# SMA High Yield Short Duration Strategy

Q1 2025

## **Strategy Objective**

Seeks to generate high levels of taxable income and modest capital appreciation by investing in short to intermediate term bonds that are rated as noninvestment grade (below BBB or Baa) by the major bond rating agencies.

# **Strategy Highlights**

- Targeting bonds with shorter maturities provides outperformance in a rising interest rate environment. No bonds held with stated maturity beyond 5 years.
- Ability to produce higher return with less interest rate risk. 1100
- Primary focus on safety of principal and issuer's ability to meet all obligations across varying market conditions.
- Analysis of balance sheet and cash flow uncovers undervalued securities in a replicable manner.
- Boutique size enables the purchase of smaller issues unavailable to larger firms.



# Performance

#### Please note all Characteristics, Performance, Allocation and Holding information as of March 31, 2025

Growth of a \$1,000 Investment

| Annualized Returns   |                                     |       |       |       |        |       |       |  |  |  |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
|                      | Q1 YTD 12 Mos. 3 Yr. 5 Yr. 7 Yr. 17 |       |       |       |        |       |       |  |  |  |
| L&S Advisors (Gross) | 0.46%                               | 0.46% | 7.12% | 6.86% | 13.59% | 6.71% | 6.80% |  |  |  |
| L&S Advisors (Net)   | 0.15%                               | 0.15% | 5.84% | 5.70% | 12.46% | 5.82% | 5.91% |  |  |  |
| ML High Yield        | 1.04%                               | 1.04% | 6.72% | 5.29% | 7.08%  | 4.74% | 4.81% |  |  |  |

| Calendar Year Returns |       |   |        |        |        |       |        |        |       |  |  |
|-----------------------|-------|---|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--|--|
|                       | 2025  | 2025 2024 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 201 |        |        |        |       |        |        |       |  |  |
| L&S Advisors (Gross)  | 0.46% | 10.73%                                      | 12.78% | -1.81% | 11.62% | 5.58% | 8.86%  | -0.07% | 7.50% |  |  |
| L&S Advisors (Net)    | 0.15% | 9.48%                                       | 11.60% | -2.81% | 10.52% | 4.97% | 8.37%  | -0.53% | 6.44% |  |  |
| ML High Yield         | 1.04% | 7.08%                                       | 11.57% | -5.45% | 4.88%  | 3.56% | 10.98% | 0.69%  | 5.36% |  |  |

# Characteristics\*

|  | L&S<br>Advisors | ML<br>High Yield |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Number of Holdings *   | 59              | 1034             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yield to Maturity  | 8.67%           | 7.13%            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yield to Worst   | 8.62%           | 6.98%            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Convexity to Maturity  | 0.10            | 0.11             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Modified Duration  | 2.33            | 2.44             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Current Yield  | 6.87%           | 6.80%            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average Credit Quality   | BB-/B+          | BB+              |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alpha **   | -0.23           |                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beta **  | 1.33            | 1                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sharpe Ratio **  | 0.64            | 0.80             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Std.Deviation **   | 9.78            | 6.09             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Characteristics exclude non-fixed income and non-individual securities held in some accounts |                 |                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

\* Characteristics exclude non-fixed income and non-individual securities held in some account of composite. \*\* Characteristics are based on net-of-fee returns from inception to date.

| <b>Top Allocations</b> |        | Top Bond Holdings*** |        |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Allocation             | %      | Holding              | %      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Energy                 | 21.80% | PETROLEOS MEXI       | 8.56%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Financials             | 18.70% | IIP OP PARTNER       | 5.68%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Industrials            | 18.00% | CITRIX SYSTEMS INC   | 5.44%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Materials              | 10.00% | GLOBAL MARINE INC    | 4.99%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Information Technology | 9.80%  | AMC ENTERTAINMENT    | 4.91%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Communication Services | 8.30%  | PARK-OHIO IND INC    | 4.64%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Real Estate            | 7.10%  | BLACKROCK TCP CAP    | 4.47%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Consumer Discretionary | 4.20%  | MERCER INTL INC      | 4.31%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Health Care            | 1.10%  | TITAN INTER INC      | 4.22%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash & Equivalents     | 1.00%  | TIAA FSB HOLD INC    | 3.75%  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                        | 100%   |                      | 50.97% |  |  |  |  |  |

\*\*\* Non-individual bond holdings held in some accounts of the composite have been excluded.

# **High Yield Short Duration**

#### Investment Team

Matthew Nussbaum. CFA Portfolio Manager & Dir. of Research 8 years experience

#### **Rick Scott**

Portfolio Manager & CIO 45 years experience

#### **Heather Liu**

Sr. Analyst

### Strategy Philosophy

Most investors like to think about the traditional our ability to exploit market inefficiencies. style box when it comes to investing. For fixed These core investment principles have been the sensitivity (duration) on one axis and credit quality pursuing companies who are improving their bottom-up research, we can expand our opportunity alpha while limiting risk over a full market cycle (5 set beyond our benchmark which in turn enhances

income investors, this means analyzing interest-rate focus of the strategy since inception. We believe by on the other. We believe that through rigorous, balance sheet, we can seek to provide significant years).

## **Net Monthly Performance (Net)**

| 15 years experience   |      | Jan   | Feb   | Mar    | Apr   | May   | Jun   | Jul   | Aug   | Sep   | Oct   | Nov   | Dec   | YTD   | ML<br>HY |
|---|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|
|   | 2016 |       |       |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 1.95  | 1.95  | 1.35     |
| <b>Contact Information</b>  | 2017 | 0.93  | 1.07  | 0.17   | 0.91  | 0.88  | 0.19  | 0.36  | 0.13  | 0.59  | 0.59  | -0.23 | 0.67  | 6.44  | 5.36     |
| Matthew Nussbaum, CFA<br>Portfolio Manager &                                  | 2018 | 0.69  | -0.25 | -0.35  | 0.52  | 0.21  | 0.52  | 0.65  | 1.07  | 0.47  | -1.12 | -0.33 | -2.54 | -0.07 | 0.69     |
| Dir. of Research<br>O: (310) 893-6060   | 2019 | 3.90  | 0.58  | 0.70   | 0.77  | -1.17 | 1.67  | 0.03  | -1.03 | 0.00  | 0.35  | -0.22 | 2.58  | 8.37  | 10.98    |
| D: (310) 893-8060   | 2020 | 0.28  | -2.51 | -21.56 | 4.21  | 4.74  | 2.11  | 0.70  | 7.15  | 0.44  | -0.42 | 9.50  | 3.93  | 4.97  | 3.56     |
| Leanne Sindell<br>Managing Director<br>O: (310) 893-6060<br>D: (310) 893-6081 | 2021 | 0.98  | 2.91  | 0.88   | 1.30  | 1.05  | 1.11  | -1.34 | 0.47  | 0.82  | 1.49  | -0.73 | 1.18  | 10.52 | 4.88     |
|   | 2022 | -0.50 | 0.41  | 0.81   | -3.75 | -1.83 | -2.06 | 2.64  | 0.58  | -0.55 | 1.30  | -0.46 | 0.74  | -2.81 | -5.45    |
|   | 2023 | 2.76  | -1.64 | -0.45  | 1.31  | 0.38  | 1.95  | 1.30  | 0.59  | 0.04  | -0.59 | 2.79  | 2.70  | 11.60 | 11.57    |
|   | 2024 | 1.04  | 1.03  | 1.48   | -0.46 | 1.18  | 1.12  | 1.38  | 0.79  | 1.65  | -0.41 | 0.73  | -0.40 | 9.48  | 7.08     |
|   | 2025 | 0.47  | 0.83  | -1.13  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 0.15  | 1.04     |

## Disclosure

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L&S claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). L&S has been independently verified by Ashland Partners & Company LLP for the periods October 31, 2005 through December 31, 2015 and ACA Performance Services for the periods January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2023. Upon a request to Sy Lippman at slippman@lsadvisors.com, L&S can provide the L&S Advisors GIPS Report which provides a GIPS complaint presentation as well as a list of all composite descriptions. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

Short-Duration High Yield Bonds Strategy Composite seeks to invest in bonds that are rated as below investment grade by the major bond rating agencies (below BBB or Baa). High yield bonds are typically issued by companies with above average debt levels on their balance sheet. High yield bonds may also include bonds of companies that have been downgraded by rating agencies. High yield bonds are rarely issued with maturities longer than 10 years, but this strategy limits purchases to those securities with a final maturity no longer than five years from the date of purchase. These high yield portfolios are likely to have an average maturity of short-to-intermediate duration. High yield bonds provide significantly higher income for investors than do government bonds or investment grade corporate bonds. This high level of income, combined with the shorter average maturities, tends to help these bonds perform well in rising interest rate environments. Individual high yield issues will be selected by a thorough analysis of a company's ability to meet its obligations. In general, high yield portfolios will attempt to be well-diversified to reduce the risk of any singular credit event. This strategy is particularly attractive for investors seeking a higher level of income than that available in most other assets. Portfolios of high yielding bonds carry a higher credit risk than do investment-grade bond portfolios, but this higher risk tends to be compensated for with a significantly higher level of income. Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Composite performance is presented gross of foreign withholding taxes on dividends, interest income, and capital gains. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Net-of-fee performance was calculated using actual management fees. Inception performance is as of November 30, 2016.

For comparison purposes the composite is measured against The Bank of America/Merrill Lynch 1-5 Year Cash Pay High Yield Index. The Bank of America/Merrill Lynch 1-5 Year Cash Pay High Yield Index measures the USD denominated, high yield, fixed rate corporate bond market with maturities less than 5 years. Securities are classified as high yield if the middle rating of Moody's, Fitch and S&P is Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below.

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