. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, from time to time pursues certain of its strategies by investing in other investment vehicles, including, but not limited to, for regulatory or tax purposes. These investment vehicles may be managed by third parties. As a result, Clients invested in such vehicles will have to bear the expenses and advisory fees associated with such investments. The combination of the management fee and performance-based fees charged by Empyrean with the expenses and advisory fees relating to such investments may result in higher fees and expenses than are associated with comparable investments or investment entities.

Short-term Market Considerations. Empyrean's trading decisions are sometimes made on the basis of short-term market considerations. Therefore, the portfolio turnover rate could result in significant trading-related expenses for its Clients.

Fundamental Analysis. Certain trading decisions made by Empyrean may be based on fundamental analysis. Data on which fundamental analysis relies may be inaccurate or may be generally available to other market participants. To the extent that any such data is inaccurate or that other market participants have developed, based on such data, trading strategies similar to Empyrean's trading strategies, Clients may not be able to realize its investment goals. In addition, fundamental market information is subject to interpretation. To the extent that Empyrean misinterprets the meaning of certain data, Clients may incur losses.

Leverage; Interest Rates; Margin. Empyrean utilizes substantial leverage in its investment program and may borrow funds to the fullest possible extent permitted by applicable regulations, in order to maximize its Clients' investment positions. As a result, the possibilities of profit and loss are increased. Borrowing money to take positions provides Clients with the advantages of leverage, but exposes them to greater market risks and higher current expenses. Any gain in the value of positions taken with borrowed money or income

earned from these positions that exceeds interest paid on the amount borrowed would cause the applicable Client's assets to increase faster than would otherwise be the case. Conversely, any decline in the value of the positions taken would cause the applicable Client's assets to decrease faster than would otherwise be the case.

Leverage may take the form of trading on margin, investing in derivative instruments that are inherently leveraged, and entering into other forms of direct or indirect borrowings. The amount of leverage or borrowings which Empyrean may cause a Client to have outstanding at any time may therefore be large in relation to its capital. Consequently, the level of interest rates generally, and the rates at which Clients can borrow in particular, will affect their operating results.

In general, Empyrean's use of short-term margin borrowings on behalf of its Clients may result in certain additional risks to its Clients. For example, should the securities pledged to brokers to secure a Client's margin accounts decline in value, such Client could be subject to a "margin call," pursuant to which the Client must either deposit additional funds with the broker or suffer mandatory liquidation of the pledged securities to compensate for the decline in value. In the event of a sudden precipitous drop in the value of a Client's assets, such Client might not be able to liquidate assets quickly enough to pay off its margin debt.

In the futures markets, margin deposits typically range between 1% and 15% of the value of the futures contracts purchased or sold. In the forward, equity, currency and certain other derivative markets, margin deposits may be even lower or may not be required at all. Such low margin deposits are indicative of the fact that any trading in these markets typically is accompanied by a high degree of leverage. Low margin deposits mean that a relatively small adverse price movement in a futures or forward contract may result in immediate and substantial losses to the investor. For example, if at the time of purchase 10% of the price of a futures contract is deposited as margin, a 10% decrease in the price of the futures contract would, if the contract is then closed out, result in a total loss of the margin deposit before any deduction for the brokerage commission. Thus, like other leveraged investments, any purchase or sale of a future, forward or other commodity contract may result in losses in excess of the amount invested.

When Empyrean purchases an option in the United States on behalf of a Client, there is no margin requirement because the option premium is paid for in full. The premiums for certain options traded on foreign exchanges may be paid for on margin. When Empyrean sells on a futures contract on behalf of a Client, the Client may be required to deposit margin in an amount that may be determined by the margin requirement established for the futures contract underlying the option and, in addition, an amount substantially equal to the current premium for the option. The margin requirements imposed on the writing of options, although adjusted to reflect the probability that out-of-the-money options will not be exercised, can in fact be higher than those imposed in dealing in the futures markets directly. Whether any margin deposit will be required for over-the-counter options and other over-the-counter instruments, such as equity or currency forwards, swaps and certain other derivative instruments, will depend on the credit determinations and specific agreements of the parties to the transaction, which are individually negotiated.

There is no restriction on the amount of leverage that Empyrean may utilize on behalf of its Clients. The cumulative effect of the use of leverage with respect to any investment in a

market that moves adversely to such investments could result in a substantial loss which would be greater than if the investments were not leveraged.

Borrowing for Cash Management Purposes. Empyrean has the authority to borrow for cash management purposes, such as to satisfy withdrawal requests. The rates at and terms on which Clients can borrow will affect the operating results of a Client.

Collateral. The instruments and borrowings utilized by Empyrean on behalf of its Clients to leverage investments may be collateralized by all or a portion of a Client's portfolio. Accordingly, Clients may pledge their securities in order to borrow or otherwise obtain leverage for investment or other purposes. Should the securities pledged to brokers to secure the a Client's margin accounts decline in value, the Client could be subject to a "margin call", pursuant to which the Client must either deposit additional funds or securities with the broker or suffer mandatory liquidation of the pledged securities to compensate for the decline in value. The banks and dealers that provide financing to Clients can apply essentially discretionary margin, "haircut", financing and collateral valuation policies. Changes by counterparties in any of the foregoing may result in large margin calls, loss of financing and forced liquidations of positions at disadvantageous prices. Lenders that provide other types of asset-based or secured financing to the Client may have similar rights. There can be no assurance that the Client will be able to secure or maintain adequate financing.

Borrowings will be subject to interest, transaction and other costs, and other types of leverage also involve transaction and other costs. Any such costs may or may not be recovered by the return on a Client's portfolio.

Lending of Portfolio Securities. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, may lend securities on a collateralized and an uncollateralized basis from a Client's portfolio to creditworthy securities firms and financial institutions. While a securities loan is outstanding, Clients will continue to receive the equivalent of the interest or dividends paid by the issuer on the securities, as well as interest on the investment of the collateral or a fee from the borrower. The risks in lending securities, as with other extensions of secured credit, if any, consist of possible delay in receiving additional collateral, if any, or in recovery of the securities or possible loss of rights in the collateral, if any, should the borrower fail financially.

Loans. Empyrean from time to time invests in loans on behalf of its Clients. If Empyrean is unable to sell, assign, or successfully close transactions for its Clients' participations in such loans, such Clients will be forced to hold their excess interest in such loans for an indeterminate period of time.

Short Selling. The success of the short selling investment strategy Empyrean implements on behalf of its Clients depends upon Empyrean's ability to identify and sell short securities that are overvalued. Short selling involves selling securities which are not owned by the short seller, and borrowing them for delivery to the purchaser, with an obligation to replace the borrowed securities at a later date. Short selling allows the seller to profit from a decline in market price to the extent such decline exceeds the transaction costs and the costs of borrowing the securities. The extent to which Empyrean engages in short sales on behalf of its Clients will depend upon Empyrean's investment strategy and opportunities. A short sale creates the risk of a theoretically unlimited loss, in that the price of the underlying security could theoretically increase without limit, thus increasing the cost to the Client of buying those securities to cover the short position. There can be no assurance that Empyrean will be able to

maintain the ability to borrow securities sold short on behalf of its Clients. In such cases, the Client can be “bought in” (i.e., forced to repurchase securities in the open market to return to the lender). There also can be no assurance that the securities necessary to cover a short position will be available for purchase at or near prices quoted in the market. Purchasing securities to close out a short position can itself cause the price of the securities to rise further, thereby exacerbating the loss.

Short strategies can also be implemented synthetically through various instruments and be used with respect to indices or in the over-the-counter market and with respect to futures and other instruments. In some cases of synthetic short sales, there is no floating supply of an underlying instrument with which to cover or close out a short position and Empyrean may be entirely dependent on the willingness of over-the-counter market makers to quote prices at which the synthetic short position of its Clients may be unwound. There can be no assurance that such market makers will be willing to make such quotes. Short strategies can also be implemented on a leveraged basis. Lastly, even though Empyrean secures a “good borrow” of the security sold short for a Client at the time of execution, the lending institution may recall the lent security at any time, thereby forcing Empyrean to purchase the security on behalf of such Client at the then-prevailing market price, which may be higher than the price at which such security was originally sold short.

Lack of Control. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, may invest in debt instruments and equity securities of companies that it does not control, which Clients may acquire through market transactions or through purchases of securities directly from the issuer or other shareholders. Such securities will be subject to the risk that the issuer may make business, financial or management decisions with which Empyrean does not agree or that the majority stakeholders or the management of the issuer may take risks or otherwise act in a manner that does not serve Clients’ interests. In addition, the Clients may share control over certain investments with co-investors, which may make it more difficult for Empyrean to implement its investment approach or exit the investment when it otherwise would. The occurrence of any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on Clients’ investments.

Hedging Transactions. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, utilizes securities both for investment purposes and for risk management purposes in order to (i) protect against possible changes in the market value of its Clients’ investment portfolios resulting from fluctuations in the markets and changes in interest rates; (ii) protect unrealized gains in the value of its Clients’ investment portfolios; (iii) facilitate the sale of securities from its Clients’ portfolios; (iv) enhance or preserve returns, spreads or gains on securities in its Clients’ portfolios; (v) hedge against a directional trade; (vi) hedge the interest rate, credit or currency exchange rate on the securities in its Clients’ portfolios; and (vii) protect against increases in the prices of securities Empyrean anticipates purchasing on behalf of its Clients at a later date, as well as for other reasons that Empyrean deems appropriate. Empyrean will not be required to hedge any particular risk in connection with a particular transaction or its Clients’ portfolios generally. While Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, generally enters into hedging transactions to seek to reduce risk, such transactions may result in a poorer overall performance for such Clients than if they had not engaged in any such hedging transaction. Moreover, the portfolios will always be exposed to certain risks that may not be hedged.

Investment Discretion; New Strategies and Techniques. While Empyrean will generally seek to employ the representative investment strategies and techniques discussed herein, Empyrean has considerable discretion in the types of securities that it may direct some Clients

to trade and has the right to modify the investment strategies and techniques implemented on behalf of certain Clients without the consent of those Clients. New investment strategies and techniques may not be thoroughly tested in the market before being employed and may have operational or theoretical shortcomings which could result in unsuccessful trades and, ultimately, losses to Clients. In addition, any new investment strategy or technique developed by Empyrean may be more speculative than earlier investment strategies and techniques and may involve material and as-yet-unanticipated risks that could increase the risk of an investment with Empyrean.

Broker or Dealer Insolvency. While great care is taken in selecting brokers or dealers who will maintain custody of certain of the assets of Clients, there is no guarantee that any of such brokers or dealers will not become insolvent. While both U.S. and foreign laws, such as the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, seek to protect customer property in the event of failure, insolvency or liquidation of a broker or dealer, there is no certainty that, in the event of a failure of a custodian, counterparty or prime broker with custody of Client assets, Clients will not incur losses due to their assets being unavailable for a period of time, their ultimate inability to recover less than the full amount of their assets, or both. Because a substantial portion of Client assets are in custody with such brokers or dealers, such losses would be very significant and would materially impair the ability of Clients to achieve their investment objective. Further, there may be practical or time problems associated with enforcing the rights of Clients to their respective assets in the case of an insolvency of any such party.

Banking Relationships. Empyrean and its Clients will hold cash and other assets in accounts with one or more banks, custodians or depository or credit institutions (collectively, "Banking Institutions"), which may include both U.S. and non-U.S. Banking Institutions. Empyrean may direct Clients to also enter into credit facilities and have other relationships with Banking Institutions. The distress, impairment, or failure of, or a lack of investor or customer confidence in, any of such Banking Institutions may limit the ability of Empyrean and its Clients to access, transfer or otherwise deal with its assets, draw upon a credit facility, or rely upon any of such other relationships, in a timely manner or at all, and may result in other market volatility and disruption, including by affecting other Banking Institutions. All of the foregoing could have a negative impact on Clients. For example, in such a scenario, Clients could be forced to delay or forgo an investment or an Investor may be forced to delay or forgo receipt of a distribution, including in connection with a withdrawal, or the cash to fund such investment or distribution may be required to be obtained from other sources (including by disposing of other investments or making other borrowings) in a manner that would not have otherwise been considered desirable. Furthermore, in the event of the failure of a Banking Institution, access to a depository account with that institution could be restricted and U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") protection may not be available for balances in excess of amounts insured by the FDIC (and similar considerations may apply to Banking Institutions in other jurisdictions not subject to FDIC protection). In such a case, Empyrean and its Clients may not recover all or a portion of such excess uninsured amounts and would instead have an unsecured claim against the Banking Institution (alongside other unsecured creditors). Empyrean does not expect to be in a position to reliably identify in advance all potential solvency or stress concerns with respect to its or Clients banking relationships, and there can be no assurance that Empyrean or its Clients will be able to easily establish alternative relationships with and transfer assets to other Banking Institutions in the event a Banking Institution comes under stress or fails.

Counterparty Risk. Empyrean maintains, and expects to establish, relationships to obtain financing, derivative intermediation and prime brokerage services that permit it to trade on behalf of its Clients in any variety of markets or asset classes over time. However, there can be no assurance that Empyrean will be able to establish or maintain such relationships. An inability to establish or maintain such relationships could limit its trading activities, create losses, preclude it from engaging in certain transactions or prevent it from trading at optimal rates and terms, in each case, on behalf of its Clients. Moreover, a disruption in the financing, derivative intermediation and prime brokerage services provided by any such relationships could have a significant impact on Clients' businesses due to Empyrean's reliance on such counterparties on their behalf.

Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, from time to time effects transactions in the "over-the-counter" or "OTC" derivatives markets. The stability and liquidity of OTC derivatives transactions depends in large part on the creditworthiness of the parties to the transactions. In the OTC markets, Empyrean, on behalf of a Client, enters into a contract directly with dealer counterparties which may expose the Client to the risk that a counterparty will not settle a transaction in accordance with its terms because of a solvency or liquidity problem with the counterparty. Delays in settlement may also result from disputes over the terms of the contract (whether or not bona fide). In addition, a Client may have a concentrated risk in a particular counterparty, which may mean that if such counterparty were to become insolvent or have a liquidity problem, losses would be greater than if it had entered into contracts with multiple counterparties. Certain OTC derivative contracts require that a Client post collateral.

If there is a default by a counterparty, Empyrean and/or the applicable Client, under most normal circumstances will have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction. However, exercising such contractual rights may involve delays or costs which could result in the NAV of a Client being less than if the transaction had not been entered into. Furthermore, there is a risk that any of such counterparties could become insolvent and/or the subject of insolvency proceedings. In such case, the recovery of a Client's securities from such counterparty or the payment of claims therefor may be significantly delayed and the Client may recover substantially less than the full value of the securities entrusted to such counterparty.

Collateral that a Client posts to its counterparties that is not segregated with a third party custodian may not have the benefit of customer-protected "segregation" of such funds. In the event that a counterparty were to become insolvent, a Client may become subject to the risk that it may not receive the return of its collateral or that the collateral may take some time to return.

In addition, Empyrean uses counterparties located in jurisdictions outside the United States. Such counterparties usually are subject to laws and regulations in non-U.S. jurisdictions that are designed to protect customers in the event of their insolvency. However, the practical effect of these laws and their application to Client assets are subject to substantial limitations and uncertainties. Because of the range of possible factual scenarios involving the insolvency of a counterparty and the potentially large number of entities and jurisdictions that may be involved, it is impossible to generalize about the effect of such an insolvency on Clients and their assets. It should be assumed that the insolvency of any such counterparty would result in significant delays in recovering a Client's securities from or the payment of claims therefor by such counterparty and a loss to the Client, which could be material.

Alternative Data. Empyrean obtains and uses alternative data in its investment process. Alternative data may consist of datasets that have been culled from a variety of sources, such as internet usage, payment records, financial transactions, weather and other physical phenomena sensors, applications and devices (such as smartphones) that generate location and mobility data, data gathered by satellites, and government and other public records databases (this data is sometimes referred to as “big data” or “alternative data”). Empyrean intends to apply this alternative data to better anticipate micro- and macro-economic trends and otherwise to develop or improve trading or investment themes. The analysis and interpretation of alternative data involves a high degree of uncertainty and may entail significant expense, that are expected to be borne – in whole or in part – by Clients. No assurance can be given that Empyrean will be successful in utilizing alternative data in its investment process. Moreover, there has been increased scrutiny from a variety of regulators regarding the use of alternative data in this manner, and its use or misuse under current or future laws and regulations could create liability for Empyrean and its Clients in numerous jurisdictions. Empyrean cannot predict what, if any, regulatory or other actions may be asserted with regard to alternative data, but any adverse inquiries or formal actions could cause reputational, financial, or other harm to Empyrean and its Clients.

Cybersecurity Risk. A cyber incident is considered to be any adverse event that threatens the confidentiality, integrity or availability of Empyrean’s information resources. These incidents may be an intentional attack or an unintentional event and could involve gaining unauthorized access to Empyrean’s information systems for purposes of misappropriating assets, stealing confidential information, corrupting data or causing operational disruption. As the use of technology, including cloud-based technology, has become more prevalent in the course of business, Empyrean, and its respective service providers, have become potentially more susceptible to operational and information security risks resulting from cyber-attacks. Cybersecurity is a generic term used to describe the technology, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, systems, computers, programs, and data from cyber-attacks and hacking by other computer users, and to avoid the resulting damage and disruption of hardware and software systems, loss or corruption of data, and/or misappropriation of confidential information. For example, information and technology systems (including cloud-based technology) are vulnerable to damage or interruption from computer viruses, network failures, computer and telecommunication failures, infiltration by unauthorized persons and security breaches, usage errors by their respective professionals, power outages and catastrophic events such as fires, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and earthquakes. Such damage or interruptions to information technology systems could cause losses to Empyrean and/or Clients by affecting the ability of Empyrean (including service providers) to calculate net asset value, impeding or sabotaging trading, or interfering with the processing of transactions.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Risks. The emergence of recent and rapid technology developments in artificial intelligence and machine learning such as OpenAI and ChatGPT (collectively, “Machine Learning Technology”) can pose risks to Empyrean and Clients’ investments. As Machine Learning Technology’s popularity and functionality grows, Empyrean would expect to use Machine Learning Technology in various processes, including potentially in connection with its investment research process. Empyrean will likely be further exposed to the risks of Machine Learning Technology through third parties (including Empyrean’s or Clients’ service providers or counterparties) that use Machine Learning Technology, and Empyrean may not always be aware of such use. Empyrean cannot control the manner in which products created and/or utilized by third parties are developed or



maintained. Furthermore, due to the rapidly evolving nature of Machine Learning Technology and its widespread potential uses, Empyrean expects that its policies and procedures will continue to evolve in response to such unique challenges.

Machine Learning Technology is often highly reliant on the collection and analysis of large amounts of data, and in many instances it may not be possible or practicable to incorporate all potentially relevant data into the dataset that Machine Learning Technology utilizes or to evaluate the source and the reliability of the data being analyzed. Further, the outputs of Machine Learning Technology may be inaccurate or unreliable and are also susceptible to errors in such outputs' creation or subsequent analysis. Additionally, the use of Machine Learning Technology may involve (i) cybersecurity risks (including, but not limited to, the increased likelihood that Empyrean, its Clients, or one or more investments become a victim of cybercrime), (ii) threats to proprietary and confidential information, (iii) intellectual property violations, and (iv) other risks that are not currently foreseen. Such inaccuracies, errors, risks, threats, and/or violations could have adverse impacts on Empyrean and Client investment activities. Machine Learning Technology continues to develop rapidly, making it difficult to predict the future risks that may arise from such developments.

Market Dislocation. A financial crisis, global recession or sustained economic downturn could adversely affect the financial resources of corporate issuers in which Empyrean directs Clients to make investments, which could result in the inability of such issuers to make principal and interest payments on or refinance outstanding debt when due. In the event of such defaults, Clients may suffer a partial or total loss of capital invested in such companies, which would, in turn, have an adverse effect on Clients' returns. Such marketplace events also may restrict the ability of Empyrean to sell or liquidate investments at favorable times or for favorable prices (although such marketplace events may not foreclose Empyrean's ability to hold such investments until maturity). There can be no assurances that conditions in the global financial markets will not worsen and/or adversely affect one or more Client investments, Clients' access to capital or leverage or the overall performance of such investments. There can be no assurance that the assumptions made or the beliefs and expectations currently held by Empyrean will prove correct. Moreover, if markets begin to show a recovery from a financial crisis, global recession or sustained economic downturn, the U.S. and other governments may further reduce or terminate the supportive measures taken in response to such market dislocation. Such a withdrawal, if undertaken prematurely or too swiftly, could pose additional risks to recovering capital markets and the availability of credit to businesses generally.

Uncertain Economic, Social and Political Environment. Consumer, corporate and financial confidence may be adversely affected by current or future tensions around the world, fear of terrorist activity and/or military conflicts, localized or global financial crises or other sources of political, social or economic unrest. Such erosion of confidence may lead to or extend a localized or global economic downturn. A climate of uncertainty may reduce the availability of potential investment opportunities, and increases the difficulty of modeling market conditions, potentially reducing the accuracy of financial projections. In addition, limited availability of credit for consumers, homeowners and businesses, including credit used to acquire businesses, in an uncertain environment or economic downturn may have an adverse effect on the economy generally and on the ability of Empyrean to execute its strategies. This could slow the rate of future investments made by Empyrean on behalf of Clients, and result in longer holding periods for investments.

Impact of Government Regulation, Reimbursement and Reform. Certain industry segments in which Empyrean directs Clients to invest are (or may become) (i) highly regulated at both the federal and state levels in the United States and internationally and (ii) subject to frequent regulatory change. Certain segments may be highly dependent upon various government (or private) reimbursement programs. While Empyrean intends to direct Clients to invest in connection with companies that seek to comply with applicable laws and regulations, the laws and regulations relating to certain industries are complex, may be ambiguous or may lack clear judicial or regulatory interpretive guidance. An adverse review or determination by any applicable judicial or regulatory authority of any such law or regulation, or an adverse change in applicable regulatory requirements or reimbursement programs, could have a material adverse effect on the operations and/or financial performance of the companies in which Clients invest.

Enhanced Scrutiny and Certain Effects of Potential Regulatory Changes. The alternative asset management industry continues to receive scrutiny from governments across the globe. As a result, Empyrean and Clients are subject to laws and regulations enacted by numerous jurisdictions some of which may be inconsistent. It is impossible to predict the implications of changes, if any, in the laws or regulations applicable to Empyrean and Clients. As a result, Clients could incur, both directly and indirectly, significant additional costs to comply with such regulatory requirements. In addition, there can be no assurance that any such governmental scrutiny or regulation will not have an adverse impact on the activities of Empyrean or Clients, including the ability to effectively and timely address such regulations, implement operating improvements or otherwise execute a specified investment strategy or achieve specified investment objectives. The combination of such scrutiny of alternative asset managers and their investments by various politicians, regulators and market commentators, and the public perception that certain alternative asset managers, including hedge funds and private equity firms, contributed to the recent downturns in the U.S. and global financial markets, may complicate or prevent Empyrean's efforts to achieve its investment objectives.

Discontinuation of LIBOR. The London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") for U.S. Dollars, which is commonly used as a reference rate within various financial contracts (any such rate, a "Reference Rate"), ceased publication after June 30, 2023 (the one-week and two-month tenors of U.S. Dollar LIBOR ceased to be published after December 31, 2021). The Alternative Reference Rates Committee (the "ARRC") convened by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("FRB") recommended certain SOFR term rates as the replacement (in commercial loan agreements) for U.S. Dollar LIBOR. The ARRC's recommendations are consistent with replacements proposed under the Adjustable Interest Rate (LIBOR) Act (the "LIBOR Act"), which became effective in March, 2022, and the final rule implementing the LIBOR Act adopted by the FRB, which became effective in February, 2023. The FRB also recommended certain SOFR-based replacements for derivative transactions. The Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") is a secured, risk-free rate, where LIBOR was an unsecured rate reflecting counterparty risk, and certain of the recommended replacement rates proposed by the ARRC and under the LIBOR Act included a credit spread adjustment to address this difference. However, in new issue transactions (i.e., transactions not transitioning from London interbank offered rates) a market practice developed to absorb the credit spread adjustment as part of the pricing spread over the applicable benchmark rate, as opposed to indicating a credit spread adjustment as a separate item (for example, as an adjustment to a SOFR-based benchmark rate) within the applicable benchmark rate. Clients may be a party to SOFR-based contracts, or contracts utilizing different Reference Rates. Considered in their entirety, the impacts of the discontinuation of U.S. Dollar LIBOR on financial markets

generally and on the specific financial contracts to which Clients are a party may adversely affect the performance of Clients' investments.

Sanctions. Empyrean's operations are or may become subject to economic sanctions laws and regulations of various jurisdictions. At any given time, whether under applicable law, by contractual commitment or as a voluntary risk management measure, Empyrean and/or Clients may be required, or elect, to comply with various sanctions programs, including the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List and Sectoral Sanctions programs administered by OFAC, the sanctions regimes administered by subsidiary organs of the United Nations Security Council, the Sanctions Orders of the Cayman Islands (including as extended to the Cayman Islands by Order of the Government of the United Kingdom from time to time), and the Restrictive Measures adopted by the European Union. Some sanctions that may apply to Empyrean and/or Clients may prohibit or restrict dealings with particular identified persons. Other potentially applicable sanctions programs broadly prohibit or restrict dealings in certain countries or territories or with individuals and entities located in such countries or territories. In addition to such current sanctions, additional sanctions may be imposed in the future. Such sanctions may be imposed with little or no advance warning or "safe harbor" for compliance and may be ambiguous, including as to the scope of financial activities that regulators may ultimately deem to be covered by the sanctions.

Climate Change-Related Risks. The environmental effects of climate change, including rising temperatures, extreme weather, fires, flooding, erratic weather fluctuations, agricultural failures and displacement and destabilization of human populations, could have materially adverse effects on Client investments. Additionally, the willingness of certain governments, industries and businesses, especially those that profit from, or have a reliance on, fossil fuels, to adapt to climate change or transition to sustainable practices may also adversely affect Client investments.

Regulatory changes and divestment movements tied to concerns about climate change could adversely affect the value of certain industries whose activities or products are seen as accelerating climate change, or ill-positioned in light of the economic and social demands imposed by climate change.

Assumption of Catastrophe Risks. Clients may be subject to the risk of loss arising from direct or indirect exposure to vicarious catastrophic events, including the following: hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters (which may be caused, or enhanced in frequency and severity, by climate change factors); war, terrorism and other armed conflicts; social or political unrest; bank failures or general failures of banking systems, cyberterrorism; major or prolonged power outages or network interruptions; and public health crises, including infectious disease outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics. To the extent that any such event occurs and has a material effect on global financial markets or specific markets or issuers in which Empyrean causes Clients to invest (or has a material negative impact on the operations of Empyrean or the service providers of Empyrean or Clients), the risks of loss can be substantial and could have a material adverse effect on Client portfolios. Furthermore, any such event may also adversely impact one or more individual shareholders' financial condition, which could result in substantial redemption requests by such shareholders as a result of their individual liquidity situations and irrespective of Client portfolio performance.

Public Health Emergencies. Any public health emergency, including an outbreak of a concerning coronavirus (such as COVID-19) or other existing or new epidemic diseases, or the threat thereof, could have a significant adverse impact on Clients and their portfolio investments and could adversely affect Empyrean's ability to fulfill its investment objectives. The extent of the impact of any public health emergency on the Clients and their portfolio investments' operational and financial performance will depend on many factors, including the duration and scope of such public health emergency, the extent of any related travel advisories and restrictions implemented, the impact of such public health emergency on overall supply and demand, goods and services, investor liquidity, consumer confidence and levels of economic activity and the extent of its disruption to important global, regional and local supply chains and economic markets, all of which are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted. The effects of a public health emergency may materially and adversely impact the value and performance of the portfolio investments held by Clients and Empyrean's ability to source, manage and divest investments and the ability to achieve its investment objectives, all of which could result in significant losses to Clients. In addition, the operations of the Clients, their portfolio investments, and Empyrean may be significantly impacted, or even temporarily or permanently halted, as a result of government quarantine measures, voluntary and precautionary restrictions on travel or meetings and other factors related to a public health emergency, including its potential adverse impact on the health of any such entity's personnel.

Anti-Corruption and Sanctions Considerations. Economic sanction laws in the United States and other jurisdictions may prohibit Empyrean, its affiliates, its personnel, the accounts and their portfolio companies from transacting with certain individuals and companies or in certain countries. In the United States, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") administers and enforces certain U.S. economic and trade sanctions, which prohibit, among other things, transactions with, and the provision of services to, certain non-U.S. countries and territories. These types of sanctions and prohibitions may restrict Client investment activities. Empyrean, its accounts, and its personnel may from time to time be subject to trade sanctions laws and regulations of other jurisdictions, which may be inconsistent with or even preclude the effect of the sanctions administered by OFAC. The legal uncertainties arising from those conflicts may make it more difficult or costly for Empyrean to navigate investment activities that are subject to sanctions administered by OFAC or the laws and regulations of other jurisdictions.

Participation Interests. Empyrean directs Clients to purchase participation interests in debt instruments that do not entitle Clients to direct rights against the obligor. Participations held by Clients in a selling institution's portion of a debt instrument typically result in a contractual relationship only with such selling institution, not with the obligor. Clients have the right to receive payments of principal, interest and any fees to which it is entitled only from the selling institution selling the participation and only upon receipt by such selling institution of such payments from the obligor. In connection with purchasing participations, Clients generally will have no right to enforce compliance by the obligor with the terms of the related loan agreement, nor any rights of set-off against the obligor and Clients may not directly benefit from the collateral supporting the debt instrument in which it has purchased the participation. As a result, Clients will assume the credit risk of both the obligor and the selling institution selling the participation. In the event of the insolvency of such selling institution, Clients may be treated as a general creditor of such selling institution, and may not benefit from any set-off between such selling institution and the obligor. Recent, well-publicized weaknesses in certain financial institutions may be indicative of increased counter-party risk with respect to, among other things, participation interests. Additionally, the transparency of financial statements used

by such financial institutions, in particular, with respect to the value of complex financial assets, has been called into question. When a Client holds a participation in a debt instrument, it may not have the right to vote to waive enforcement of any restrictive covenant breached by an obligor or, if the Client does not vote as requested by the selling institution, it may be subject to repurchase of the participation at par. Selling institutions voting in connection with a potential waiver of a restrictive covenant may have interests different from those of a Client, and such selling institutions may not consider the interests of the Client in connection with their votes.

Unregistered Securities. Empyrean may direct Clients to hold unregistered securities. Unregistered securities generally may be resold only (i) in a public offering registered under the Securities Act, (ii) pursuant to Rules 144 or 144A under the Securities Act or (iii) pursuant to any other exemption from registration under the Securities Act. The resulting difficulties and delays could result in Clients' inability to realize a favorable price upon disposition of unregistered securities, and in some cases might make such disposition at the time desired by Empyrean impossible.

Non-Performing Investments. Empyrean may direct Clients to purchase debt instruments that are non-performing and in default. These types of investments may be speculative and there can be no assurance as to the amount and timing of payments, if any, with respect to such investments.

Prepayment Risk. The frequency at which prepayments (including voluntary prepayments by the obligors and liquidations due to default and foreclosures) occur on loans and other underlying debt investments will be affected by a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the prevailing level of interest rates as well as economic, demographic, tax, social, legal and other factors. In general, "premium" financial instruments (i.e., financial instruments whose market values exceed their principal or par amounts) are adversely affected by faster than anticipated prepayments, and "discount" financial instruments (i.e., financial instruments whose principal or par amounts exceed their market values) are adversely affected by slower than anticipated prepayments. Since Empyrean may direct Clients to invest in discount financial instruments when interest rates are high, and may direct Clients to invest in premium financial instruments when interest rates are low, such investments will be adversely affected by prepayments in any interest rate environment.

ESG Considerations and Impact of Sustainability Risks on Returns. Empyrean's investment strategy and methodology seek to integrate sustainability risks into aspects of its decision-making process. As set forth herein, Empyrean considers sustainability risks relevant to the returns of certain investments. Sustainability risk is an environmental, social or governance ("ESG") event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or potential material negative impact on the value of an investment and, as a consequence, Clients' returns. Assessment of sustainability risks is complex and requires subjective judgments, which may be based on data that is difficult to obtain, incomplete, estimated, out of date or otherwise materially inaccurate. Even when identified, there can be no guarantee that Empyrean will correctly assess the impact of sustainability risks on investments. To the extent a sustainability risk occurs or occurs in a manner that is not anticipated by Empyrean, there may be a sudden, material negative impact on the value of an investment and, as a result, Clients' returns. Such a negative impact may result in an entire loss of value of the relevant investment(s) and may have an equivalent negative impact on such Clients' returns. The impacts following the occurrence of a sustainability risk may be numerous and vary depending on the specific risk

and asset class. In general, where a sustainability risk occurs, there will be a negative impact on, and may be an entire loss of, an asset's value.

Tax Matters. The countries in which Empyrean may direct Clients to invest impose taxes on certain types of income such as dividends, interest and in some instances capital gains. Although such taxes may be subject to reduction to the extent that investors are entitled to the benefits of an income tax treaty between their home jurisdiction and the other jurisdictions in which Clients invest, there can be no assurance that treaty benefits will be available in any particular case, as this will be dependent on the terms of the treaty and the timely provision of certifications and other documentation. Furthermore, even if investors are entitled to treaty benefits, withholding taxes may still be deducted by the payers of income, with a material time delay before refunds of such withholding taxes can be obtained from the relevant taxing authority. In addition, changes in the tax laws or tax treaties (or their interpretation) of the countries in which Clients invest may severely and adversely affect Empyrean's ability to efficiently realize income or capital gains and may subject investors to tax and return filing obligations in such countries.

#### C. Material Risks Associated With Particular Types of Securities:

Markets for Debt Securities. The debt securities that Empyrean invests in on behalf of its Clients may or may not have an established trading market. In addition to a company's creditworthiness, many factors may materially adversely affect the trading market for, and market value of, these debt securities. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- the time remaining to the maturity of these debt securities;
- the outstanding principal amount of debt securities with terms identical to these debt securities;
- the ratings assigned by national statistical ratings agencies;
- the general economic environment;
- the supply of such debt securities trading in the secondary market, if any;
- the redemption or repayment features, if any, of these debt securities;
- the level, direction and volatility of market interest rates generally; and
- market rates of interest higher or lower than rates borne by the debt securities.

There may be a limited number of buyers of these debt securities if and when Empyrean decides to sell such debt securities on behalf of its Clients. This too may materially adversely affect the value of the debt securities or the trading market for the debt securities.

Interest Rates. General interest rate fluctuations may have a substantial negative impact on a Client's investments and investment opportunities and, accordingly, may have a material adverse effect on a Client's investment objective and rate of return. Trading prices for debt that pays a fixed rate of return tend to fall as interest rates rise. Trading prices tend to fluctuate more for fixed-rate securities that have longer maturities. In the past, Empyrean has entered into certain hedging transactions on behalf of its Clients, such as interest rate swap agreements, to mitigate a Client's exposure to adverse fluctuations in interest rates, and it may do so again in the future. In addition, Empyrean may increase a Client's floating rate investments to position the portfolio for rate increases. However, there is no assurance that such transactions will be successful in mitigating Clients' exposure to interest rate risk. Hedging transactions

may also limit Clients' ability to participate in the benefits of lower interest rates with respect to their investments.

Empyrean has no policy governing the maturities of Client investments. Empyrean will cause Clients to invest in debt with shorter and longer dated maturities. Investing in debt with longer maturities means that a Client is subject to greater risk (other things being equal) than a fund invested solely in shorter-term or more liquid securities, including the risk that it may be more difficult for Empyrean to sell such investments on behalf of its Clients if the need arises. In addition, if Empyrean is required to liquidate all or a portion of a Client's portfolio quickly, such Client could realize significantly less than the value at which it had recorded these investments.

Convertible Securities, Rights and Warrants. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, invests in hybrid securities that may be exchanged for, converted into or exercised to acquire a predetermined number of shares of an issuer's common stock at the option of the holder during a specified time period (such as convertible preferred stocks, convertible debentures, stock purchase rights, and warrants). Convertible securities generally pay interest or dividends and provide for participation in the appreciation of the underlying common stock but at a lower level of risk because the yield is higher and the security is senior to common stock. Convertible debt securities purchased for a Client that are acquired for their equity characteristics are not subject to minimum rating requirements.

The value of a convertible security is a function of its "investment value" (determined by its yield in comparison with the yields of other securities of comparable maturity and quality that do not have a conversion privilege) and its "conversion value" (the security's worth, at market value, if converted into the underlying common stock). The credit standing of the issuer and other factors may also affect the investment value of a convertible security. If the conversion value is low relative to the investment value, the price of the convertible security is governed principally by its investment value. To the extent the market price of the underlying common stock approaches or exceeds the conversion price, the price of the convertible security is increasingly influenced by its conversion value. Convertible securities may also include warrants, often publicly traded, that give a holder the right to purchase at any time during a specified period a predetermined number of shares of common stock at a fixed price but that do not pay a fixed dividend. Their value depends primarily on the relationship of the exercise price to the current and anticipated price of the underlying securities.

Call and Put Options. Clients may incur risks associated with the sale and purchase of call options and put options. Under a conventional cash-settled option, the purchaser of the option pays a premium in exchange for the right to receive upon exercise of the option (i) in the case of a call option, the excess, if any, of the reference price or value of the underlier (as determined pursuant to the terms of the option) above the option's strike price or (ii) in the case of a put option, the excess, if any, of the option's strike price above the reference price or value of the underlier (as so determined). Under a conventional physically-settled option structure, the purchaser of a call option has the right to purchase a specified quantity of the underlier at the strike price, and the purchaser of a put option has the right to sell a specified quantity of the underlier at the strike price.

A purchaser of an option may suffer a total loss of premium (plus transaction costs) if that option expires without being exercised. An option's time value (i.e., the component of the option's value that exceeds the in-the-money amount) tends to diminish over time. Even though

an option may be in-the-money to the purchaser at various times prior to its expiration date, the purchaser's ability to realize the value of an option depends on when and how the option may be exercised. For example, the terms of the transaction may provide for the option to be exercised automatically if it is in-the-money on the expiration date. Conversely, the terms may require timely delivery of a notice of exercise, and exercise may be subject to other conditions (such as the occurrence or non-occurrence of certain events, such as knock-in, knock-out or other barrier events) and timing requirements, including the "style" of the option.

Uncovered option writing (i.e., selling an option when the seller does not own a like quantity of an offsetting position in the underlier) exposes the seller to potentially significant loss. The potential loss of uncovered call writing is unlimited. The seller of an uncovered call may incur large losses if the reference price or value of the underlier increases above the exercise price by more than the amount of any premiums earned. As with writing uncovered calls, the risk of writing uncovered put options is substantial. The seller of an uncovered put option bears a risk of loss if the reference price or value of the underlier declines below the exercise price by more than the amount of any premiums earned. Such loss could be substantial if there is a significant decline in the value of the underlier.

Indices or Index Options. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, also purchases and sells indices, as well as call and put options on indices. The value of an index or index option fluctuates with changes in the market values of the assets included in the index. Because the value of an index or index option depends upon movements in the level of the index rather than the price of a particular asset, whether a Client will realize appreciation or depreciation from the purchase or writing of options on indices depends upon movements in the level of instrument prices in the assets generally or, in the case of certain indices, in an industry or market segment, rather than movements in the price of particular assets.

Highly Volatile Markets; FX Risk. Price movements of forwards, futures, derivative contracts and other securities in which Client assets are invested can be highly volatile and are influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changing supply and demand relationships, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies of governments, and national and international political and economic events and policies. In addition, governments from time to time intervene in certain markets, directly and by regulation, particularly in currencies, futures and options. Such intervention is often intended to directly influence prices and may, together with other factors, cause some or all of these markets to move rapidly in the same direction. The effect of such intervention is often heightened by a group of governments acting in concert. Empyrean makes certain speculative investments on behalf of its Clients in currencies which it believes to be undervalued; however, there are no assurances that the currencies purchased will in fact be undervalued. In addition, Clients may be required to hold such currencies for a substantial period of time before realizing their anticipated value. During this period, a portion of such Clients' assets will be committed to the currencies purchased, thus possibly preventing Empyrean from investing in other opportunities on their behalf.

Commodity Futures Contracts. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, invests in commodity futures contracts (and options on futures). Trading in commodity interests may involve substantial risks. The low margin or premiums normally required in such trading may provide a large amount of leverage, and a relatively small change in the price of a security or contract can produce a disproportionately larger profit or loss. There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for commodity futures contracts or options purchased or



sold, and Clients may be required to maintain a position until exercise or expiration, which could result in losses.

The value of futures contracts depends upon the price of the securities, such as commodities, underlying them. The prices of futures contracts are highly volatile, and price movements of futures contracts can be influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changing supply and demand relationships, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies of governments, as well as national and international political and economic events and policies. In addition, investments in futures contracts are also subject to the risk of the failure of any of the exchanges on which Clients' positions trade or of its clearing houses or counterparties. Futures positions may be illiquid because, for example, most U.S. commodity exchanges limit fluctuations in certain futures contract prices during a single day by regulations referred to as "daily price fluctuation limits" or "daily limits." Under such daily limits, 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 future has increased or decreased by an amount equal to the daily limit, positions in the future can neither be taken nor liquidated unless traders are willing to effect trades at or within the limit. Futures contract prices on various commodities or financial instruments occasionally have moved the daily limit for several consecutive days with little or no trading. Similar occurrences could prevent Empyrean from promptly liquidating unfavorable positions on behalf of its Clients and subject such Clients to substantial losses. In addition, Empyrean may not be able to execute futures contract trades on behalf of its Clients at favorable prices if trading volume in such contracts is low. It is also possible that an exchange or the CFTC may suspend trading in a particular contract, order immediate liquidation and settlement of a particular contract or order that trading in a particular contract be conducted for liquidation only. In addition, the CFTC and various exchanges impose speculative position limits on the number of positions that may be held in particular commodities. Trading in commodity futures contracts and options are highly specialized activities that may entail greater than ordinary investment or trading risks.

Index Futures. The price of stock index futures contracts may not correlate perfectly with the movement in the underlying stock index because of certain market distortions. First, all participants in the futures market are subject to margin deposit and maintenance requirements. Rather than meeting additional margin deposit requirements, investors may close futures contracts through offsetting transactions that would distort the normal relationship between the index and futures markets. Secondly, from the point of view of speculators, the deposit requirements in the futures market are less onerous than margin requirements in the securities market. Therefore, increased participation by speculators in the futures market also may cause temporary price distortions. Successful use of stock index futures contracts is subject to Empyrean's ability to correctly predict movements in the direction of the market.

Non-U.S. Futures Transactions. Foreign futures transactions involve executing and clearing trades on a foreign exchange. This is the case even if the foreign exchange is formally "linked" to a domestic exchange, whereby a trade executed on one exchange liquidates or establishes a position on the other exchange. No domestic organization regulates the activities of a foreign exchange, including the execution, delivery, and clearing of transactions on such an exchange, and no domestic regulator has the power to compel enforcement of the rules of the foreign exchange or the laws of the foreign country. Moreover, such laws or regulations will vary depending on the foreign country in which the transaction occurs. For these reasons, Clients may not be afforded certain of the protections which apply to domestic transactions, including the right to use domestic alternative dispute resolution procedures. In particular,

funds received from customers to margin foreign futures transactions may not be provided the same protections as funds received to margin futures transactions on domestic exchanges. In addition, the price of any foreign futures or option contract and, therefore, the potential profit and loss resulting therefrom, may be affected by any fluctuation in the foreign exchange rate between the time the order is placed and the time the foreign futures contract is liquidated or the time the foreign option contract is liquidated or exercised.

Swap Agreements. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, enters into swap agreements and options on swap agreements (“swaptions”). These agreements can be individually negotiated and structured to include exposure to a variety of different types of investments, asset classes or market factors. For instance, Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, may enter into swap agreements with respect to interest rates, credit defaults, currencies, securities, indexes of securities and other assets or other measures of risk or return. Depending on their structure, swap agreements may increase or decrease a Client’s exposure to, among other things, equity securities, long-term or short-term interest rates, foreign currency values, credit spreads or other factors. Swap agreements can take many different forms and are known by a variety of names. Empyrean is not limited to any particular form of swap agreement if consistent with its Clients’ investment objectives.

Whether Empyrean’s use of swap agreements or swaptions will be successful will depend on its ability to select appropriate transactions for its Clients. Swap transactions may be highly illiquid and may increase or decrease the volatility of a Client’s portfolio. Moreover, Clients bear the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a swap agreement in the event of the default or insolvency of its counterparty. Clients will also bear the risk of loss related to swap agreements, for example, for breaches of such agreements or the failure of a Client to post or maintain required collateral. Many swap markets are relatively new and still developing. It is possible that developments in the swap markets, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect Empyrean’s ability to terminate existing swap transactions on behalf of its Clients and such Clients’ ability to realize amounts to be received under such transactions.

Total Return Swaps. From time to time, Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, invests in total return swaps. As a buyer of total return swaps, a Client will be obligated to make certain periodic payments in exchange for the total return on a referenced asset, including coupons, interest and the gain or loss on such asset over the term of the swap. A Client may be required to maintain collateral with the total return swap counterparty. If a Client fails to fulfill its payment obligations or fails to post any required collateral under a total return swap, the total return swap counterparty may declare an event of default and, as a result, the Client may be required to pay swap breakage fees, suffer the loss of the amounts paid to the counterparty and forgo the receipts from the counterparty of further total return swap payments.

Credit Default Swaps. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, invests in credit default swaps. Credit default swaps can be used to implement Empyrean’s view that a particular credit, or group of credits, will experience credit improvement or deterioration. In the case of expected credit improvement, Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, may sell credit default protection in which such Clients receive a premium to take on the risk. In such an instance, the obligation of the Clients to make payments upon the occurrence of a credit event creates leveraged exposure to the credit risk of the referenced entity. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, also buys credit default protection with respect to a referenced entity if, in Empyrean’s judgment, there is a high likelihood of credit deterioration that is greater than implied by the market. In such an instance,

Clients will pay a premium regardless of whether there is a credit event. The credit default swap market in high-yield securities is comparatively new and rapidly evolving compared to the credit default swap market for more seasoned and liquid investment-grade securities, creating the risk that the newer markets will be less liquid, and making it potentially more difficult to exit or enter into a particular transaction.

As a buyer of credit default swaps, a Client will be subject to certain risks in addition to those described elsewhere herein. In circumstances in which a Client does not own the debt securities that are deliverable under a credit default swap, such Client will be exposed to the risk that deliverable securities 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.” While the credit default swap market auction protocols reduce this risk, it is still possible that an auction will not be organized or will not be successful. In certain instances of issuer defaults or restructurings (for those credit default swaps for which restructuring is specified as a credit event), it has been unclear under the standard industry documentation for credit default swaps whether or not a “credit event” triggering the seller’s payment obligation had occurred. The creation of the ISDA Credit Derivatives Determination Committee (the “Determination Committee”) is intended to reduce this uncertainty and create uniformity across the market, although it is possible that the Determination Committee will not be able to reach a resolution or do so on a timely basis. In either of these cases, a Client would not be able to realize the full value of the credit default swap upon a default by the reference entity.

As a seller of credit default swaps, a Client will incur leveraged exposure to the credit of the reference entity and become subject to many of the same risks it would incur if it were holding debt securities issued by the reference entity. However, such Client will not have any legal recourse against the reference entity and will not benefit from any collateral securing the reference entity’s debt obligations. In addition, the credit default swap buyer will have broad discretion to select which of the reference entity’s debt obligations to deliver to a Client following a credit event and will likely choose the obligations with the lowest market value in order to maximize the payment obligations of such Client.

Counterparty risk is always present in credit default swaps. The market for credit default swaps on distressed securities is not liquid (compared to the market for credit default swaps on investment grade corporate reference entities). In the event that current interest rate spreads over LIBOR (or over the applicable United States Treasury Benchmark) widen or the prevailing credit premiums on credit default swaps increase, the amount of a termination or assignment payment upon a termination or assignment of a transaction due from a Client to the credit default swap counterparty could increase by a substantial amount.

Forward Contracts. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, from time to time enters into OTC forward contracts for the trading of certain futures interests, such as currencies and interest rates, through U.S. and non-U.S. national or local banks and currency and rates dealers. A forward contract is a contractual obligation to buy or sell a specified quantity of a security or commodity at or before a specified date in the future at a specified price and, therefore, is similar to a futures contract. Banks and dealers act as principals in such markets. Banking authorities generally do not regulate trading in forward contracts. The principals who deal in the forward contract market are not required to continue to make markets in such contracts. There have been periods during which certain participants in forward markets have refused to quote prices for forward contracts or have quoted prices with an unusually wide spread between the price at which they were prepared to buy and that at which they were prepared to sell. The

imposition of credit controls or price risk limitations by governmental authorities may limit such forward trading to less than that which Empyrean would otherwise recommend, to the possible detriment of a Client. With respect to forward trading, a Client will be subject to the risk of the failure of, or the inability or refusal to perform with respect to its forward contracts by, the principals with which such Client trades. A Client's assets on deposit with such principals will also generally not be protected by the same segregation requirements imposed on certain regulated brokers in respect of customer funds on deposit with them. Empyrean may order trades for a Client in such markets through agents. Accordingly, the insolvency or bankruptcy of such parties could also subject a Client to the risk of loss.

Contracts for Differences. Contracts for differences ("CFDs") are privately negotiated contracts between two parties, buyer and seller, stipulating that the seller will pay to or receive from the buyer the difference between the nominal value of the underlying instrument at the opening of the contract and that instrument's value at the end of the contract. The underlying instrument may be a single security, stock basket or index. A CFD can be set up to take either a short or long position on the underlying instrument. The buyer and seller are both required to post margin, which is adjusted daily. The buyer will also pay to the seller a financing rate on the notional amount of the capital employed by the seller less the margin deposit. As is the case with trading any financial instrument, there is the risk of loss associated with trading a CFD. There may be liquidity risk if the underlying instrument is illiquid because the liquidity of a CFD is based on the liquidity of the underlying instrument. A further risk is that adverse movements in the underlying security will require the posting of additional margin. CFDs also carry counterparty risk, i.e., the risk that the counterparty to the CFD transaction may be unable or unwilling to make payments or to otherwise honor its financial obligations under the terms of the contract.

Failure to Enter into Offsetting Trade. To the extent Empyrean directs a Client to invest in a futures contract or long option, unless an offsetting trade is made, the Client would be required to take physical delivery of the commodity underlying the future or option. To the extent Empyrean fails to enter into such offsetting trade prior to the expiration of the contract, the Client may suffer a loss since neither the Client nor Empyrean has the operational capacity to accept physical delivery of commodities.

Exotic Options. Exotic options are typically, but not always, traded over-the-counter. OTC contracts may not trade in a liquid market and pricing may be opaque. The illiquidity of these markets can be exacerbated in times of market stress. Clients may incur substantial costs entering into and exiting positions that could have a material impact on performance. Exotic options may be subject to a higher degree of pricing risk as demonstrated by instances in which different counterparties in the market employ different valuation and pricing methodologies to the same exotic option. Because exotic options can often be highly customized, there is lower visibility with respect to the pricing and valuation of these instruments. Exotic options may be subject to high levels of price volatility..

Other Derivative Instruments. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, may take advantage of opportunities with respect to certain other derivative instruments that are not presently contemplated for use or that are currently not available, but that may be developed, to the extent such opportunities are both consistent with the investment objective of the applicable Clients and legally permissible. Special risks may apply to such instruments that can only be determined at the time such instruments are developed or invested in. Certain swaps, options and other derivative instruments may be subject to various types of risks, including market risk,

liquidity risk, the risk of non-performance by the counterparty (e.g., due to the financial soundness and creditworthiness of the counterparty), legal risk and operations risk.

Special Purpose Acquisition Companies Generally. A special purpose acquisition company (“SPAC”) is a publicly traded company formed for the purpose of raising capital through an initial public offering to fund the acquisition, through a merger, capital stock exchange, asset acquisition or other similar business combination, of one or more operating businesses that are typically not publicly-listed. Following the acquisition of a target company, a SPAC’s management team may exercise control over the management of the combined company in an effort to increase its value. Often now, though, management of the target company will continue to manage the now publicly-traded business subsequent to completion of its business combination with the SPAC. Capital raised through the initial public offering of securities of a SPAC is typically placed into a trust account until a qualifying business combination is completed or a predetermined period of time (typically 24 months) elapses. Investors in a SPAC would receive a return on their investment in the event that a target company is acquired and the combined publicly-traded company’s shares trade above the SPAC’s initial public offering (“IPO”) price, or alternatively, the market price at which an investor acquired a SPAC’s shares subsequent to its IPO. In the event that a SPAC is unable to locate and acquire a target business by the timeframe established at the time of its IPO, the SPAC would be forced to liquidate its assets, which may result in losses due to the expenses and liabilities of the SPAC, to the extent third-parties are permitted to bring claims against IPO proceeds held in the SPAC’s trust account. Investors in a SPAC are subject to the risk that, among other things, (i) such SPAC may not be able to complete a qualifying business combination by the deadline established at the time of its IPO, (ii) assets in the trust account may become subject to third-party claims against such SPAC, which may reduce the per share liquidation value received by the investors in the SPAC in the event it fails to complete a business combination within the required time period, (iii) such SPAC may be exempt from the rules promulgated by the SEC to protect investors in “blank check” companies, such as Rule 419 promulgated under the Securities Act, so that investors in such SPAC may not be afforded the benefits or protections of those rules, (iv) such SPAC will likely only complete one business combination, which will cause its returns and future prospects to be solely dependent on the performance of a single acquired business, (v) the value of any target business, including its stock price as a public company, may decrease following its acquisition by such SPAC, (vi) the value of the funds invested and held in the trust account may decline, (vii) the inability to redeem due to the failure to hold the securities in the SPAC on the applicable record date to do so, and (viii) if the SPAC is unable to consummate a business combination, public stockholders may be forced to wait until the deadline before liquidating distributions are made. Empyrean may cause Clients to invest in a SPAC that, at the time of investment, has not selected or approached any prospective target businesses with respect to a business combination. In such circumstances, there may be limited basis for Empyrean to evaluate the possible merits or risks of such SPAC’s investment in any particular target business. In addition, to the extent that a SPAC completes a business combination, it may be affected by numerous risks inherent in the business operations of the acquired company or companies. For these and additional reasons, investments in SPACs are speculative and involve a high degree of risk.

Investments in Distressed Securities Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, invests in “below investment grade” securities and obligations of domestic and non-U.S. issuers in weak financial condition, experiencing poor operating results, having substantial capital needs or negative net worth, facing special competitive or product obsolescence problems, including

companies involved in bankruptcy or other reorganization and liquidation proceedings. These securities may be particularly risky investments although they also may offer the potential for correspondingly high returns. Among the risks inherent in investments in troubled entities is the fact that it frequently may be difficult to obtain information as to the true condition of such issuers. Such investments also may be adversely affected by laws relating to, among other things, fraudulent transfers and other voidable transfers or payments, lender liability and the bankruptcy court's power to disallow, reduce, subordinate or disenfranchise particular claims. Such companies' securities may be considered speculative, and the ability of such companies to pay their debts on schedule could be affected by adverse interest rate movements, changes in the general economic climate, economic factors affecting a particular industry, or specific developments within such companies. In addition, there is no minimum credit standard that is a prerequisite to Clients' investment in any instrument, and a significant portion of the obligations and preferred stock in which Empyrean invests on behalf of its Clients may be less than investment grade. Any one or all of the issuers of the securities in which Empyrean may invest on behalf of its Clients may be unsuccessful or not show any return for a considerable period of time. The level of analytical sophistication, both financial and legal, necessary for successful investment in companies experiencing significant business and financial difficulties is unusually high. There is no assurance that Empyrean will correctly evaluate the value of the assets collateralizing Clients' loans or the prospects for a successful reorganization or similar action. In any reorganization or liquidation proceeding relating to a company in which Clients are invested, such Clients may lose their entire investment, may be required to accept cash or securities with a value less than their original investment and/or may be required to accept payment over an extended period of time. Under such circumstances, the returns generated from these investments may not compensate such Clients adequately for the risks assumed.

In liquidation (both in and out of bankruptcy) and other forms of corporate reorganization, there exists the risk that the reorganization either will be unsuccessful (due to, for example, failure to obtain requisite approvals), will be delayed (for example, until various liabilities, actual or contingent, have been satisfied) or will result in a distribution of cash or a new security the value of which will be less than the purchase price of the security in respect to which such distribution was made.

In certain transactions, the Client's investment may not be "hedged" against market fluctuations, or, in liquidation situations, may not accurately value the assets of the company being liquidated. This can result in losses, even if the proposed transaction is consummated.

Bank Loans. Empyrean's investment program includes investments in bank loans and participations. These obligations are subject to unique risks, including: (i) the possible invalidation of an investment transaction as a fraudulent conveyance under relevant creditors' rights laws; (ii) so-called lender-liability claims by the issuer of the obligations; (iii) environmental liabilities that may arise with respect to collateral securing the obligations; and (iv) limitations on the ability of the Client to directly enforce its rights with respect to participations. In analyzing each bank loan, Empyrean compares the relative significance of the risks against the expected benefits of the investment. Successful claims by third parties arising from these and other risks will be borne by the applicable Clients.

As secondary market trading volumes increase, new loans are frequently adopting standardized documentation to facilitate loan trading which may improve market liquidity. There can be no assurance, however, that future levels of supply and demand in loan trading will provide an adequate degree of liquidity or that the current level of liquidity will continue.

Because of the provision to holders of such loans of confidential information relating to the borrower, the unique and customized nature of the loan agreement, and the private syndication of the loan, loans are not as easily purchased or sold as a publicly traded security, and historically the trading volume in the loan market has been small relative to the high-yield debt market.

Lender Liability and Equitable Subordination. A number of judicial decisions in the U.S. and in other countries have upheld the right of borrowers to sue lending institutions on the basis of various evolving legal theories (collectively termed “lender liability”). Generally, lender liability is founded upon the premise that an institutional lender has violated a duty (whether implied or contractual) of good faith and fair dealing owed to the borrower or has assumed a degree of control over the borrower resulting in a creation of a fiduciary duty owed to the borrower or its other creditors or shareholders. Under common law principles that in some cases form the basis for lender liability claims, if a lender (i) intentionally takes an action that results in the undercapitalization of a borrower or issuer to the detriment of other creditors of such borrower or issuer, (ii) engages in other inequitable conduct to the detriment of such other creditors, (iii) engages in fraud with respect to, or makes misrepresentations to, such other creditors or (iv) uses its influence as a stockholder to dominate or control a borrower or issuer to the detriment of other creditors of such borrower or issuer, a court may elect to subordinate the claim of the offending lender or bondholder to the claims of the disadvantaged creditor or creditors (a remedy called “equitable subordination”). If a Client at the direction of Empyrean engages in such conduct, the Client may be subject (directly or indirectly) to claims from creditors of an obligor that debt held by a Client should be equitably subordinated. Similarly, if a lender has engaged in such conduct, a Client in its role as a creditor may have a right to pursue a claim that such debt should be equitably subordinated. In either case, there can be no guarantee that Clients will not incur significant costs defending against such a possibility or pursuing such a possibility (even if such action is ultimately unsuccessful).

Second-Lien and Unsecured Loans. In addition to the special risks generally associated with investments in corporate loans described above, investments in second-lien and unsecured loans entail additional risks, including, but not limited to (i) the subordination of the Client’s claims to a senior lien in terms of the coverage and recovery from the collateral; and (ii) with respect to second-lien loans, the prohibition of or limitation on the right to foreclose on a second- lien or exercise other rights as a second-lien holder, and with respect to unsecured loans, the absence of any collateral on which a Client may foreclose to satisfy its claim in whole or in part. In certain cases, therefore, no recovery may be available from a defaulted second-lien or unsecured loan held by a Client.

Bankruptcy Claims. Empyrean’s investment program includes investments in debt and equity of financially distressed companies. In the event that the issuer files for bankruptcy protection, Empyrean will likely be unable to sell its Clients’ claims without such Clients realizing a significant loss and may be unable to recover current interest on such claims during the course of the bankruptcy case. The markets in U.S. bankruptcy claims are generally not regulated by U.S. federal securities laws or the SEC. To the extent a debt investment is unsecured (i.e., has no collateral securing repayment), such claims may have a lower priority than secured claims (which have first recourse to the collateral securing such claim). In addition, the debt of an issuer in bankruptcy may be adversely affected by an erosion of the issuer’s business and overall value. Accordingly, there can be no guarantee that a debtor will be able to satisfy all of its liabilities or that a Client will be able to recover the entire amount of its bankruptcy claim.

Many of the events within a bankruptcy case are adversarial and often beyond the control of the creditors. While creditors generally are afforded an opportunity to appear and be heard, there can be no assurance that a bankruptcy court would not approve actions that may be contrary to the interests of Empyrean's Clients (in their role as a creditor). Furthermore, there are instances where creditors lose their priority under Title 11 of the United States Code (i.e., are equitably subordinated) if, for example, they have engaged in misconduct that harms other creditors. In those cases where a Client is found to have engaged in such misconduct, such Client may lose its priority.

Generally, the duration of a bankruptcy case can only be roughly estimated. The reorganization of a company usually involves the development and negotiation of a plan of reorganization, the approval of the plan by creditors and confirmation of the plan by the bankruptcy court. This process can involve substantial legal, professional and administrative costs to the company and a Client; it is subject to unpredictable and lengthy delays; and during the process the company's competitive position may erode, key management may depart and the company may not be able to invest adequately. In some cases, the issuer may not be able to reorganize and may be required to sell its assets either as a going concern or as part of a liquidation. As a result, even in those circumstances where a Client may recover the entire amount of its bankruptcy claim, it may be adversely impacted by any costs incurred by it in representing its interests in a debtor's bankruptcy case. U.S. bankruptcy law permits the classification of "substantially similar" claims in determining the classification of claims in a reorganization for the purpose of voting on a plan of reorganization. Because the standard for classification is vague, there exists a significant risk that a Client's influence with respect to a class of securities can be lost by virtue of the size of its claim relative to the claims of the entire class. In addition, certain administrative costs and claims that have priority by law over the claims of certain creditors (for example, claims for certain taxes) may impair the recovery of an investment in a bankruptcy claim.

Empyrean invests some of its Clients' assets in securities of issuers domiciled, or assets located, globally. Investment in the debt of financially distressed companies domiciled outside the United States involves additional risks. Bankruptcy law and process may differ substantially from that in the United States, resulting in greater uncertainty as to the rights of creditors, the enforceability of such rights, reorganization timing and the classification, seniority and treatment of claims. In certain developing countries, although bankruptcy laws have been enacted, the process for reorganization remains highly uncertain.

Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, may elect to serve on creditors' committees, equityholders' committees or other groups to ensure preservation or enhancement of such Clients' positions as a creditor or equityholder. A member of any such committee or group may owe a fiduciary duty and be subject to certain obligations to all members the committee represents and/or to other similarly situated parties. Empyrean may resign from that committee or group for any reason, including, for example, if Empyrean concludes that its obligations owed to the other parties as a committee or group member conflict with its duties owed to a Client. In such case, Clients may not realize the benefits, if any, of participation on the committee or group. In addition, if a Client is represented on a committee or group, it may be restricted or prohibited under applicable law from disposing of or increasing its investments in such company while it continues to be represented on such committee or group.

Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, may purchase creditor claims subsequent to the commencement of a bankruptcy case. Under judicial decisions, it is possible that such purchase



may be disallowed by the bankruptcy court if the court determines that the purchaser has taken unfair advantage of an unsophisticated seller, which may result in the rescission of the transaction (presumably at the original purchase price) or forfeiture by the purchaser. Additionally, the claim may be disallowed or subordinated if the bankruptcy court determines that the seller engaged in inequitable conduct that harmed other creditors.

Reorganizations can be contentious and adversarial, and it is by no means unusual for participants to use the threat of litigation and to engage in litigation as a negotiating technique. The expense of defending against claims by third parties and paying any amounts pursuant to settlements or judgments would generally be borne by Clients holding the particular investment.

Corporate Debt Obligations and High-Yield Securities. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, invests in corporate debt obligations and high-yield securities. The market value of debt securities generally tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, increase as interest rates decline. Debt obligations are subject to the risk of an issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on the obligations (i.e., credit risk). High-yield securities are generally not exchange traded and, as a result, these instruments may trade in a smaller secondary market than exchange-traded bonds. In addition, Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, may invest in bonds of issuers that do not have publicly traded equity securities, making it more difficult to hedge the risks associated with such investments. High-yield securities that are below investment grade or unrated face ongoing uncertainties and exposure to adverse business, financial or economic conditions that could lead to the issuer's inability to meet timely interest and principal payments. High-yield securities are generally more volatile and may be subordinated to certain other outstanding securities and obligations of the issuer, which may be secured by substantially all of the issuer's assets or more senior in the lien structure. The market values of certain lower-rated and unrated debt securities tend to reflect individual corporate developments to a greater extent than do higher-rated securities, which react primarily to fluctuations in the general level of interest rates, and tend to be more sensitive to economic conditions than are higher-rated securities. Companies that issue such securities are often highly leveraged and may not have available to them more traditional methods of financing. It is possible that a major economic recession could disrupt severely the market for such securities and may have an adverse impact on the value of such securities. In addition, it is possible that any such economic downturn could adversely affect the ability of the issuers of such securities to repay principal and pay interest thereon and increase the incidence of default of such securities.

Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, may invest in obligations of issuers that are generally trading at significantly higher yields than had been historically typical of the applicable issuer's obligations. Such investments may include debt obligations that have a heightened probability of being in covenant or payment default in the future or that are currently in default and are generally considered speculative. The repayment of defaulted obligations is subject to significant uncertainties. Defaulted obligations might be repaid only after lengthy workout or bankruptcy proceedings, during which the issuer might not make any interest or other payments. Typically such workout or bankruptcy proceedings result only in partial recovery of cash payments or an exchange of the defaulted security for other debt or equity securities of the issuer or its affiliates, which may in turn be illiquid or speculative.

Non-U.S. Investments. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, invests in securities of non-U.S. companies and countries and in non-U.S. currencies. Investing in the securities of such

companies and countries involves certain considerations not usually associated with investing in securities of U.S. companies or the U.S. Government, including political and economic considerations, such as greater risks of expropriation and nationalization, confiscatory taxation, the potential difficulty of repatriating funds, general social, political and economic instability and adverse diplomatic developments, the possibility of imposition of withholding or other taxes on dividends, interest, capital gain, other income or gross sale proceeds, the small size of the securities markets in such countries and the low volume of trading, resulting in potential lack of liquidity and in price volatility, fluctuations in the rate of exchange between currencies and costs associated with currency conversion, and certain government policies that may restrict investment opportunities. In addition, accounting and financial reporting standards that prevail in foreign countries generally are not equivalent to United States standards and, consequently, less information is available to investors in companies located in such countries than is available to investors in companies located in the United States. As a result, Empyrean may be unable to structure each of its Client's transactions to achieve the intended results or to mitigate all risks associated with such markets. It may also be difficult to enforce a Client's rights in such markets. Moreover, an issuer of securities may be domiciled in a country other than the country in whose currency the instrument is denominated. The values and relative yields of investments in the securities markets of different countries, and their associated risks, are expected to change independently of each other. There is also less regulation, generally, of the securities markets in foreign countries than there is in the United States. For example, securities traded on non-U.S. exchanges and the non-U.S. persons that trade these instruments are not subject to the jurisdiction of the SEC or the CFTC or the securities and commodities laws and regulations of the U.S. Accordingly, the protections accorded to Clients under such laws and regulations are unavailable for transactions on non-U.S. exchanges and with non-U.S. counterparties.

Dependence on Developing Countries. The level of commodity prices can fluctuate widely due to supply and demand disruptions in major producing or consuming regions. In particular, recent growth in industrial production and gross domestic product has made many developing countries, particularly China, disproportionately large users of commodities and has increased the extent to which commodity prices are dependent on the markets of those developing countries. Political, economic and other developments that affect these developing countries may affect the level of certain commodities and, thus, the value of Client investments. Because certain commodities may be produced in a limited number of countries and may be controlled by a small number of producers, political, economic and supply-related events in those countries could have a disproportionate impact on the prices of commodity futures contracts and other types of financial instruments in which Empyrean may direct Clients to invest. Events affecting the prices of commodities tend to affect prices worldwide, regardless of the location of the event.

Activist Investing. While Empyrean intends to generally direct Clients to invest in securities and instruments on a passive basis, it will occasionally assume a more active role. The success of such investments will depend on (i) Empyrean's ability to properly identify portfolio companies whose securities prices can be improved through corporate and/or strategic action; (ii) Empyrean's ability to acquire sufficient securities of such portfolio companies at a sufficiently attractive price; (iii) Empyrean's ability to avoid triggering anti-takeover and regulatory obstacles while aggregating its position; (iv) the willingness of the management of such portfolio companies and other security holders to respond positively to Empyrean's proposals; and (v) favorable movements in the market price of any such portfolio company's

securities in response to any actions taken by such portfolio company. There can be no assurance that any of the foregoing will occur.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict. The Russian invasion of Ukraine that commenced on February 24, 2022, has resulted in complex, evolving and systemic economic effects that may influence financial benchmarks key to asset pricing, interest rates and lending availability, as well as financial and physical market liquidity, and the price and availability of essential commodities, in an unpredictable fashion for an uncertain duration. Acute effects to particular commodity and foreign securities markets are possible. Russia and Ukraine are major participants in certain commodities sectors, such as for agricultural (e.g., wheat) and energy (e.g., oil and natural gas) products. Furthermore, this conflict has also resulted in swift multilateral sanctions targeting Russia's financial sector and access to capital markets with designations of dozens of individuals and entities, including the Russian Central Bank, several large publicly-traded Russian banks and companies, Russia's sovereign wealth funds, and Russian oligarchs and other members of the Russian elite, including Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin. The sanctions imposed are complex and the prohibitions apply to various types of debt and equity transactions involving sanctioned persons, including bonds, loans, loan guarantees, extensions of credit, letters of credit, stocks, share issuances, and depository receipts, among others. For example, U.S. persons are prohibited from transacting, financing or otherwise dealing in certain new debt and equity of certain financial institutions and companies critical to the Russian economy. In addition, certain imports, exports, the transfer of US dollar banknotes to Russia, and new investments involving the Russian energy sector are prohibited.

The unpredictable and evolving economic effects resulting from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the regulations, orders, and sanctions adopted by governments in response to this conflict may affect the value of the securities or Empyrean's ability to acquire or dispose of such securities or investments on behalf of Clients in an efficient manner. These factors may have negative consequences for the valuation of Clients' portfolios that Empyrean may be unable to anticipate or hedge against.

Israel-Hamas Conflict. The active armed conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas that commenced on October 7, 2023, has contributed, and may continue to contribute, to volatility and instability in global markets in an unpredictable fashion for an uncertain duration. This active armed conflict, and actions taken in connection with said armed conflict, could negatively impact the business, strategy and financial condition of Clients in unpredictable ways.

Even if any existing conflict is resolved in the near-to-mid-term, the Middle East has historically been subject to unsettled political conditions, ethnic, religious and social conflict and regional hostilities. Any geopolitical concerns that arise due to continued tensions in the Middle East may impede business activity and adversely affect the environment for Client investments. The threat of potential or actual warfare or escalating political tensions in the Middle East may continue to contribute to instability and volatility in global financial markets in the future. There can be no assurance that such continued tensions will not become a problem in the future and thus adversely affect Client returns.

Continued volatility in the financial markets and political systems in the Middle East may have adverse spill-over effects into the global financial markets generally (including the U.S.). The success of Empyrean's investment strategies will be dependent on general economic

and market conditions and activity, including interest rates, availability of credit, inflation rates, economic uncertainty, changes in laws, trade barriers, currency exchange controls, and national and international political circumstances (including wars, terrorist acts or security operations). These and similar factors could have an adverse effect on the liquidity and value of Clients' investments and on returns.

Currencies. Empyrean invests a portion of its Clients' assets in non-U.S. currencies, or in instruments denominated in non-U.S. currencies, the prices of which are determined with reference to currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Empyrean, however, values its Clients' securities and other assets in U.S. dollars. Empyrean may or may not seek to hedge all or any portion of its Clients' foreign currency exposure. To the extent a Client's investments are not hedged, the value of such Client's assets will fluctuate with U.S. dollar exchange rates as well as the price changes of such Client's investments in the various local markets and currencies. Thus, an increase in the value of the U.S. dollar compared to the other currencies in which investments are made will reduce the effect of increases and magnify the effect of decreases in the value of Client positions in their local markets. Conversely, a decrease in the value of the U.S. dollar will have the opposite effect on a Client's non-U.S. dollar securities. Empyrean also utilizes options and forward contracts to hedge against currency fluctuations, but there can be no assurance that such hedging transactions will be effective, and such techniques entail additional risks.

Illiquid Portfolio Investments. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, invests in securities that are sometimes subject to legal or other restrictions on transfer or for which no liquid market exists. Valuation of such securities may be difficult or uncertain because there may be limited information available about the issuers of such securities. The market prices, if any, for such securities tend to be volatile and Empyrean may not be able to sell them for its Clients when it desires to do so or to realize what Empyrean perceives to be fair value in the event of a sale. In addition, Clients may be contractually prohibited from disposing of certain illiquid securities for a specified period of time. Accordingly, Empyrean may be forced to sell its Clients' more liquid positions at a disadvantageous time, resulting in a greater percentage of the portfolio consisting of illiquid securities. The sale of restricted and illiquid securities often requires more time and results in higher brokerage charges or dealer discounts and other selling expenses than does the sale of securities eligible for trading on national securities exchanges or in the over the counter markets. Restricted securities may sell at a price lower than similar securities that are not subject to restrictions on resale. Even those markets which Empyrean expects to be liquid can experience periods, possibly extended periods, of illiquidity. Occasions have arisen in the past where previously liquid investments have rapidly become illiquid.

Restricted Securities. Empyrean may be prevented from buying or selling certain securities on behalf of its Clients if Empyrean (i) acquires material, non-public information with respect to the applicable company, (ii) is in a position to acquire such information as a result of a special relationship between Empyrean or its personnel and the applicable company, or (iii) deems it advisable in order to satisfy applicable legal requirements (e.g., securities filing obligations). In such cases, the applicable securities will be placed on a "restricted securities list" maintained by Empyrean and will not be traded or removed without the approval of Empyrean's Chief Compliance Officer. Accordingly, a Client may be disadvantaged due to its inability to participate in investments that would otherwise be suitable for it or to liquidate existing investments during favorable market conditions.

Participation on Equity Holders' or Creditors' Committees. From time to time, certain of Empyrean's employees, representing its accounts, serve on creditors' committees, equity holders' committees or other groups in an effort to preserve or enhance Clients' positions as creditors or equity holders. A member of any such committee or group may owe certain obligations generally to all parties similarly situated that the committee represents and may be subject to various trading or confidentiality restrictions. If Empyrean concludes that its obligations owed to the other parties as a committee or group member conflict with its duties owed to Clients, it may resign from that committee or group, and Clients may not realize the benefits, if any, of participation on the committee or group. In addition, if a Client is represented on a committee or group, it may be restricted or prohibited under applicable law from disposing of or increasing its investments in such company while it continues to be represented on such committee or group, which may mean that the Client will not be able to dispose of, or hedge, investments in such issuer. Because Clients will indemnify Empyrean and its affiliates or any other person serving on a committee on behalf of the Clients for claims arising from breaches of those obligations, indemnification payments could adversely affect the return on Clients' investment in a reorganization property, asset or company.

ABS and MBS Generally. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, from time to time may invest in ABS or MBS (each defined below). The investment characteristics of asset-backed securities ("ABS") and mortgage-backed securities ("MBS") differ from traditional debt securities. Among the major differences are that interest and principal payments are made more frequently, usually monthly, and that the principal may be prepaid at any time because the underlying loans or other assets generally may be prepaid at any time.

*ABS and MBS Subordinated Securities.* Investments in subordinated MBS and ABS involve greater credit risk of default than the senior classes of the issue or series. Default risks may be further pronounced in the case of MBS and ABS secured by, or evidencing an interest in, a relatively small or less diverse pool of underlying loans. Certain subordinated securities absorb all losses from default before any other class of securities is at risk, particularly if such securities have been issued with little or no credit enhancement or equity. Such securities, therefore, possess some of the attributes typically associated with equity investments.

*Commercial MBS.* Mortgage loans on commercial properties often are structured so that a substantial portion of the loan principal is not amortized over the loan term but is payable at maturity and repayment of the loan principal thus often depends upon the future availability of real estate financing from the existing or an alternative lender and/or upon the current value and salability of the real estate. Therefore, the unavailability of real estate financing may lead to default.

Most commercial mortgage loans underlying MBS are effectively nonrecourse obligations of the borrower, meaning that there is no recourse against the borrower's assets other than the collateral. If borrowers are not able or willing to refinance or dispose of encumbered property to pay the principal and interest owed on such mortgage loans, payments on the subordinated classes of the related MBS are likely to be adversely affected. The ultimate extent of the loss, if any, to the subordinated classes of MBS may only be determined after a negotiated discounted settlement, restructuring or sale of the mortgage note, or the foreclosure (or deed in lieu of foreclosure) of the mortgage encumbering the property and subsequent liquidation of the property. Foreclosure can be costly and delayed by litigation and/or bankruptcy. Factors such as

the property's location, the legal status of title to the property, its physical condition and financial performance, environmental risks, and governmental disclosure requirements with respect to the condition of the property may make a third party unwilling to purchase the property at a foreclosure sale or to pay a price sufficient to satisfy the obligations with respect to the related MBS. Revenues from the assets underlying such MBS may be retained by the borrower and the return on investment may be used to make payments to others, maintain insurance coverage, pay taxes or pay maintenance costs. Such diverted revenue is generally not recoverable without a court appointed receiver to control collateral cash flow.

Litigation Finance and Claims. Empyrean, on behalf of its Clients, from time to time invests in direct and indirect interests in ongoing litigations, including but not limited to the purchase of the rights to bring or continue to pursue certain litigation or arbitration claims, the making of loans to the parties to litigation or arbitration proceedings (generally referred to as "litigation funding"), and debt or equity investments in companies engaged in litigation or arbitration proceedings. In addition to other risks commonly associated with loans and debt and equity investments, such investments, which are referred to collectively herein as "litigation investments," are subject to a number of significant risks, including but not limited to the following:

*Legal Restrictions and Considerations.* Laws and professional regulations (including ethics regulations and professional codes of conduct) in the litigation investment environment can be complex and uncertain. Various jurisdictions prohibit or restrict the assignment of certain claims and/or participating in a lawyer's contingent fee interests (including ethical rules against sharing fees with lawyers and non-lawyers). Prohibitions against maintenance, champerty and barratry exist in several jurisdictions. Such prohibitions and restrictions are governed by the rules and regulations of each jurisdiction and vary in degree of strength and enforcement. Some jurisdictions may not permit a Client to make investments in or engage in other business and financial transactions relating to certain litigation. The law and regulations in such jurisdictions may be uncertain. A Client may make an investment despite the uncertainty, leading to the risk that such investment agreement may not be enforced. Empyrean intends to assess the foregoing legal and ethical issues as appropriate. Changes in laws, regulations or ethical rules in certain jurisdictions could reduce the value of a Client's pre-existing litigation investments. A Client's failure to comply with any U.S. federal, state or local law or regulation relating to a litigation investment, whether actual or alleged, could expose the Client to fines, penalties or potential litigation liabilities, including costs, settlements, and judgments. Any failure to comply with such applicable laws or regulations also could result in a range of sanctions and enforcement actions, including the imposition of civil money penalties, formal agreements and cease and desist orders. A Client may make investments that involve litigation or arbitration in the EU or other non-U.S. jurisdictions. Unlike the comparatively well-established market in the United States, certain of such jurisdictions have historically lacked cohesive mechanisms allowing claimants to seek compensation and may apply more cumbersome procedures, inconsistent standards of evidence and/or suffer from a lack of precedent. There are retaliation risks associated with litigation investments. It is possible that one or more of the parties to a litigation (whether a private party or a sovereign government) may threaten regulatory action or litigation and/or institute regulatory actions or lawsuits against the Client and/or Empyrean and/or its employees or members in an attempt to undermine an investment or prospective investment. The

expense of defending against any such action or litigation as well as any settlements or judgments in connection therewith will generally be borne by shareholders. There can be no assurances that any such action or litigation, once begun, would be resolved in favor of the Client and/or Empyrean and/or its employees and may ultimately cause losses.

*The Outcome of Claims is Uncertain; Reliance on Lawyers.* The outcome of litigation claims entails a large degree of uncertainty, including the legal liability of the defendant, the amount of damages assessed by the trier of fact, the ability of the defendant and the defendant's insurance company to pay a settlement or judgment, the abilities of the plaintiff's counsel, the assessment of fault and causation, the legal nature of the claim and the amount of monetary damages ultimately awarded. It is also possible that a claimant funded by a Client may abandon or otherwise compromise its claims. Such an event may prevent the Client from realizing expected returns or cause the Client to sustain a complete loss. Unfavorable outcomes could reduce the profitability of a Client's investments and ultimately cause losses. A Client's ability to provide returns to shareholders and to achieve its investment objectives with respect to litigation investments depends on whether claims in which a Client invests will be successful, will pay the targeted returns and will pay those returns in the anticipated time. Assessing the values, strengths and weaknesses of a claim is complex and the outcome is not certain. Empyrean may be unable to access or review documents relating to a case, including documents protected by the attorney-client privilege. Such lack of access may lessen the ability of Empyrean to assess fully the strengths and weaknesses of a claim. Neither the Clients nor Empyrean are law firms. With respect to any litigation investment, a Client will be particularly reliant on lawyers to litigate claims and defenses with due skill and care. If such lawyers are not able to do this, the value of a Client's investment could be adversely affected. There is no guarantee that the outcome of a case will be in line with the lawyers' assessment of the case or the lawyers' capabilities.

*Collection Risks; Uncertainty of Timing.* Part of the case selection process for a litigation investment involves assessing the ability of a defendant to pay a judgment or award if a claim is successful. If the defendant is unable to pay or seeks to challenge the validity of the judgment or award, the Client may encounter difficulties in recovery. Additionally, certain aspects of litigation recoveries, including the timing and amounts recovered, are outside of the control of the Client and Empyrean. Once a litigation investment is made, there is no assurance as to collection times, and there is no guarantee that Empyrean will be able to predict the timing of payment with enough accuracy to achieve the anticipated profitability and rate of return in any given period.

Risks Relating to Virtual Currency and Virtual Currency Derivatives Trading. Empyrean may direct Clients to invest, either directly or indirectly through investments in other companies, in virtual currencies (also known as "cryptocurrencies" or "digital currencies") or similar assets that utilize blockchain technology, and virtual currency (also known as "cryptocurrency" or "digital currency") derivatives. Virtual currencies are relatively new, evolving products based upon new and evolving technologies. An investment in virtual currency, or a company that invests in virtual currencies or utilizes blockchain technologies and/or virtual currencies, is subject to a variety of risks, including technological, security and regulatory risks as well as associated uncertainties over the future existence, support and development of such virtual currency and such companies. Virtual currencies and companies

investing in or utilizing virtual currencies may also experience unusual volatility. Any such investment is highly speculative and subject to the risk that the entirety or a material portion of such investment or its value may be lost. Virtual currency derivatives, such as futures or options on futures on a virtual currency, are also a relatively new asset class, and trading in these instruments, like trading in the virtual currencies themselves, carries a high level of risk. Investments with exposure to virtual currencies, including companies with exposure to virtual currencies and virtual currency derivatives, should be considered substantially more speculative and significantly more likely to result in a total loss of capital than many other investments.



**ITEM 9**  
**DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION**

To Empyrean's knowledge, there are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to a current or prospective Client's evaluation of Empyrean's advisory business or the integrity of Empyrean's management.

**ITEM 10**  
**OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS**

**A. Broker-Dealer Registration Status**

Empyrean and its management persons are not registered as broker-dealers and do not have any application pending to register with the SEC as a broker-dealer or registered representative of a broker-dealer.

**B. Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator or Commodity Trading Adviser Registration Status**

Empyrean and its management persons are not registered as, and do not have any application to register as, futures commission merchants, commodity pool operators, commodity trading advisors or associated persons of the foregoing entities.

**C. Material Relationships or Arrangements with Certain Related Persons**

Empyrean, its affiliates and their respective management persons and other personnel serve as investment advisers to multiple Clients, some of which may be considered their related persons due to the fact that they could be deemed to be under common control. Such persons may have conflicts in allocating their time and services among Clients. Such persons will devote as much time to the activities of each Client as they deem necessary and appropriate for Empyrean to perform its duties in accordance with its management agreements, and the amount of time devoted to different Clients may vary. In addition, the general partners of certain Clients are also related persons of Empyrean. When a conflict of interest arises, Empyrean endeavors to ensure that the conflict is resolved fairly and in an equitable manner that is consistent with its fiduciary duties to its Clients.

Certain Clients may have investment objectives, programs, strategies and positions that are similar to or may conflict with those of other Clients, or may compete with or have interests adverse to other Clients. Such conflicts could affect the prices and availability of securities in which Clients invest. Even if a Client has investment objectives, programs or strategies that are similar to those of another Client, Empyrean will give advice or take action with respect to the investments held by, and transactions of, such other Client that may differ from the advice given or the timing or nature of any action taken with respect to the investments held by, and transactions of, the first Client due to a variety of reasons, including, without limitation, differences between the investment strategy, financing terms, regulatory treatment and tax treatment of such Clients, or whether such Clients are ramping up or winding down. As a result, Clients may have substantially different portfolios and investment returns. Conflicts of interest may also arise when Empyrean makes decisions on behalf of a Client with respect to matters where the interests of such Client differs from the interests of Empyrean or one or more other Clients.

Other present and future activities of Empyrean, its affiliates and their respective management persons and other personnel and/or their respective related persons may give rise to conflicts of interest. As noted above, in the event that a conflict of interest arises, Empyrean will attempt to resolve such conflicts in a fair and equitable manner that is consistent with its fiduciary duties to its Clients.

D. Material Conflicts of Interest Relating to Other Investment Advisers

Empyrean does not recommend or select other investment advisers for Clients.

## **ITEM 11**

### **CODE OF ETHICS, PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS AND PERSONAL TRADING**

Empyrean strives to adhere to the highest industry standards of conduct based on principles of professionalism, integrity, honesty and trust. In seeking to meet these standards, Empyrean has adopted a Manual of Compliance Policies and Procedures and Code of Ethics (the “Compliance Manual”), which contains standards of business conduct and a Personal Trading Accounts Policy (the “Personal Trading Policy”) that together comprise the code of ethics required by Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act (the “Code”). Compliance personnel monitor compliance with the Code, review and, if applicable, revise the Code, to ensure compliance with applicable securities laws and regulations. Current and prospective Clients may request a copy of the Code by contacting Empyrean at the address or telephone number listed on the first page of this document.

The Code addresses, among other things, the following issues:

- Standards of Business Conduct, including general fiduciary duties of Empyrean’s personnel;
- Private Investments and Outside Activities;
- Conflicts of Interest;
- Treatment of Confidential Information/Material Non-Public Information;
- Compliance with Federal Securities Laws;
- Insider Trading;
- Personal Trading Accounts;
- Acceptance or Provision of Gifts and Entertainment; and
- Political Contributions.

The Code is based on the notion that Empyrean’s personnel must act in the best interests of Clients and should avoid engaging in business activities that create or appear to create a conflict of interest, and is intended to prevent and detect such actual or potential conflicts of interest. Empyrean personnel are required to periodically (at least annually) certify in writing that they have received, and have read and understand, the Compliance Manual, including the Code.

#### Participation or Interest in Client Transactions

Empyrean does not buy or sell securities for its own account. However, certain affiliates and related persons of Empyrean, including eligible employees or partners (including former) of Empyrean and/or its affiliates and their family members, and accounts established for the benefit of such persons, hold, either directly or indirectly through the general partner, financial interests in certain of the Funds. Such persons are not required to invest in all Funds and generally do not pay any fees to Empyrean in respect of such investments.

Subject to applicable restrictions under Empyrean’s policies and procedures, Empyrean from time to time effects rebalancing or internal cross transactions between certain Clients. In such cases, one Client will purchase securities held by another Client. Empyrean endeavors to effect these transactions based on a fair, current market price consistent with its valuation and other policies and procedures. Such cross transactions generally will be made without brokerage commissions being charged. When effecting cross transactions between Funds, if

Empyrean, its affiliates and their respective personnel have an ownership interest in one or more of the participating Funds, such persons will have potentially conflicting division of loyalties and responsibilities with respect to each participating Fund.

In addition, to the extent that a cross transaction may be viewed as a principal transaction due to the ownership interest in a Fund by Empyrean, its affiliates or their respective related persons, Empyrean will comply with the requirements of Section 206(3) of the Advisers Act, including that Empyrean will notify the Fund (or an independent representative of the Fund) in writing of the transaction and obtain the consent of the Fund (or an independent representative of the Fund). With respect to the Domestic Fund, the limited partners of the Domestic Fund have authorized the Onshore General Partner to, on their behalf, select one or more persons unaffiliated with the Onshore General Partner to serve on a committee, the purpose of which will be to consider, and on behalf of the limited partners of the Domestic Fund, approve or disapprove, to the extent required by applicable law, any such principal transaction.

In the event that a conflict of interest arises due to any of the circumstances described above, Empyrean will attempt to resolve such conflicts in a fair and equitable manner that is consistent with its fiduciary duties to its Clients.

#### Personal Trading

Empyrean's affiliates and their respective personnel ("access persons") have in the past, and expect to in the future, invest on behalf of themselves in securities and other instruments that would be appropriate for, are held by, or fall within the investment guidelines of a Client. Such persons may take action for their own accounts that may differ from, conflict with or be adverse to action taken for a Client. While unlikely, these activities may adversely affect the prices and availability of other securities or instruments held by or potentially considered for Clients. The Personal Trading Policy generally limits the extent to which such access persons (including such access persons' immediate family members sharing the same household) may acquire or sell securities or otherwise make investments by, among other things, requiring pre-clearance of certain types of transactions (including the acquisition of any security in an initial public offering or in a limited offering) and disclosure of holdings and transactions to Empyrean. These limitations and pre-clearance requirements do not apply to transactions in investments held in "managed accounts," or accounts over which neither the access person nor an immediate family member residing in the same household has any authority, directly or indirectly, to influence, direct or effect specific investment decisions with respect to the assets held in the account. Notwithstanding Empyrean's approval of a transaction, and whether or not transaction did not require pre-approval, access persons may under no circumstances acquire or dispose of a security when in possession of material, non-public information or "inside information" concerning that security.

#### Client Investments and Contemporaneous Trading

Empyrean currently manages a single master-feeder fund structure, and therefore only makes investments on behalf of a single master fund.

From time to time, Empyrean may also become aware of investment opportunities with capacity such that, after a Client has invested up to its desired allocation, as determined by Empyrean, there may be remaining capacity that Empyrean may choose to make available to

select persons, including certain investors in the Funds, in Empyrean's sole discretion. However, no investor in the Funds should have any expectation or entitlement to be offered an opportunity to participate in such investments except to the extent of their participation through the Fund. Furthermore, Empyrean's activities with respect to offering co-investment opportunities to third parties may reduce the amount of business time spent by its partners, officers and employees on Client investment activities and may pose greater risks to Empyrean.

## **ITEM 12**

### **BROKERAGE PRACTICES**

#### **A. Selecting Broker-Dealers**

Empyrean seeks to act in the best interest of its Clients when entering into transactions on their behalf, and obtain best execution for such transactions. Best execution is not determined by “lowest possible commission costs,” but by best “qualitative execution.” Therefore, Empyrean’s efforts to obtain best execution depend substantially on its judgment, knowledge and experience in evaluating each broker-dealer’s reliability and capability. Empyrean seeks to execute securities transactions in such a manner that the Client’s total cost or proceeds in each transaction are most favorable under the circumstances. In making this determination, Empyrean evaluates each broker-dealer by considering a combination of, among others, the following factors:

- Quality of execution with respect to different types and sizes of transaction orders and available market makers (ability to achieve prompt and reliable executions at favorable prices);
- The commissions charged by the broker-dealer, which may be a function of the size of the order, the price of the security, and whether the receipt of products or services is involved;
- Whether the broker-dealer provides Empyrean with services and research that it uses in making investment decisions for Clients in exchange for Empyrean conducting transactions with such broker-dealer;
- Overall cost of trade (including commissions, mark-ups, mark-downs, spreads and other costs) and competitiveness of costs in comparison with other brokers satisfying the Firm’s other selection criteria (i.e., comparable products and services); and
- Responsiveness and reliability.

Other factors Empyrean may consider include:

- Whether the broker-dealer can accommodate third-party soft dollar arrangements and step-outs;
- Reputation, ongoing reliability and responsiveness to Empyrean’s requests for trade data and other financial information, including during volatile markets;
- Financial strength, integrity and stability of broker-dealer;
- Block trading and block positioning capabilities;
- Willingness and ability to execute difficult transactions;
- Willingness and ability to commit capital (i.e. loss ratios);
- Access to underwritten offerings (initial and follow-on public offerings) and secondary markets; and
- The ability of the broker-dealer to handle complex, difficult and variable number and size of trades.
- Statistics or other information on the relative quality of executions/financial services by each broker-dealer;
- Desired timing of the transaction;
- Confidentiality of trading activity;

- Market intelligence;
- Idea generation;
- Availability of stocks to borrow;
- Sourcing of investment opportunities by the broker and its affiliates;
- Quality and timeliness of market information provided;
- Whether the broker-dealer is equipped to handle electronic trade entry and reporting links with Empyrean;
- The value of privacy considerations, liquidity, price improvement, and lower commission rates on Electronic Communications Networks;
- The costs associated with the opportunity to work with a major broker-dealer that may offer a wide variety of products and services or a “boutique” firm that only deals with specialized products; and
- The adequacy of the broker-dealer’s back office staff to efficiently handle trading activity, especially in volatile or high volume markets.

Accordingly, the commissions charged by any such broker or dealer may be greater than the amount another firm might charge if Empyrean determines in good faith that the amount of such commissions is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage services and research information provided by such brokers or dealers.

Although Empyrean has an incentive to select a broker or dealer based on its interest in receiving the research or other products or services, Empyrean seeks to obtain best execution and, consistent with the requirements of best execution, brokerage commissions may be directed to brokers, dealers or other parties, either directly or indirectly, in recognition of, among other things, investment research and information furnished for services rendered in the execution of orders by such brokers, or dealers. By allocating transactions in this manner, Empyrean is able to supplement its research and analysis with the views and information of brokerage and other firms.

Empyrean maintains policies and procedures for the review of quality of executions, including pre-approval of new broker-dealers and periodic reviews by its Trade Oversight Committee.

#### 1. Research and Other Soft Dollar Benefits:

From time to time, Empyrean will pay a broker-dealer commissions (or markups or markdowns with respect to certain types of riskless principal transactions) for effecting a Client’s transactions in excess of that which another broker-dealer might have charged for effecting the transaction in recognition of the value of the brokerage and research services provided by the broker-dealer. Empyrean has an incentive to select a broker-dealer based on its interest in receiving brokerage and research services from that broker-dealer. Empyrean will effect such transactions, and receive such brokerage and research services, only to the extent that they fall within the safe harbor provided by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Empyrean benefits from such transactions as it receives valuable brokerage and research services that it would otherwise have to pay for. Empyrean believes it is important to its investment decision-making processes and beneficial to all Clients to have access to the independent research provided by broker-dealers in this manner.

In the last year, research services provided by broker-dealers have included information and data on the economy, industries, groups of securities, individual companies, statistical



information, accounting and tax law interpretations, political developments, legal developments affecting portfolio securities, technical market action, pricing and appraisal services, transaction cost analysis, credit analysis, risk measurement analysis, performance analysis, and analysis of corporate responsibility issues. Such research services are received primarily in the form of written reports, telephone contacts, and personal meetings with security analysts. In addition, such research services may be provided in the form of access to various computer-generated data, computer hardware and software, and meetings arranged with corporate and industry spokespersons, economists, academicians, and government representatives. In some cases, research services are generated by third parties but are provided to Empyrean by or through broker-dealers.

Also, consistent with Section 28(e), to the extent that in the future Empyrean trades for more than one client, research products or services obtained with “soft dollars” generated by one or more Clients may be used by Empyrean to service one or more other Clients. Empyrean does not seek to allocate soft dollar benefits to Client accounts in proportion to the soft dollar credits the Client accounts generate. Where a product or service obtained with soft dollars provides both research and non-research assistance to Empyrean (i.e., a “mixed use” item), Empyrean will make a good faith allocation of the cost which may be paid for with soft dollars. In making good faith allocations of costs between administrative benefits and research and brokerage services, a conflict of interest may exist by reason of Empyrean’s allocation of the costs of such benefits and services between those that primarily benefit Empyrean and those that primarily benefit the Clients.

At least annually, Empyrean considers the amount and nature of research and research services provided by broker-dealers, as well as the extent to which such services are relied upon, and attempts to allocate a portion of the brokerage business of its Clients on the basis of that consideration. Broker-dealers sometimes suggest a level of business they would like to receive in return for the various products and services they provide. Actual brokerage business received by any broker-dealer may be less than the suggested allocation, but can (and often does) exceed the suggested level, because total brokerage is allocated on the basis of all of the considerations described above. In no case will Empyrean make binding commitments as to the level of brokerage commissions it will allocate to a broker-dealer, nor will it commit to pay cash if any informal targets are not met. A broker-dealer is not excluded from receiving business because it has not been identified as providing research products or services.

Empyrean maintains policies and procedures for the review of soft dollar arrangements, including pre-approval of formal soft dollar arrangements and periodic reviews by its Trade Oversight Committee.

## 2. Brokerage for Client Referrals

Neither Empyrean nor any related person receives client referrals from any broker-dealer or third party. However, as discussed above, subject to best execution, Empyrean may consider, among other things, capital introduction and marketing assistance with respect to Investors in the Funds in selecting broker-dealers for the Funds.

Empyrean has entered into agreements on behalf of the Funds with certain brokers-dealers that act as prime brokers or executing brokers on behalf of the Funds. From time to time, Empyrean’s personnel will speak at conferences and programs for potential investors interested in investing in hedge funds which are sponsored by those broker-dealers. These

conferences and programs may be a means by which Empyrean can be introduced to potential investors. Currently, neither Empyrean, nor any of the Funds, compensate broker-dealers for organizing such “capital introduction” events or for any investments ultimately made by prospective investors attending such events (although either may do so in the future). While such events and other services provided by a broker-dealer may influence Empyrean in deciding whether to use such broker-dealer in connection with brokerage, financing and other activities of the Funds (subject to its obligation to seek best execution on behalf of its Funds), Empyrean will not commit to allocate a particular amount of brokerage to a broker-dealer in any such situation. See Item 14 of this Brochure for further information regarding capital introduction services.

### 3. Directed Brokerage

Empyrean does not recommend, request or require that a Client direct Empyrean to execute transactions through a specified broker-dealer.

#### B. Order Aggregation

To the extent that in the future Empyrean has multiple clients trading in the same securities, Empyrean may, but is not obligated to, aggregate trades, subject to its duty to obtain best execution and the terms of the investment guidelines and restrictions for each Client for which trades are being aggregated. Aggregation, or “bunching,” describes a procedure whereby an investment adviser combines the orders of two or more Clients into a single order for the purpose of obtaining better prices and lower execution costs. Aggregation opportunities for Empyrean generally arise when more than one Client is capable of purchasing or selling a particular security based on investment objectives, available cash and other factors.

If Empyrean determines that the purchase or sale of the same security is in the best interest of more than one Client, Empyrean may, but is not obligated to, aggregate orders in order to reduce transaction costs to the extent permitted by applicable law. Empyrean will not aggregate orders unless aggregation is consistent with its duty to obtain best execution and the terms of the investment guidelines and restrictions for each Client for which trades are being aggregated. No Client will be favored over any other Client when aggregating orders and each Client that participates in an aggregated order will participate at the average price for all of Empyrean’s transactions in that security on a given business day, with transaction costs shared pro rata based on each Client’s participation in the transaction.

See “Client Investment and Contemporaneous Trading” in Item 11 of this Brochure for more information, including with respect to the allocation of aggregated orders.

## **ITEM 13**

### **REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS**

#### **A. Frequency and Nature of Review of Client Accounts or Financial Plans**

Empyrean performs various daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and periodic reviews of each Client's portfolio to ensure conformity with the Clients' investment objectives and guidelines. Such reviews are conducted by Empyrean's Chief Investment Officer, partners, principals, and other members of Empyrean's investment team, with the benefit of back-office resources (such as the compliance department). In addition, Empyrean uses an independent third party to conduct annual financial audits of the accounts of the Funds.

#### **B. Factors Prompting Review of Client Accounts Other than a Periodic Review**

In addition to reviews in the ordinary course of business, a review of a Client account may be triggered by any unusual activity or special circumstances, including, but not limited to: changes in market, economic, or legal or regulatory conditions, changes in information or other factors regarding a particular investment, and other similar developments and events.

#### **C. Content and Frequency of Account Reports to Clients**

Clients and Investors receive monthly and quarterly unaudited written reports from Empyrean documenting the performance and activity of the Client's portfolio, although Empyrean may provide certain Investors or Clients with information on a more frequent and detailed basis if agreed to by Empyrean. In addition, with respect to the Funds, an independent third-party administrator conducts independent monthly verification of Empyrean's pricing of its investments held by the Funds. The independent third-party administrator provides Investors in the Funds with a monthly report that confirms such investor's capital balances, and a quarterly transparency report that includes, among other items, the percentage (if any) of the relevant Fund's investments for which the independent third party was unable to verify prices. Empyrean also issues to Investors in the Funds tax reports (where applicable) and audited financial statements concerning their respective Fund within 90 days of the end of such Fund's fiscal year or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible.

From time to time, Empyrean receives information requests from Investors concerning their investments in a Fund. In connection with such requests, Empyrean, in its discretion, may disclose certain portfolio holdings information (or other information related thereto) of a Fund to entities that evaluate portfolio risk for Investors or to certain Investors that have unique regulatory and/or risk reporting obligations. In addition, Investors, in the course of conducting due diligence, may request information pertaining to their investments in a Fund (either verbally or in writing), including information that is not generally made available to all Investors of such Fund. Empyrean may respond to such requests without providing all of such information to other Fund Investors.

## **ITEM 14**

### **CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION**

Empyrean does not receive economic benefits from non-Clients for providing investment advice and other advisory services. Neither Empyrean nor any related person directly or indirectly compensates any person who is not a supervised person, including placement agents, for Client referrals.

Empyrean executes Client transactions with broker-dealers that sponsor events, meetings or other communications between potential investors and Empyrean. These capital introduction services are provided incidental to other brokerage services. Empyrean is not compelled to engage broker-dealers that sponsor these capital introduction programs in order to be included at these events. However, these capital introduction events are typically sponsored by broker-dealers that provide necessary services to certain Clients and they may create the appearance of using the execution services of these broker-dealers in order to be invited to their capital introduction programs.

Empyrean does not pay to participate in these programs and does not cause Clients to execute transactions with such prime brokers or pay higher commissions or other transaction costs to prime brokers in connection with these programs or services. However, Empyrean does pay to attend certain conferences, seminars and other events that are attended by prospective investors, but are not specifically designed as capital introduction events. Furthermore, broker-dealers or their affiliates may introduce Empyrean to prospective investors and will continue to have business relationships with, and execute brokerage transactions on behalf of, Clients.

## **ITEM 15**

### **CUSTODY**

All Client funds and securities are maintained with qualified custodians. Empyrean is deemed to have custody of funds and securities held by the Funds because it has the authority to obtain possession of such funds or securities, for example, by deducting advisory fees from a Fund's account or otherwise withdrawing funds from a Fund's account.

Empyrean is subject to Rule 206(4)-2 under the Advisers Act (the "Custody Rule"). However, it is not required to comply (or is deemed to have complied) with certain requirements of the Custody Rule with respect to each Fund because it complies with subsection (b)(4) of the Custody Rule which, among other things, requires that each Fund be subject to audit at least annually by an independent public accountant that is registered with, and subject to regular inspection by, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and requires that each Fund distribute its audited financial statements to all of its Investors within 120 days of the end of its fiscal year.

## **ITEM 16**

### **INVESTMENT DISCRETION**

Empyrean serves as the investment adviser with discretionary trading authority to each Fund. Empyrean's investment decisions and advice with respect to each Fund are subject to the investment objectives and guidelines as set forth in such Fund's offering documents. Empyrean has entered into an investment management agreement, or similar agreement, with each Fund pursuant to which Empyrean was granted discretionary trading authority.

Empyrean may provide other advisory or sub-advisory services on a discretionary basis, which would be provided in an advisory or sub-advisory contract, respectively, with each Client at the onset of such relationship.

## ITEM 17

### VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES

The SEC adopted Rule 206(4)-6 under the Advisers Act, which requires registered investment advisers that exercise voting authority over client securities to implement proxy voting policies. In compliance with such rules, Empyrean has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures (the “Policies”). The general policy is to vote proxy proposals, amendments, consents or resolutions relating to Client securities, including interests in private investment funds, if any (collectively, “proxies”), in a manner that serves the best interests of the Client, as determined by Empyrean in its discretion, taking into account the following factors: (i) the impact on the value of the investments; (ii) the anticipated associated costs and benefits; (iii) the effect on liquidity; and (iv) customary industry and business practices. In limited circumstances, Empyrean may refrain from voting proxies where it believes that voting would be inappropriate taking into consideration the cost of voting the proxy and the anticipated benefit to the Client, or a legal restriction on trading could result from exercising the proxy. Conflicts of interest may arise between the Clients’ interests and Empyrean’s interests. If Empyrean determines it may have a conflict when voting proxies, Empyrean will vote in accordance with its Policies. A copy of the Policies and the proxy voting record relating to a Client may be obtained by contacting Empyrean.

In order to facilitate the proxy voting process, Empyrean has engaged Glass, Lewis & Co., an independent proxy voting service (the “Proxy Service”), to vote proxies for the Clients on Empyrean’s behalf. The Proxy Service provides Empyrean with proxy analysis and voting recommendations in accordance with Empyrean’s Policies. Empyrean performs periodic due diligence of the Proxy Service to confirm that the services provided by the Proxy Service are consistent with Empyrean’s Policies. Clients and Investors may obtain a copy of Empyrean’s Policies and proxy voting record upon request.

**ITEM 18**  
**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Empyrean is not required to include a balance sheet for its most recent fiscal year and does not believe it has any financial commitments that impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to Clients.