

# **EQUITY INCOME**

**DECEMBER 31, 2020** 

## **OBJECTIVE**

Invests in companies of any size capitalization that collectively generate an above-average stream of dividend income, while also providing capital appreciation potential.

#### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

Confluence's investment philosophy is a bottom-up, fundamental approach that seeks to generate above-average returns over the long-term by identifying businesses that possess substantial competitive advantages and are trading at discounts to our estimate of intrinsic value. Advantages may include strong brand names, highly differentiated services or products, dominant market share, flexible pricing power, protected technology or specialized industrial skill sets. Companies have the ability to generate high levels of cash flow and are led by management teams that create shareholder wealth.

The investment process focuses on managing risk, which we define as the probability of a permanent loss of capital, by owning quality businesses at attractive valuations diversified across a variety of market sectors. This discipline strives to protect investors on the downside while enhancing upside potential. Over time, we believe this approach positions the portfolio to deliver superior risk-adjusted returns.

#### **OVERVIEW**

- Invests in companies with a high level of dividend income or ability to grow dividend stream over time
- Positioned to collectively generate above-average stream of dividend income greater than inflation rate
- Range of market capitalizations
- ♦ 3% position sizes
- ♦ Low-to-moderate turnover
- Appropriate for clients seeking total return from dividend income and capital appreciation

appreciation				
MARKET CAP <sup>1</sup>	EQUITY INCOME	R3000 Value	S&P 500	10
Weighted Avg. Market Cap (\$B)	115.1	125.3	489.3	Line
Largest Market Cap (\$B)	1,681.6	1,185.1	2,256.0	Gra
Median Market Cap (\$B)	40.1	2.0	25.6	The
Smallest Market Cap (\$B)	4.0	-	3.2	Bro
				Pay
Large Cap (>\$10B)	85%			Nes
Mid Cap (\$10B-\$2B)	13%			Fas
Small Cap (<\$2B)	0%			Sna

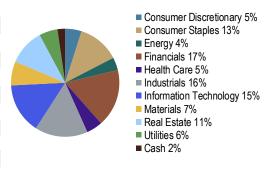
CHARACTERISTICS <sup>1</sup>	EQUITY INCOME	R3000 VALUE	S&P 500
Dividend Yield	3.0%	2.3%	1.6%
Number of Positions	30-35	2,341	505
Annual Turnover (5-yr Rolling)	11%		

This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards. Investing in securities involves the risk of loss of the amount invested that investors should be prepared to bear. There can be no assurance that any investment objective will be achieved or that any investment will be profilable or avoid incurring losses. The listing of "10 Largest Holdings" is not a complete list of all stocks in the portfolio or which Confluence may be currently recommending. Application of the investment strategy as of a later date will likely result in changes to the listing. Sector weightings/holdings of individual client portfolios in the strategy may differ, sometimes significantly, from these listings. Contact Confluence for a complete list of holdings. Portfolio yield: composite level weighted average yield, calculated based on, annualized current dividends; source: FactSet. Benchmark sources: FTSE Russell/S&P Dow Jones Indices. Annual turnover 5-yr rolling calculated from sample accounts for periods ending 12/31/2020.

# 0 Largest Holdings<sup>1</sup>

Linde plc	4.0%
Graco Inc.	3.9%
The Progressive Corporation	3.9%
Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.	3.6%
Paychex, Inc.	3.5%
Nestlé S.A.	3.4%
Fastenal Company	3.4%
Snap-on Incorporated	3.3%
Colgate-Palmolive Company	3.1%
PepsiCo, Inc.	3.1%

## SECTOR ALLOCATION<sup>1</sup>



## **INVESTMENT PROCESS**

# SECURITY SELECTION GREAT COMPANIES AT BARGAIN PRICES

Our disciplined investment process is research-driven, seeking to uncover "great companies" trading at bargain prices. We define great companies as those with the following attributes:

## **Durable Competitive Advantages**

- ♦ Meaningful pricing power
- ♦ High barriers to entry
- Superior return on capital over extended periods of time

## Free Cash Flow

- Substantial amount available to benefit shareholders
- Should far exceed the capital expenditures needed to maintain and grow the business

#### Capable Management

- ♦ Demonstrated ability to effectively allocate capital
- Alignment of management's interest with investors through large personal investments in company stock

# BUY DISCIPLINE INVEST BASED ON PRICE AND PATIENCE

We believe focusing on high-quality companies and purchasing only when they're being offered at prices below our estimate of intrinsic value is an effective means for limiting downside risk while maximizing total return potential over an investment cycle.

- ♦ Primary focus is price paid for a stock (discount to intrinsic value)
- Each portfolio company is evaluated to determine the highest price we will pay for a security
- This entry point is generally set at a 25%-50% discount to our internal estimate of intrinsic value
- ♦ Entry points are continually re-assessed
- Risk is defined as the probability of a permanent loss of capital as opposed to tracking error of a benchmark

New accounts may not be fully invested at inception if companies are trading above current entry points.

### SELL DISCIPLINE

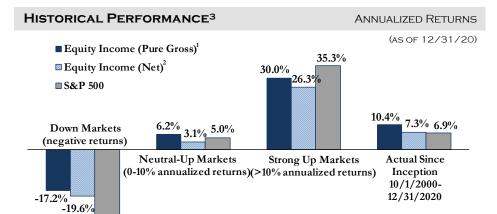
To help preserve capital, portfolio positions are continually reviewed.

A company's stock may be sold if:

- Share price reaches or exceeds our estimate of full valuation
- Company's fundamentals deteriorate
- More attractive opportunities are identified

#### ABOUT CONFLUENCE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC

Confluence Investment Management is an independent Registered Investment Advisor located in St. Louis, Missouri, that provides professional portfolio management and advisory services to institutional and individual clients. Confluence's investment philosophy is based upon independent, fundamental research that integrates evaluation of market cycles, macroeconomics and geopolitical analysis with the firm's value-driven, company-specific approach. The portfolio management philosophy begins by assessing risk and follows through by positioning clients to achieve their income and growth objectives.



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS <sup>4</sup>									
Portfolio at Quarter End	vs. S&P 500								
Active Share (as of 12/31/20)	90.94%								
Since Inception**	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	S&P 500							
Downside Capture Ratio	55.39	100.00							
Alpha	4.87	0.00							
Beta	0.71	1.00							
Annualized Standard Deviation	14.15%	17.00%							
R-Squared	0.74	1.00							
Sharpe Ratio	0.64	0.32							

<sup>\*\*</sup>Inception is 10/1/2000

# PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE RETURNS (For Periods Ending December 31, 2020)

	Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	R3000 Value	S&P 500	Calendar Year	Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	R3000 Value	S&P 500	Difference (Gross- R3000V)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	R3000V 3yr Std Dev	S&P 500 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
Since	10.4%	7.3%	7.1%	6.9%	2000**	13.5%	12.8%	3.9%	(7.8%)	9.7%	2	\$125		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Inception**	10.770	7.070	7.170	0.570	2001	11.6%	8.6%	(4.3%)	(11.9%)	16.0%	32	\$6,341		N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2%
20-Year*	9.9%	6.7%	6.9%	7.5%	2002	0.6%	(2.1%)	(15.2%)	(22.1%)	15.8%	342	\$36,726		N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8%
15-Year*	9.6%	6.4%	7.3%	9.9%	2003	32.1%	28.5%	31.1%	28.7%	0.9%	1,204	\$168,181		11.0%	16.0%	18.1%	0.9%
10-Year*	11.7%				2004	12.1%	9.1%	16.9%	10.9%	(4.8%)	2,811	\$425,234		10.2%	14.8%	14.9%	1.1%
		8.4%	10.4%	13.9%	2005	0.4%	(2.3%)	6.9%	4.9%	(6.4%)	3,775	\$536,505		8.4%	9.7%	9.0%	0.6%
5-Year*	11.6%	8.3%	9.7%	15.2%	2006	15.3%	12.1%	22.3%	15.8%	(7.1%)	3,122	\$489,578		5.7%	7.0%	6.8%	0.8%
3-Year*	7.7%	4.5%	5.9%	14.2%	2007	1.5%	(1.3%)	(1.0%)	5.5%	2.5%	2,490	\$381,383		6.2%	8.3%	7.7%	0.8%
1-Year	4.6%	1.5%	2.9%	18.4%	2008	(18.9%)	(21.2%)	(36.2%)	(37.0%)	17.4%	346	\$44,339	\$291,644	12.0%	15.5%	15.1%	N/A
					2009	18.8%	15.3%	19.8%	26.5%	(1.0%)	459	\$85,079	\$533,832	18.1%	21.3%	19.6%	0.8%
YTD	4.6%	1.5%	2.9%	18.4%	2010	16.1%	12.7%	16.3%	15.1%	(0.1%)	555	\$128,855	\$751,909	20.2%	23.5%	21.9%	0.8%
QTD	12.2%	11.4%	17.2%	12.1%	2011	5.1%	2.0%	(0.1%)	2.1%	5.2%	918	\$225,088	\$937,487	18.6%	21.0%	18.7%	1.0%
					2012	17.8%	14.3%	17.6%	16.0%	0.2%	1,200	\$337,610	\$1,272,265	13.5%	15.8%	15.1%	0.6%
Average annualized returns					2013	26.1%	22.4%	32.7%	32.4%	(6.6%)	1,947	\$606,780	\$1,955,915	10.5%	12.9%	11.9%	1.3%
*Inception is	10/1/2000				2014	11.4%	8.1%	12.7%	13.7%	(1.3%)	2,834	\$858,027	\$2,589,024	8.4%	9.4%	9.0%	0.4%
Portfolio Be					2015	0.1%	(2.9%)	(4.1%)	1.4%	4.3%	3,528	\$939,550	\$3,175,419	9.4%	10.7%	10.5%	0.4%
	00® Value In				2016	18.0%	14.5%	18.4%	12.0%	(0.4%)	5,272	\$1,549,506	\$4,413,659	9.4%	11.0%	10.6%	0.4%
	ed to measu companies w	2017	17.5%	14.0%	13.2%	21.8%	4.3%	7,423	\$2,177,984	\$5,944,479	8.4%	10.3%	9.9%	1.1%			
	sted growth va	2018	(8.9%)	(11.6%)	(8.6%)	(4.4%)	(0.3%)	7,772	\$1,945,646	\$5,486,737	9.7%	11.1%	10.8%	0.5%			
	ndex – A cap	ndex of 500	2019	31.0%	27.1%	26.2%	31.5%	4.7%	8,249	\$2,725,466	\$7,044,708	10.8%	12.0%	11.9%	0.8%		
stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate					2020	4.6%	1.5%	2.9%	18.4%	1.8%	7,557	\$2,440,128	\$6,889,798	17.1%	20.0%	18.5%	0.8%

Confluence Investment Management LLC claims compliance with the Global investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Confluence Investment Management LLC has been independently verified for the periods August 1, 2008, through December 31, 2019. The verification report is available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards.

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Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIP's standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report.

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The Equity Income strategy was incepted on October 1, 2000, and the current Equity Income Composite was created on August 1, 2008. Performance presented prior to August 1, 2008, occurred while the Portfolio Management Team was affiliated with a prior firm and the Portfolio Management Team members were the primary individuals responsible for selecting the securities to buy and sell. Confluence Investment Management LLC is an independent registered investment adviser. Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented gross and not of all fees and include the reinvestment of all income.

1 Pure gross returns are shown as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS' standards.

<sup>1</sup> Pure gross returns are shown as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS\* standards.

<sup>2</sup> Net-of-fee performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual bundled fee of 3.00% applied quarterly (2.75% prior to 7/1/08). This fee includes brokerage commissions, portfolio management, consulting services and custodial services. The Confluence fee schedule for this composite is as follows: 0.60% on the first \$500,000; 0.55% on the next \$500,000; and 0.50% over \$1,000,000. There are no incentive fees. Clients pay an all-inclusive fee based on a percentage of assets under management. The collection of fees produces a compounding effect on the total rate of return net of fees. Bundled fee accounts make up 100% of the composite for all periods. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary. Wrap fee schedules are provided by independent wrap sponsors and are available upon request from the respective wrap sponsor.

A complete list of composite descriptions is available upon request. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. The annual composite dispersion is an equal-weighted standard deviation, using gross-of-fee returns, calculated for the accounts in the composite for the entire year. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite gross returns over the preceding 36-month period. The Equity Income Composite contains fully discretionary Equity Income wrap accounts. Equity Income is a value-based, bottom-up portfolio that invests in stocks from all market capitalizations based on the preceding and the pre

their ability to generate an above-average stream of dividend income, while also providing capital appreciation potential.

\*\*Results shown for the year 2000 represent partial period performance from October 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000. N/A-Composite Dispersion: Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of

portfolios in the composite for the entire year. N/A-3yr Std Dev: Composite does not have 3 years of monthly performance history.

<sup>3</sup> Historical Performance Chart—Annualized returns using calendar quarter performance data. Down Markets: annualized negative benchmark return; Neutral-Up Markets: annualized positive benchmark return is less than 10%; Strong Up Markets: annualized benchmark return is greater than 10%. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (S&P 500°) is an unmanaged market capitalization-weighted index of 500 common stocks chosen for market size, liquidity & industry group representation to represent U. S. equity performance. Down Markets: 40 0-c1 °01, Q3 °10, Q3 °102, Q3 °102, Q3 °105, Q3 °105

4 Statistical Analysis—Active Share: Measures % of portfolio holdings that differ from benchmark index, calculated by taking the sum of the absolute value of the differences of the weight of each holding in benchmark index, as of the date shown, and dividing by two. (Calculated by Confluence. Index holdings/weights sourced from exchange-traded fund: (Shares S&P 500 Core [IVV].)

Downside Capture Ratio: Measures performance in down markets relative to index (down market: any quarter where market return is less than zero); lower Downside Capture Ratio indicates manager protected capital better during a market decline. Alpha: Measures portsormance in return that cannot be attributed to the market, i.e., how manager performed if the market had no gain or loss. Beta: Measures portfolio volatility (systematic risk) compared appropriate benchmark index; e.g., Beta of 1.1 indicates the investment has approx. 10% more volatility in returns than benchmark index. Standard Deviation: Measures price variability (risk) over a period of time; higher Standard Deviation indicates more variability in returns. R-Squared: Indicates whether comparison index is an appropriate benchmark based on correlation; generally, R-Squared above 0.70 is desirable. Sharpe Ratio: Quantifies risk-adjusted performance by measuring excess return per unit of risk; higher Sharpe Ratio suggests better risk-adjusted performance. (Data source: Zephyr's PSN SMA Database)

## Confluence Value Equities Investment Committee

market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

(Source: Bloomberg)

-31.1%

Mark Keller, CFA Chris Stein Tore Stole Joe Hanzlik Kaisa Stucke, CFA Brett Mawhiney, CFA Daniel Winter, CFA Tom Dugan, CFA John Wobbe Dustin Hausladen Blair Brumley, CFA

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR SALES TEAM:

Wayne Knowles National Sales Director (314) 526-0914 wknowles@confluenceim.com

Ron Pond, CFA | West Sr. Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0759 rpond@confluenceim.com

Steve Mikez | North-Central Sr. Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0776 smikez@confluenceim.com

Michael Kelnosky | North-Central Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0622 mkelnosky@confluenceim.com

Jason Gantt | East Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0364 igantt@confluenceim.com

Jim Taylor | Mid-South Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0469 itavlor@confluenceim.com