Bancroft Fund Ltd.

Shareholder Commentary – March 31, 2017

(Y)our Portfolio Management Team

Thomas Dinsmore, CFA   Jane O'Keeffe   James Dinsmore, CFA

To Our Shareholders,

For the quarter ended March 31, 2017, the net asset value ("NAV") total return of the Bancroft Fund was 5.2%, compared with total returns of 5.3% and 4.5% for the Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. Convertibles Index and the Bloomberg Barclays Balanced U.S. Convertibles Index, respectively. The total return for the Fund's publicly traded shares was 5.4% The Fund's NAV per share was $23.29, while the price of the publicly traded shares closed at $21.04 on the NYSE MKT.

Comparative Results

Average Annual Returns through March 31, 2017 (a)(b)

	Quarter	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception (4/20/71)
Bancroft Fund Ltd.						
NAV Total Return (d)	5.19%	16.22%	5.93%	8.70%	5.83%(c)	8.88%(c)
Investment Total Return (e)	5.35	24.78	9.07	10.15	6.44	9.54
Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. Convertibles Index	5.30	18.13	5.77	9.97	6.73	N/A (f)
Bloomberg Barclays Balanced U.S. Convertibles Index	4.47	12.49	2.57	6.58	4.66	N/A (g)
Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 Index	6.07	17.17	10.37	13.30	7.51	10.30 (h)

(a) *Returns represent past performance and do not guarantee future results. Investment returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. When shares are sold, they may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data presented. Visit www.gabelli.com for performance information as of the most recent month end. Performance returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. NAV total returns would have been lower had Gabelli Funds, LLC (the "Adviser") not reimbursed certain expenses of the Fund. Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the Fund before investing.* The Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. Convertibles Index is a market value weighted index of all dollar denominated convertible securities that are exchangeable into U.S. equities that have a market value of more than $50 million. The Bloomberg Barclays Balanced U.S. Convertibles Index is a market value weighted index that tracks the performance of publicly placed, dollar denominated convertible securities that are between 40% and 80% sensitive to movements in their underlying common stocks. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged indicator of stock market performance. Dividends and interest income are considered reinvested. You cannot invest directly in an index.

(b) The Fund's fiscal year ends on October 31.

(c) Total returns and average annual returns have not been adjusted for the 2008 tender offer.

(d) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in the NAV per share, reinvestment of distributions at NAV on the ex-dividend date for the period begining November 2015, and are net of expenses. For the period December 2008 through October 2015, distributions were reinvested on the payable date using market prices. For the period May 2006 through November 2008, distributions were reinvested on the payable date using NAV. Total returns and average annual returns were adjusted for the1988 rights offering (no adjustments were made for the 1989, 2003, and 2008 rights offerings). Since inception return is based on an initial NAV of $22.92.

(e) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in closing market values on the NYSE MKT and reinvestment of distributions. Total returns and average annual returns were adjusted for the1988 rights offering (no adjustments were made for the 1989, 2003, and 2008 rights offerings). Since inception return is based on an initial offering price of $25.00.

(f) The Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. Convertibles Index inception date is December 31, 1994.

(g) The Bloomberg Barclays Balanced U.S. Convertibles Index inception date is January 1, 2003.

(h) From April 30, 1971, the date closest to the Fund's inception for which data is available.

Investment Objective

The Bancroft Fund is a closed-end, diversified management investment company whose investment objective is to provide income, with potential for capital appreciation. The Fund considers these objectives to be relatively equal, over the long term, due to the nature of the securities in which the Fund invests. Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 65% of its net assets in convertible securities.

Our mandate is to preserve and enhance our shareholders' wealth through a conservative and disciplined approach to investing primarily in convertible securities. Our goal is to generate profitable returns in strong markets and protect principal in weak markets by taking advantage of the unique characteristics of convertible securities.

Convertible Securities are "Hybrids"

It is important to understand our stock selection discipline, because price movement in the underlying equity will generally have the greatest impact on convertible securities pricing. The convertible securities market consists of bonds, debentures, corporate notes, preferred stocks, and warrants or other similar securities, which may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of common stock or other equity security of the same or a different issuer within a particular period of time, at a specified price or formula.

Converts are "hybrid" securities that combine the capital appreciation potential of equities with the higher yield of fixed income instruments. Our strategy incorporates the purchase of convertible securities that are trading at a premium (above parity) with the common stock, but which generally provide a higher yield, and, over time, capital appreciation.

Commentary

The Convertibles Market

The first quarter of 2017 saw the continuation of the post-election rally, with the markets rising based on a strong employment report and the anticipation of tax reform and the repeal of regulations that will benefit domestic companies. Volatility returned in March, with failure to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act causing people to wonder about the achievability of the new administration's policy objectives, an increase of 25 basis points in the Fed Funds rate, and some March weather issues dampening investor enthusiasm. The convertible market reflected the strength in the stock market, with the Bank of America/Merrill Lynch All U.S. Convertibles Index (VXAO) returning 5.3% through March 31. During March, the consumer staples group really faltered, but strength in the telecom, technology, and media sectors offset that pressure to make overall returns quite strong. We have been expecting a pickup in the new issue market for convertibles, and that appeared in the first quarter, with $12.4 billion and 34 new convertibles coming to market. The weighted average coupon was 2.87% and the weighted average premium was 29.83% on these new issues.

Bancroft Fund appreciated strongly in the first quarter of 2017, with a total NAV return of 5.19%. As of March 31, the Fund has a weighted average current yield of 3.4% and a median premium of 26.4%. The portfolio was comprised of 32.8% issues that are equity sensitive, 44.9% that are total return oriented, and 22.3% that are fixed income equivalents. This should allow for returns that provide more than half of the upside of the underlying equities as markets rise, but also provide support, with strong yields and maturities should the stock market correct. The biggest contributors to Bancroft's performance during the first quarter included exceptionally strong returns of individual issues in the semiconductor, biotech, auto, and materials sectors, while issues in the tech, energy, and telecom areas held back performance. The diverse nature of these issues reinforces the need to focus on individual issue selection within the convertible asset class.

Conclusion

U.S. convertibles continue to be a strong and growing asset class, with 477 securities and a market capitalization of $215.7 billion at the end of the first quarter. The strong slate of new issues had a number of repeat issuers, but ten new names also came to the market. We continue to believe that convertibles offer a good alternative for investment in equities, with lower volatility. Their convertibility, combined with their yield advantage over their underlying common shares, should offset pressure from rising interest rates.

Let's Talk Investments

The following are specifics on selected security holdings of our Fund. Favorable earnings prospects do not necessarily translate into higher stock prices, but they do express a positive trend that we believe will develop over time. Individual securities mentioned are not necessarily representative of the entire portfolio. For the following holdings, the convertible bond prices are listed in points, the convertible preferred shares are listed in United States dollars (USD) and the underlying share prices are listed first in USD and second in the local currency, where applicable, and are presented as of March 31, 2017.

Allergan plc (Cv., 5.50%, 3/1/2018) is a growth pharmaceutical company based in Dublin, Ireland. They offer branded pharmaceuticals, devices and biologic products in seven therapeutic areas: eye care, aesthetics and dermatology, gastroenterology, central nervous system, women's health, urology and anti-infectives. This mandatory convertible is equity sensitive, with a current yield of 6.48% compared to no yield on the common stock.

Carriage Services Inc. (Cv., 2.75%, 3/15/21) is a leading provider of funeral and cemetery services. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, they operate 171 funeral homes and 32 cemeteries in twelve states. Funeral home operations account for approximately 76% of total revenue, and cemetery services account for the remainder. They sell their services and products both on a planned basis and an "at-need" basis. Their competitors are primarily small independent operators. They believe they are a market leader in most of the markets they serve. This convertible matures in four years. It has a significant yield advantage of the common shares, and trades with a premium to conversion value under 10%.

Cypress Semiconductor Corp. (Cv., 4.50%, 1/15/22), headquartered in San Jose, California, offers a variety of semiconductor products that are used in automotive, industrial, and consumer electronics, among others. We expect Cypress to benefit as cars continue to see an increase in connectivity and safety sensors, as well as infotainment options. Outside of automotive, the company should benefit from the growth of the Internet of things, as more devices require the ability to connect and communicate with one another. This convertible offers a conservative way to participate in the growth we expect from the common stock with a slight yield advantage, and a maturity that should help to limit the downside potential.

DISH Network Corp. (Cv., 3.375%, 8/15/26), headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, offers pay-TV services over broadband and satellite. The company also operates a broadband service and has acquired a large portfolio of wireless spectrum assets. The pay-TV business has strong recurring cash flows, and the company has shown its willingness to cater to its customers' changing viewing habits with its Sling TV product, which offers pay-TV over any Internet connection. The wireless spectrum assets give DISH the option of creating a new type of wireless offering or of selling them to other wireless carriers as the demand for wireless services increases. The convertible offers an attractive way to participate in DISH, as it has a good yield versus the common stock, which pays no dividend. The premium is reasonable, leading to a breakeven prior to maturity. We expect this convert to participate in greater than 80% of any equity upside from here, while the maturity and yield should help reduce our downside risk in the event that the stock falters.

NextEra Energy, Inc. (Cv., 6.37%, 9/1/18) and (Cv., 6,12%, 9/1/19) is primarily an electric utility, headquartered in Juno Beach, Florida. It is a leading clean energy company, with consolidated revenues of approximately $16.2 billion and 46 gigawatts of generating capacity. NextEra has approximately 14,700 employees in thirty states and Canada. NextEra Energy's principal subsidiaries are Florida Power & Light Company and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, which, together with its affiliated entities, including NextEra Energy Partners LP, is the world's largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and sun. Through its subsidiaries, NextEra Energy generates clean, emissions-free electricity from eight commercial nuclear power units in Florida, New Hampshire, Iowa, and Wisconsin. This convertible is a mandatory preferred with a good yield.

Pacira Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Cv., 2.375%, 4/1/2022), based in Parsippany, New Jersey, manufactures and markets products that reduce the reliance on opioid medications post-surgery. They have developed a method to deliver analgesic medication directly to the incision site for a period of one to thirty days. With the recent emphasis on the need to reduce opioid use in the medical system, Pacira has partnered with Trinity Healthcare Systems to offer their patients an alternative methodology for pain management. The Pacira convertible bond is a less volatile way to invest in the growth potential for this new and timely approach to pain management. They are somewhat sensitive to the movement of the underlying equity and have a maturity date in 2022. The bond yields 2.3%, with no yield on the underlying common stock.

April 13, 2017

Top Ten Holdings
March 31, 2017

Alibaba Mandatory Exchangeable Trust, Cv., 5.75%, 06/01/19
MercadoLibre Inc., 2.25%, 07/01/2019
Dish Network Corp., 3.38%, 08/15/2026
The Priceline Group Inc., 1.00%, 03/15/2018
Inphi Corp., 1.13%, 12/01/2020
Interdigital Inc., 1.50%, 03/01/2020
CSG Systems International Inc., 4.25%, 03/15/2036
Knowles Corp., 3.25%, 11/01/2021
Harmonic Inc., Cv., 4.00%, 12/01/20
Wells Fargo & Co.

Note: The views expressed in this Shareholder Commentary reflect those of the Portfolio Managers only through the end of the period stated in this Shareholder Commentary. The Portfolio Managers' views are subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions. The information in this Shareholder Commentary represents the opinions of the individual Portfolio Managers and is not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future results, or investment advice. Views expressed are those of the Portfolio Managers and may differ from those of other portfolio managers or of the Firm as a whole. This Shareholder Commentary does not constitute an offer of any transaction in any securities. Any recommendation contained herein may not be suitable for all investors. Information contained in this Shareholder Commentary has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, but cannot be guaranteed.

Common Stock Repurchase Plan

On November 19, 2015, The Board of Trustees of the Fund (the "Board") voted to enhance the Fund's Share Repurchase Program and authorize the repurchase of the Fund's shares of beneficial interest in the open market from time to time when the shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more from NAV. In total through March 31, 2017, the Fund has repurchased and retired 455,430 shares in the open market, at an average investment of $19.80 per share and an average discount of approximately 16% from its NAV. The Fund did not repurchase any common shares in the first quarter of 2017.

5% Distribution Policy for Common Stockholders

The Board of Directors of the Fund (the "Board") has reaffirmed the continuation of the Fund's 5% distribution policy. Pursuant to its distribution policy, the Fund paid a $0.25 per share cash distribution on March 24, 2017 to common stockholders of record on March 17, 2017.

The Fund intends to pay a quarterly distribution of an amount determined each quarter by the Board. Under the Fund's current distribution policy, the Fund intends to pay a minimum annual distribution of 5% of the Fund's trailing twelve-month average month-end market price or an amount sufficient to satisfy the minimum distribution requirements of the Internal Revenue Code for regulated investment companies.

If the Fund does not generate sufficient earnings (dividends and interest income and realized net capital gain) equal to or in excess of the aggregate distributions paid by the Fund in a given year, then the amount distributed in excess of the Fund's earnings would be deemed a return of capital. Since this would be considered a return of a portion of a shareholder's original investment, it is generally not taxable and is treated as a reduction in the shareholder's cost basis. Despite the challenges of the extra recordkeeping, a distribution that incorporates a return of capital serves as a smoothing mechanism resulting in a more stable and consistent cash flow available to shareholders.

Long term capital gains, qualified dividend income, ordinary income, and paid-in capital, if any, will be allocated on a pro-rata basis to all distributions to common shareholders for the year. Based on the accounting records of the Fund currently available, the current distribution paid to common shareholders in 2017 would include approximately 17% from net investment income and 83% from net capital gains on a book basis. The estimated components of each distribution are updated and provided to shareholders of record in a notice accompanying the distribution and are available on our website (www.gabelli.com). The final determination of the sources of all distributions in 2017 will be made after year end and can vary from the quarterly estimates. All shareholders with taxable accounts will receive written notification regarding the components and tax treatment for all 2017 distributions in early 2018 via Form 1099-DIV.

5.375% Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares

The Fund's 5.375% Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares paid a $0.3359375 per share cash distribution on March 27, 2017 to preferred shareholders of record on March 20, 2017. The Series A Preferred Shares, which trade on the NYSE MKT under the symbol "BCV Pr A", are rated "A1" by Moody's Investors Service and have an annual dividend rate of $1.34375 per share. The Series A Preferred Shares were issued on August 9, 2016 at $25.00 per share and pay distributions quarterly. The Series A Preferred Shares will be callable at any time at the liquidation value of $25.00 per share plus accrued dividends following the expiration of the five year call protection on August 9, 2021. The next distribution is scheduled for June 2017.

The Board shares the Investment Adviser's view that the issuance of the Preferred Shares is designed to benefit the common shareholders. To the extent that the Fund earns in excess of the dividend rate on the Preferred Shares, additional value will thereby be created for its common shareholders.

Long-term capital gains, qualified dividend income, and ordinary income, if any, will be allocated on a pro-rata basis to all distributions to preferred shareholders for the year. Based on the accounting records of the Fund currently available, the current distribution paid to preferred shareholders represents approximately 17% from net investment income and 83% from net capital gains on a book basis. This does not currently represent information for tax reporting purposes. The estimated components of each distribution are updated and provided to shareholders of record in a notice accompanying the distribution and are available on our website (www.gabelli.com). The final determination of the sources of all distributions in 2017 will be made after year end and can vary from the quarterly estimates. All shareholders with taxable accounts will receive written notification regarding the components and tax treatment for all 2017 distributions in early 2018 via Form 1099-DIV.

Tax Treatment of Distributions to Common and Preferred Shareholders

All or part of the distributions may be treated as long term capital gain or qualified dividend income (or a combination of both) for individuals, each subject to the maximum federal income tax rate, which is currently 20% in taxable accounts for individuals. In addition, certain U.S. shareholders who are individuals, estates, or trusts and whose income exceeds certain thresholds will be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare surcharge on their "net investment income," which includes dividends received from the Fund and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of shares of the Fund.

www.gabelli.com

Please visit us on the Internet. Our homepage at www.gabelli.com contains information about GAMCO Investors, Inc., the Gabelli/GAMCO Closed-End Funds and Mutual Funds, IRAs, 401(k)s, current and historical quarterly reports, closing prices, and other current news. We welcome your comments and questions via e-mail at closedend@gabelli.com.

You may sign up for our e-mail alerts at www.gabelli.com and receive early notice of quarterly report availability, news events, media sightings, and mutual fund prices and performance.

e-delivery

We are pleased to offer electronic delivery of Gabelli fund documents. Shareholders of our closed-end funds can now elect to receive e-mail announcements regarding available materials, including shareholder commentaries and Fund reports. For more information or to register for e-delivery, please visit our website at www.gabelli.com.

BANCROFT FUND LTD. AND YOUR PERSONAL PRIVACY

Who are we?

Bancroft Fund Ltd. (the "Fund") is a closed-end management investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940. We are managed by Gabelli Funds, LLC, which is affiliated with GAMCO Investors, Inc. GAMCO Investors, Inc. is a publicly held company that has subsidiaries and affiliates that provide investment advisory services for a variety of clients.

What kind of non-public information do we collect about you if you become a fund shareholder?

When you purchase shares of the Fund on the American Stock Exchange, you have the option of registering directly with our transfer agent in order, for example, to participate in our dividend reinvestment plan.

- *Information you give us on your application form.* This could include your name, address, telephone number, social security number, bank account number, and other information.
- *Information about your transactions with us.* This would include information about the shares that you buy or sell; it may also include information about whether you sell or exercise rights that we have issued from time to time. If we hire someone else to provide services—like a transfer agent—we will also have information about the transactions that you conduct through them.

What information do we disclose and to whom do we disclose it?

We do not disclose any non-public personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone other than our affiliates, our service providers who need to know such information, and as otherwise permitted by law. If you want to find out what the law permits, you can read the privacy rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. They are in volume 17 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 248. The Commission often posts information about its regulations on its website, *www.sec.gov*.

What do we do to protect your personal information?

We restrict access to non-public personal information about you to the people who need to know that information in order to provide services to you or the fund and to ensure that we are complying with the laws governing the securities business. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to keep your personal information confidential.

AUTOMATIC DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND VOLUNTARY CASH PURCHASE PLANS

Enrollment in the Plan

It is the policy of the Bancroft Fund Ltd. (the "Fund") to automatically reinvest dividends payable to common shareholders. As a "registered" shareholder you automatically become a participant in the Fund's Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan authorizes the Fund to credit common shares to participants upon an income dividend or a capital gains distribution regardless of whether the shares are trading at a discount or a premium to net asset value. All distributions to shareholders whose shares are registered in their own names will be automatically reinvested pursuant to the Plan in additional shares of the Fund. Plan participants may send their share certificates to American Stock Transfer ("AST") to be held in their dividend reinvestment account. Registered shareholders wishing to receive their distributions in cash must submit this request in writing to:

Bancroft Fund Ltd.
c/o American Stock Transfer
6201 15th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11219

Shareholders requesting this cash election must include the shareholder's name and address as they appear on the Fund's records. Shareholders with additional questions regarding the Plan or requesting a copy of the terms of the Plan, may contact AST at (888) 422-3262.

If your shares are held in the name of a broker, bank, or nominee, you should contact such institution. If such institution is not participating in the Plan, your account will be credited with a cash dividend. In order to participate in the Plan through such institution, it may be necessary for you to have your shares taken out of "street name" and re-registered in your own name. Once registered in your own name your distributions will be automatically reinvested. Certain brokers participate in the Plan. Shareholders holding shares in "street name" at participating institutions will have dividends automatically reinvested. Shareholders wishing a cash dividend at such institution must contact their broker to make this change.

The number of common shares distributed to participants in the Plan in lieu of cash dividends is determined in the following manner. Under the Plan, whenever the market price of the Fund's common shares is equal to or exceeds net asset value at the time shares are valued for purposes of determining the number of shares equivalent to the cash dividends or capital gains distribution, participants are issued common shares valued at the greater of (i) the net asset value as most recently determined or (ii) 95% of the then current market price of the Fund's common shares. The valuation date is the dividend or distribution payment date or, if that date is not a NYSE MKT trading day, the next trading day. If the net asset value of the common shares at the time of valuation exceeds the market price of the common shares, participants will receive common shares from the Fund valued at market price. If the Fund should declare a dividend or capital gains distribution payable only in cash, AST will buy common shares in the open market, or on the NYSE MKT, or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts, except that AST will endeavor to terminate purchases in the open market and cause the Fund to issue shares at net asset value if, following the commencement of such purchases, the market value of the common shares exceeds the then current net asset value.

The automatic reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions will not relieve participants of any income tax which may be payable on such distributions. A participant in the Plan will be treated for federal income tax purposes as having received, on a dividend payment date, a dividend or distribution in an amount equal to the cash the participant could have received instead of shares.

Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan

The Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan is yet another vehicle for our shareholders to increase their investment in the Fund. In order to participate in the Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan, shareholders must have their shares registered in their own name.

Participants in the Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan have the option of making additional cash payments to AST for investments in the Fund's common shares at the then current market price. Shareholders may send an amount from $250 to $10,000. AST will use these funds to purchase shares in the open market on or about the 1st and 15th of each month. AST will charge each shareholder who participates a pro rata share of the brokerage commissions. Brokerage charges for such purchases are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charge for such transactions. It is suggested that any voluntary cash payments be sent to American Stock Transfer, 6201 15th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219 such that AST receives such payments approximately 10 days before the investment date. Funds not received at least five days before the investment date shall be held for investment until the next purchase date. A payment may be withdrawn without charge if notice is received by AST at least 48 hours before such payment is to be invested.

Shareholders wishing to liquidate shares held at AST must do so in writing or by telephone. Please submit your request to the above mentioned address or telephone number. Include in your request your name, address, and account number. The cost to liquidate shares is $1.00 per transaction as well as the brokerage commission incurred. Brokerage charges are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charge for such transactions.

For more information regarding the Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan and Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan, brochures are available by calling (914) 921-5070 or by writing directly to the Fund.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan as applied to any voluntary cash payments made and any dividend or distribution paid subsequent to written notice of the change sent to the members of the Plan at least 90 days before the record date for such dividend or distribution. The Plan also may be amended or terminated by AST on at least 90 days written notice to participants in the Plan.

BANCROFT FUND LTD.

One Corporate Center
Rye, NY 10580-1422

Portfolio Management Team Biographies

Thomas Dinsmore, CFA, joined Gabelli Funds LLC in 2015. He currently serves as portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex. From 1996 to 2015 Mr. Dinsmore was Chairman and CEO of Dinsmore Capital Management; CEO and Portfolio Manager of Bancroft Fund Ltd; and CEO, Portfolio Manager and co-founder of Ellsworth Growth and Income Fund Ltd. He has a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School of Business, and an M.A. in Economics from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Jane O'Keeffe joined Gabelli Funds LLC in 2015. She currently serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex. From 1996 to 2015 Ms. O'Keeffe was President and Director of Dinsmore Capital Management where she was also a Portfolio Manager of Bancroft Fund Ltd. and Ellsworth Growth and Income Fund Ltd. In 1980, Ms. O'Keeffe began as an assistant to the portfolio manager of IDS Progressive Fund. From 1983 through March 1986, she had research and portfolio management responsibilities at Soros Fund Management Company. In 1986, she was a portfolio manager and research analyst at Simms Capital Management until she joined Fiduciary Trust International in 1988 where she became a Vice President and Portfolio Manager for individuals, endowments, and foundations. She has a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire and attended the Lubin Graduate School of Business at Pace University.

James Dinsmore, CFA, joined Gabelli Funds LLC in 2015. He currently serves as portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex. Mr. Dinsmore received a BA in Economics from Cornell University and an MBA from Rutgers University.

We have separated the portfolio managers' commentary from the financial statements and investment portfolio due to corporate governance regulations stipulated by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. We have done this to ensure that the content of the portfolio managers' commentary is unrestricted. Both the commentary and the financial statements, including the portfolio of investments, will be available on our website at www.gabelli.com.

The Net Asset Value per share appears in the Publicly Traded Funds column, under the heading "Specialized Equity Funds," in Monday's The Wall Street Journal. It is also listed in Barron's Mutual Funds/Closed End Funds section under the heading "Specialized Equity Funds."

The Net Asset Value per share may be obtained each day by calling (914) 921-5070 or visiting www.gabelli.com.

The NASDAQ symbol for the Net Asset Value per share is "XBCVX."

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 23(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, that the Fund may from time to time purchase its common shares in the open market when the Fund's shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more from the net asset value of the shares. The Fund may also from time to time purchase its preferred shares in the open market when the preferred shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value.

This report is printed on recycled paper.

BANCROFT FUND LTD.
One Corporate Center
Rye, NY 10580-1422

t 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554)
f 914-921-5118
e info@gabelli.com
GABELLI.COM

GABELLI
FUNDS

BANCROFT FUND LTD.

BCV

Shareholder Commentary
March 31, 2017