

**GAMCO GOLD FUND, INC.**

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**April 30, 2009**

This Statement of Additional Information (the "SAI"), which is not a prospectus, describes the GAMCO Gold Fund, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the "Fund"). This SAI should be read in conjunction with the Fund's Prospectuses for Class AAA Shares and Class A Shares, Class B Shares, Class C Shares, and Class I Shares, each dated April 30, 2009. This SAI is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the Fund's Prospectuses. Portions of the Fund's annual report to shareholders are incorporated by reference into this SAI. For a free copy of a Prospectus, or the Fund's annual report to shareholders, please contact the Fund at the address, telephone number, or Internet website printed below.

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Fund is a diversified, open-end management investment company organized under the laws of the State of Maryland on May 13, 1994. The Fund commenced operations on July 11, 1994.

## **INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS**

### **Investments**

Subject to the investment policies set forth in the prospectuses and here within, the Fund may invest in any of the securities described below.

### **Equity Securities**

Because the Fund in seeking to achieve its investment objective may invest in the common stocks of both foreign and domestic issuers, an investment in the Fund should be made with an understanding of the risks inherent in any investment in common stocks, including the risk that the financial condition of the issuers of the Fund's portfolio securities may become impaired or that the general condition of the stock market may worsen (both of which may contribute directly to a decrease in the value of the securities and thus in the value of the Fund's shares). Additional risks include risks associated with the right to receive payments from the issuer which is generally inferior to the rights of creditors of, or holders of debt obligations or preferred stock issued by, the issuer. The Fund does not expect to invest in excess of 5% of its assets in securities of unseasoned issuers (companies that have operated less than three years), which, due to their short operating history, may have less information available and may not be as liquid as other securities.

Moreover, common stocks do not represent an obligation of the issuer and therefore do not offer any assurance of income or provide the degree of protection of debt securities. The issuance of debt securities or even preferred stock by an issuer will create prior claims for payment of principal, interest, and dividends which could adversely affect the ability and inclination of the issuer to declare or pay dividends on its common stock or the economic interest of holders of common stock with respect to assets of the issuer upon liquidation or bankruptcy. Further, unlike debt securities, which typically have a stated principal amount payable at maturity (which value will be subject to market fluctuations prior thereto), common stocks have neither a fixed principal amount nor a maturity and have values which are subject to market fluctuations for as long as the common stocks remain outstanding. Common stocks are especially susceptible to general stock market movements and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and perceptions of the issuers change. These perceptions are based on unpredictable factors, including expectations regarding government, economic, monetary, and fiscal policies, inflation and interest rates, economic expansion or contraction, and global or regional political, economic, or banking crises. The value of the common stocks in the Fund's portfolio thus may be expected to fluctuate.

Preferred stocks are usually entitled to rights on liquidation, which are senior to those of common stocks. For these reasons, preferred stocks generally entail less risk than common stocks. Such securities may pay cumulative dividends. Because the dividend rate and liquidation or redemption value is usually pre-established, such securities tend to have less possibility of capital appreciation.

Some of the securities in the Fund may be in the form of depository receipts. Depository receipts usually represent common stock or other equity securities of non-U.S. issuers deposited with a custodian in a

depository. The underlying securities are usually withdrawable at any time by surrendering the depository receipt. Depository receipts are usually denominated in U.S. dollars and dividends and other payments from the issuer are converted by the custodian into U.S. dollars before payment to receipt holders. In other respects, depository receipts for foreign securities have the same characteristics as the underlying securities. Depository receipts that are not sponsored by the issuer may be less liquid and there may be less readily available public information about the issuer. Investments in foreign securities involve certain risks not ordinarily associated with investments in securities of domestic issuers, including fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, future political and economic developments, and the possible imposition of exchange controls or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions. In addition, with respect to certain countries, there is the possibility of expropriation of assets, confiscatory taxation, political or social instability, or diplomatic developments which could adversely affect investments in those countries.

There may be less publicly available information about a foreign company than about a U.S. company, and accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards and requirements may not be comparable. Securities of many foreign companies are less liquid and their prices more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. companies. Transaction costs of investing in non-U.S. securities markets are generally higher than in markets in the U.S. There is generally less government supervision and regulation of exchanges, brokers, and issuers in foreign countries than there is in the U.S. Additionally, the Fund might have greater difficulty taking appropriate legal action in non-U.S. courts.

Dividend and interest income from non-U.S. securities will generally be subject to withholding taxes by the country in which the issuer is located and may not be recoverable by the Fund or the investor.

Such investments in securities of foreign issuers are frequently denominated in foreign currencies and because the Fund may temporarily hold uninvested reserves in bank deposits in foreign currencies, the value of the Fund's assets as measured in U.S. dollars may be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in currency rates and exchange control regulations, and the Fund may incur costs in connection with conversions between various currencies.

Gabelli Funds, LLC (the "Adviser") will attempt to manage these risks so that strategies and investments will benefit the Fund, but no assurance can be given that they will be successfully managed.

### **Bullion of Gold and Other Precious Metals**

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its net assets in bullion of gold and other precious metals ("bullion"). Bullion will only be bought and sold through U.S. and foreign banks, regulated U.S. commodities exchanges, exchanges affiliated with a regulated U.S. stock exchange, and dealers who are members of, or affiliated with members of, a regulated U.S. commodities exchange, in accordance with applicable investment laws. Investors should note that bullion offers the potential for capital appreciation or depreciation, but unlike other investments does not generate income, and in these transactions the Fund may encounter higher custody and other costs (including shipping and insurance) than costs normally associated with ownership of securities. The Fund may attempt to minimize the costs associated with the actual custody of bullion by the use of receipts or certificates representing ownership interests in bullion.

### **Sovereign Debt Securities**

The Fund may invest in securities issued or guaranteed by any country and denominated in any currency. The Fund expects to invest in the securities of companies located in developed countries, and to a lesser extent, those located in emerging markets. Developed markets include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. An emerging

country is any country which is generally considered to be an emerging or developing country by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (more commonly referred to as the World Bank) and the International Finance Corporation, as well as countries that are classified by the United Nations or otherwise regarded by its authorities as emerging or developing, at the time of the Fund's investment. The obligations of governmental entities have various kinds of government support and include obligations issued or guaranteed by governmental entities with taxing power. These obligations may or may not be supported by the full faith and credit of a government. Debt securities issued or guaranteed by foreign governmental entities have credit characteristics similar to those of domestic debt securities but include additional risks. These additional risks include those resulting from devaluation of currencies, future adverse political and economic developments and other foreign governmental laws. The Fund may have limited legal recourse in the event of default. Also, the Fund may have difficulty disposing of certain sovereign debt obligations because there may be a limited trading market for such securities.

The Fund may also purchase securities issued by quasi-governmental or supranational agencies such as the Asian Development Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Export-Import Bank, and the European Investment Bank. The governmental members, or "stockholders," usually make initial capital contributions to the supranational entity and in many cases are committed to make additional capital contributions if the supranational entity is unable to repay its borrowings. The Fund will not invest more than 20% of its assets in the securities of such supranational entities.

### **Nonconvertible Fixed Income Securities**

The category of fixed income securities which are not convertible or exchangeable for common stock includes preferred stocks, bonds, debentures, notes, and money market instruments such as commercial paper and bankers' acceptances. There is no minimum credit rating for these securities in which the Fund may invest. Accordingly, the Fund could invest in securities in default, although the Fund will not invest more than 5% of its assets in defaulted securities.

Up to 20% of the Fund's total assets may be invested in lower-quality debt securities, although the Fund currently does not expect to invest more than 5% of its assets in such securities. The market values of lower-quality fixed income securities tend to be less sensitive to changes in prevailing interest rates than higher-quality securities but more sensitive to individual corporate developments than higher-quality securities. Such lower-quality securities also tend to be more sensitive to economic conditions than are higher-quality securities. Accordingly, these lower-quality securities are considered predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation and will generally involve more credit risk than securities in the higher-quality categories. Even securities rated "Baa" or "BBB" by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") and the Standard and Poor's Rating Services ("S&P"), a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., respectively, which ratings are considered investment grade, possess some speculative characteristics, and changes in economic conditions or other circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to make principal and interest payments than is the case with higher-grade bonds. See "Appendix - Description of Ratings." There are risks involved in applying credit ratings as a method of evaluating high yield obligations in that credit ratings evaluate the safety of principal and interest payments, not market value risk. In addition, credit rating agencies may not change credit ratings on a timely basis to reflect changes in economic or company conditions that affect a security's market value. The Fund will rely on the judgment, analysis and experience of its Adviser in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issuer. In this evaluation, the Adviser will take into consideration, among other things, the issuer's financial resources and ability to cover its interest and fixed charges, factors relating to the issuer's industry and its sensitivity to economic conditions and trends, its operating history, the quality of the issuer's management and regulatory matters.

The risk of loss due to default by the issuer is significantly greater for the holders of lower quality securities because such securities are generally unsecured and are often subordinated to other obligations of the issuer. During an economic downturn or a sustained period of rising interest rates, highly leveraged issuers of lower quality securities may experience financial stress and may not have sufficient revenues to meet their interest payment obligations. An issuer's ability to service its debt obligations may also be adversely affected by specific corporate developments, its inability to meet specific projected business forecasts, or the unavailability of additional financing.

Factors adversely affecting the market value of high yield and other fixed income securities will adversely affect the Fund's net asset value ("NAV"). In addition, the Fund may incur additional expenses to the extent that it is required to seek recovery upon a default in the payment of principal of or interest on its portfolio holdings.

At times, adverse publicity regarding lower-quality securities has depressed prices for such securities to some extent.

From time to time, proposals have been discussed regarding new legislation designed to limit the use of certain high yield debt securities by issuers in connection with leveraged buy-outs, mergers and acquisitions, or to limit the deductibility of interest payments on such securities. Such proposals, if enacted into law, could reduce the market for such debt securities generally, could negatively affect the financial condition of issuers of high yield securities by removing or reducing a source of future financing, and could negatively affect the value of specific high yield issues and the high yield market in general. For example, under a provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), a corporate issuer may be limited from deducting all of the original issue discount on high-yield discount obligations (*i.e.*, certain types of debt securities issued at a significant discount to their face amount). The likelihood of passage of any additional legislation or the effect thereof is uncertain.

The secondary trading market for lower-quality fixed income securities is generally not as liquid as the secondary market for higher-quality securities and is very thin for some securities. The relative lack of an active secondary market may have an adverse impact on market price and the Fund's ability to dispose of particular issues when necessary to meet liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. The relative lack of an active secondary market for certain securities may also make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing its portfolio. Market quotations are generally available on many high yield issues only from a limited number of dealers and may not necessarily represent firm bids of such dealers or prices for actual sales. During such times, the responsibility of the Board of Directors (the "Board") to value the securities becomes more difficult and judgment plays a greater role in valuation because there is less reliable, objective data available.

### **Convertible Securities**

The Fund may invest up to 25% of its total assets in convertible securities rated, at the time of investment, less than "BBB" by S&P or "Baa" by Moody's or unrated but of equivalent credit quality in the judgment of the portfolio manager. A convertible security entitles the holder to exchange the security for a fixed number of shares of common stock or other equity security, usually of the same company, at fixed prices within a specified period of time. A convertible security entitles the holder to receive the fixed income of a preferred stock until the holder elects to exercise the conversion privilege.

Some of the convertible securities in the Fund's portfolio may be "Pay-in-Kind" securities. During a designated period from original issuance, the issuer of such a security may pay dividends or interest to the holder by issuing additional fully paid and nonassessable shares or units of the same or another specified

security. While no securities investment is completely without risk, investments in convertible securities generally entail less risk than common stock, although the extent to which such risk is reduced depends in large measure upon the degree to which the convertible security sells above its value as a fixed-income security.

### **Securities Subject to Reorganization**

The Fund may invest in securities for which a tender or exchange offer has been made or announced and in securities of companies for which a merger, consolidation, liquidation, or reorganization proposal has been announced if, in the judgment of the Adviser, there is a reasonable prospect of capital appreciation significantly greater than the brokerage and other transaction expenses involved. The primary risk of this type of investing is that if the contemplated transaction is abandoned, revised, delayed, or becomes subject to unanticipated uncertainties, the market price of the securities may decline below the purchase price paid by the Fund.

In general, securities which are the subject of such an offer or proposal sell at a premium to their historic market price immediately prior to the announcement of the offer or proposal or may also discount what the stated or appraised value of the security would be if the contemplated transaction were approved or consummated. These investments may be advantageous when the discount significantly overstates the risk of the contingencies involved; significantly undervalues the securities, assets, or cash to be received by shareholders of the prospective portfolio company as a result of the contemplated transaction; or fails to adequately recognize the possibility that the offer or proposal may be replaced or superseded by an offer or proposal of greater value. The evaluation of such contingencies requires unusually broad knowledge and experience on the part of the Adviser, which must appraise not only the value of the issuer and its component businesses as well as the assets or securities to be received as a result of the contemplated transaction, but also the financial resources and business motivation of the offer and the dynamics and business climate when the offer or proposal is in progress. Since such investments are ordinarily short-term in nature, they will tend to increase the turnover ratio of the Fund, thereby increasing its brokerage and other transaction expenses. The Adviser intends to select investments of the type described which, in its view, have a reasonable prospect of capital appreciation which is significant in relation to both the risk involved and the potential of available alternate investments.

### **Options**

The Fund may purchase or sell options on individual securities as well as on indices of securities as a means of achieving additional return or for hedging the value of its portfolio.

A call option is a contract that gives the holder of the option the right, in return for a premium paid, to buy from the seller the security underlying the option at a specified exercise price at any time during the term of the option or, in some cases, only at the end of the term of the option. The seller of the call option has the obligation upon exercise of the option to deliver the underlying security upon payment of the exercise price. A put option is a contract that gives the holder of the option the right in return for a premium to sell to the seller the underlying security at a specified price. The seller of the put option, on the other hand, has the obligation to buy the underlying security upon exercise at the exercise price. The Fund's transactions in options may be subject to specific segregation requirements. See "Hedging Transactions" below.

If the Fund has sold an option, it may terminate its obligation by effecting a closing purchase transaction. This is accomplished by purchasing an option of the same series as the option previously sold. There can be no assurance that a closing purchase transaction can be effected when the Fund so desires.

The purchaser of an option risks a total loss of the premium paid for the option if the price of the underlying security does not increase or decrease sufficiently to justify exercise. The seller of an option, on the other hand, will recognize the premium as income if the option expires unexercised but forgoes any capital appreciation in excess of the exercise price in the case of a call option, and may be required to pay a price in excess of current market value in the case of a put option. Options purchased and sold other than on an exchange in private transactions also impose on the Fund the credit risk that the counterparty will fail to honor its obligations. The Fund will not purchase options if, as a result, the aggregate cost of all outstanding options exceeds 5% of the Fund's assets.

### **Warrants and Rights**

The Fund may invest up to 5% of its total assets in warrants or rights (other than those acquired in units or attached to other securities) which entitle the holder to buy equity securities at a specific price for or at the end of a specific period of time. The Fund will do so only if the underlying equity securities are deemed appropriate by the Adviser for inclusion in the Fund's portfolio.

Investing in rights and warrants can provide a greater potential for profit or loss than an equivalent investment in the underlying security, and thus, can be a speculative investment. The value of a right or warrant may decline because of a decline in the value of the underlying security, the passage of time, changes in interest rates or in the dividend or other policies of the company whose equity underlies the warrant or a change in the perception as to the future price of the underlying security, or any combination thereof. Rights and warrants generally pay no dividends and confer no voting or other rights other than the right to purchase the underlying security.

### **Investments in Investment Companies**

The Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets (5% per issuer) in securities issued by other unaffiliated investment companies, although the Fund may not acquire more than 3% of the voting securities of any investment company.

### **When-Issued, Delayed Delivery Securities, and Forward Commitments**

The Fund may enter into forward commitments for the purchase or sale of securities, including on a "when-issued" or "delayed delivery" basis. In such transactions, instruments are bought with payment and delivery taking place in the future in order to secure what is considered to be an advantageous yield or price at the time of the transaction. In some cases, a forward commitment may be conditioned upon the occurrence of a subsequent event, such as approval and consummation of a merger, corporate reorganization, or debt restructuring, *i.e.*, a when-, as- and if-issued security. When such transactions are negotiated, the price is fixed at the time of the commitment, with payment and delivery taking place in the future, generally a month or more after the date of the commitment. While the Fund will only enter into a forward commitment with the intention of actually acquiring the security, the Fund may sell the security before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable.

Securities purchased under a forward commitment are subject to market fluctuation, and no interest (or dividends) accrues to the Fund prior to the settlement date. The Fund will segregate with its custodian, cash or liquid securities in an aggregate amount at least equal to the amount of its outstanding forward commitments. When the Fund engages in when-issued, delayed delivery or forward commitment transactions, it relies on the other party to consummate the trade. Failure of the other party to do so may result in the Fund incurring a loss or missing an opportunity to obtain a price considered to be advantageous.

## **Short Sales**

The Fund may make short sales of securities. A short sale is a transaction in which the Fund sells a security it does not own in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline. The Fund expects to make short sales both to obtain capital gains from anticipated declines in securities and as a form of hedging to offset potential declines in long positions in the same or similar securities. The short sale of a security is considered a speculative investment technique.

When the Fund makes a short sale, it must borrow the security sold short and deliver it to the broker-dealer through which it made the short sale in order to satisfy its obligation to deliver the security upon conclusion of the sale. The Fund may have to pay a fee to borrow particular securities and is often obligated to pay over any payments received on such borrowed securities.

The Fund's obligation to replace the borrowed security will be secured by collateral deposited with the broker-dealer, usually cash, U.S. government securities, or other liquid securities. The Fund will also be required to deposit similar collateral with its custodian to the extent, if any, necessary so that the value of both collateral deposits in the aggregate is at all times equal to the greater of the price at which the security is sold short or 100% of the current market value of the security sold short. Depending on arrangements made with the broker-dealer from which it borrowed the security regarding payment over of any amount received by the Fund on such security, the Fund may not receive any payments (including interest) on its collateral deposited with such broker-dealer. If the price of the security sold short increases between the time of the short sale and the time the Fund replaces the borrowed security, the Fund will incur a loss; conversely, if the price declines, the Fund will realize a capital gain. Any gain will be decreased, and any loss increased, by the transaction costs described above. Although the Fund's gain is limited to the price at which it sold the security short, its potential loss is theoretically unlimited.

The market value of the securities sold short of any one issuer will not exceed either 5% of the Fund's total assets or 5% of such issuer's voting securities. The Fund will not make a short sale if, after giving effect to such sale, the market value of all securities sold short exceeds 25% of the value of its assets or the Fund's aggregate short sales of a particular class of securities exceeds 25% of the outstanding securities of that class. The Fund may also make short sales "against the box" without regard to such limitations. In this type of short sale, at the time of the sale, the Fund owns or has the immediate and unconditional right to acquire at no additional cost the identical security.

## **Restricted and Illiquid Securities**

The Fund may invest up to a total of 15% of its net assets in securities that are subject to restrictions on resale and securities which are illiquid, including repurchase agreements with more than seven days to maturity. Illiquid securities include securities the disposition of which is subject to substantial legal or contractual restrictions. The sale of 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. Unseasoned issuers are companies (including predecessors) that have operated for less than three years. The continued liquidity of such securities is not as well assured as that of publicly traded securities, and accordingly the Board will monitor their liquidity. The Board will review pertinent factors such as trading activity, reliability of price information, and trading patterns of comparable securities in determining whether to treat any such security as liquid for purposes of the foregoing 15% test. To the extent the Board treats such securities as liquid, temporary impairments to trading patterns of such securities may adversely affect the Fund's liquidity.

To the extent it can do so consistent with the foregoing limitations, the Fund may invest in non-publicly traded securities, including securities that are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, (the "1933 Act") but that can be offered and sold to qualified institutional buyers under Rule 144A under that Act. The Board has adopted guidelines and delegated to the Adviser, subject to the supervision of the Board, the daily function of determining and monitoring the liquidity of Rule 144A securities. Rule 144A securities may become illiquid if qualified institutional buyers are not interested in acquiring the securities.

### **Repurchase Agreements**

The Fund may invest in repurchase agreements, which are agreements pursuant to which securities are acquired by the Fund from a third party with the understanding that they will be repurchased by the seller at a fixed price on an agreed date. These agreements may be made with respect to any of the portfolio securities in which the Fund is authorized to invest. Repurchase agreements may be characterized as loans secured by the underlying securities. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with (i) member banks of the Federal Reserve System having total assets in excess of \$500 million and (ii) securities dealers, provided that such banks or dealers meet the creditworthiness standards established by the Fund's Adviser ("Qualified Institutions"). The Adviser will monitor the continued creditworthiness of Qualified Institutions. The resale price reflects the purchase price plus an agreed upon market rate of interest which is unrelated to the coupon rate or date of maturity of the purchased security. The collateral is marked to market daily. Such agreements permit the Fund to keep all its assets earning interest while retaining "overnight" flexibility in pursuit of investments of a longer-term nature.

The use of repurchase agreements involves certain risks. For example, if the seller of securities under a repurchase agreement defaults on its obligation to repurchase the underlying securities, as a result of its bankruptcy or otherwise, the Fund will seek to dispose of such securities, which action could involve costs or delays. If the seller becomes insolvent and subject to liquidation or reorganization under applicable bankruptcy or other laws, the Fund's ability to dispose of the underlying securities may be restricted. Finally, it is possible that the Fund may not be able to substantiate its interest in the underlying securities.

To minimize this risk, the securities underlying the repurchase agreement will be held by the Fund's custodian at all times in an amount at least equal to the repurchase price, including accrued interest. If the seller fails to repurchase the securities, the Fund may suffer a loss to the extent proceeds from the sale of the underlying securities are less than the repurchase price. The Fund will not enter into repurchase agreements of a duration of more than seven days if, taken together with all other illiquid securities in the Fund's portfolio, more than 15% of its net assets would be so invested.

### **Loans of Portfolio Securities**

To increase income, the Fund may lend its portfolio securities to securities broker-dealers or financial institutions if (1) the loan is collateralized in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements including collateralization continuously at no less than 100% by marking to market daily, (2) the loan is subject to termination by the Fund at any time, (3) the Fund receives reasonable interest or fee payments on the loan, (4) the Fund is able to exercise all voting rights with respect to the loaned securities, and (5) the loan will not cause the value of all loaned securities to exceed 33 1/3% of the value of the Fund's assets.

If the borrower fails to maintain the requisite amount of collateral, the loan automatically terminates and the Fund could use the collateral to replace the securities while holding the borrower liable for any excess of replacement cost over the value of the collateral. As with any extension of credit, there are risks of

delay in recovery and in some cases even loss of rights in collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially. In addition, all investments made with collateral received are subject to the risks associated with such investments. If such investments lose value, the Fund will have to cover the loss when repaying the collateral.

Generally, the borrower will be required to make payments to the Fund in lieu of any dividends the Fund would have otherwise received had it not loaned the shares to the borrower. Any such payments, however, will not be treated as "qualified dividend income" for purposes of determining what portion of the Fund's dividends received by individuals may be taxed at the rates generally applicable to long-term capital gains (see "Dividends, Distributions, and Taxes" below).

### **Borrowing**

The Fund does not borrow money except for (1) short-term credits from banks as may be necessary for the clearance of portfolio transactions and (2) borrowings from banks for temporary or emergency purposes, including meeting redemption requests, which would otherwise require the untimely disposition of its portfolio securities. Borrowing will not, in the aggregate, exceed 15% of the Fund's total assets after giving effect to the borrowing and borrowing for purposes other than meeting redemptions may not exceed 5% of the value of the Fund's assets after giving effect to the borrowing. The Fund will not make additional investments when borrowings exceed 5% of assets. The Fund may mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate assets to secure such borrowings.

### **Money Market Instruments**

Subject to the Fund's policy of investing at least 80% of its net assets in securities of companies engaged principally in gold-related activities, the Fund may invest in money market instruments. In cases of abnormal market or economic conditions, the Fund may invest up to 100% of its assets in money market instruments for defensive purposes, although the Fund intends to stay invested in securities satisfying its investment objective to the fullest extent practicable. Money market instruments include obligations of the U.S. government and its agencies and instrumentalities, commercial paper (including bank obligations), certificates of deposit (including Eurodollar certificates of deposit), and repurchase agreements. The Fund intends to invest only in short-term and medium-term debt securities that the Adviser believes to be of high quality, *i.e.*, rated in one of the two highest categories by Moody's or S&P or, if unrated, determined to be equivalent in credit quality by the Adviser. For liquidity purposes in meeting redemption requests or paying dividends or expenses, the Fund may also invest its assets in such instruments.

### **Hedging Transactions**

*Futures and Forward Contracts.* The Fund may enter into futures and forward contracts only for certain bona fide hedging, yield enhancement, and risk management purposes. The Fund may enter into futures and forward contracts on precious metals as a hedge against changes in the prices of precious metals held or intended to be acquired by the Fund, but not for speculation or for achieving leverage. The Fund's hedging activities may include purchases of futures and forward contracts as an offset against the effect of anticipated increases in the price of a precious metal which the Fund intends to acquire or sales of futures and forward contracts as an offset against the effect of anticipated declines in the price of precious metals which the Fund owns. Precious metals futures and forward contract prices can be volatile and are influenced principally by changes in spot market prices, which in turn are affected by a variety of political and economic factors. While the correlation between changes in prices of futures and forward contracts and prices of the precious metals being hedged by such contracts has historically been very strong, the correlation may at times be imperfect and even a well conceived hedge may be unsuccessful to some

degree because of market behavior or unexpected precious metals price trends. The Fund may also enter into futures and forward contracts for the purchase or sale of debt securities, debt instruments, or indices of prices thereof, stock index futures, other financial indices, and U.S. government securities.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "CFTC") has eliminated limitations on futures transactions and options thereon by registered investment companies, provided that the investment manager to the registered investment company claims an exclusion from regulation as a commodity pool operator. The Fund is operated by a person who has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" under the Commodity Exchange Act and who is therefore not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under the Commodity Exchange Act. As a result of these CFTC rule changes, the Fund is not restricted in its ability to enter into futures transactions and options thereon under CFTC regulations. The Fund, however, continues to have policies with respect to futures and options thereon. The current view of the staff of the SEC is that a Fund's long and short positions in futures contracts, as well as put and call options on futures written by it, must be collateralized with cash or other liquid securities and segregated with the Fund's custodian or "covered" in a manner similar to that for covered options on securities and designed to eliminate any potential leveraging (See "Asset Coverage for Forward Contracts, Options, Futures, and Options on Futures" below).

A "sale" of a futures contract (or a "short" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to deliver the securities underlying the contract at a specified price at a specified future time. A "purchase" of a futures contract (or a "long" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to acquire the securities underlying the contract at a specified price at a specified future time.

Certain futures contracts are settled on a net cash payment basis rather than by the sale and delivery of the securities underlying the futures contracts. U.S. futures contracts have been designed by exchanges that have been designated as "contract markets" by the CFTC, and must be executed through a futures commission merchant (*i.e.*, a brokerage firm) which is a member of the relevant contract market. Futures contracts trade on these contract markets and the exchange's affiliated clearing organization guarantees performance of the contracts between the clearing members of the exchange.

The Fund may also purchase and write covered call or put options on precious metals futures contracts. Such options would be purchased solely for hedging purposes. Call options might be purchased to hedge against an increase in the price of precious metals the Fund intends to acquire, and put options may be purchased to hedge against a decline in the price of precious metals owned by the Fund. As is the case with futures contracts, options on precious metals futures may facilitate the Fund's acquisition of precious metals or permit the Fund to defer disposition of precious metals for tax or other purposes.

These contracts entail certain risks, including but not limited to the following: no assurance that futures contracts transactions can be offset at favorable prices, possible reduction of the Fund's yield due to the use of hedging, possible reduction in value of both the securities hedged and the hedging instrument, possible lack of liquidity due to daily limits on price fluctuation, imperfect correlation between the contracts and the securities being hedged, and potential losses in excess of the amount invested in the futures contracts themselves.

### **Asset Coverage For Forward Contracts, Options, Futures, And Options On Futures**

The Fund will comply with guidelines established by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") with respect to coverage of forward currency contracts; options written by the Fund on currencies, securities and indexes; and currency, interest rate and index futures contracts and options on these futures contracts. These guidelines may, in certain instances, require segregation by the Fund of

cash or liquid securities with its custodian to the extent the Fund's obligations with respect to these strategies are not otherwise "covered" through ownership of the underlying security, financial instrument or currency or by other portfolio positions or by other means consistent with applicable regulatory policies. Segregated assets cannot be sold or transferred unless equivalent assets are substituted in their place or it is no longer necessary to segregate them. As a result, there is a possibility that segregation of a large percentage of the Fund's assets could impede portfolio management or the Fund's ability to meet redemption requests or other current obligations. For example, a call option written by the Fund on securities may require the Fund to hold the securities subject to the call (or securities convertible into the securities without additional consideration) or to segregate assets (as described above) sufficient to purchase and deliver the securities if the call is exercised. A call option written by the Fund on an index may require the Fund to own portfolio securities that correlate with the index or to segregate assets (as described above) equal to the excess of the index value over the exercise price on a current basis. A put option written by the Fund may require the Fund to segregate assets (as described above) equal to the exercise price. The Fund could purchase a put option if the strike price of that option is the same or higher than the strike price of a put option sold by the Fund. If the Fund holds a futures or forward contract, the Fund could purchase a put option on the same futures or forward contract with a strike price as high or higher than the price of the contract held. The Fund may enter into fully or partially offsetting transactions so that its net position, coupled with any segregated assets (equal to any remaining obligation), equals its net obligation. Asset coverage may be achieved by other means when consistent with applicable regulatory policies.

### **Currency Transactions**

The Fund may enter into various currency transactions, including forward foreign currency contracts, currency swaps, foreign currency or currency index futures contracts, and put and call options on such contracts or on currencies. A forward foreign currency contract involves an obligation to purchase or sell a specific currency for a set price at a future date. A currency swap is an arrangement whereby each party exchanges one currency for another on a particular day and agrees to reverse the exchange on a later date at a specific exchange rate. Forward foreign currency contracts and currency swaps are established in the interbank market conducted directly between currency traders (usually large commercial banks or other financial institutions) on behalf of their customers. Futures contracts are similar to forward contracts except that they are traded on an organized exchange and the obligations thereunder may be offset by taking an equal but opposite position to the original contract, with profit or loss determined by the relative prices between the opening and offsetting positions. The Fund expects to enter into these currency contracts and swaps in primarily the following circumstances: to "lock in" the U.S. dollar equivalent price of a security the Fund is contemplating to buy or sell that is denominated in a non-U.S. currency; or to protect against a decline against the U.S. dollar of the currency of a particular country to which the Fund's portfolio has exposure. The Fund anticipates seeking to achieve the same economic result by utilizing from time to time for such hedging a currency different from the one of the given portfolio security as long as, in the view of the Adviser, such currency is essentially correlated to the currency of the relevant portfolio security based on historic and expected exchange rate patterns.

The Adviser may choose to use such instruments on behalf of the Fund depending upon market conditions prevailing and the perceived instrument needs of the Fund. The swap market has grown substantially in recent years with a large number of banks and investment banking firms acting both as principals and as agents utilizing standardized swap documentation. As a result, the swap market has become relatively broad and deep as compared to the markets for similar instruments which are established in the interbank market. In accordance with the current position of the SEC, the Fund will treat swap transactions as illiquid for purposes of the Fund's policy regarding illiquid securities. Futures contracts, interest rate swaps, and options on securities, indices and futures contracts and certain currency contracts sold by the Fund are generally subject to segregation and coverage requirements with the result

that, if the Fund does not hold the security or futures contract underlying the instrument, the Fund will be required to segregate on an ongoing basis with its custodian, cash, U.S. government securities, or other high grade liquid debt obligations in an amount at least equal to the Fund's obligations with respect to such instruments. Such amounts fluctuate as the obligations increase or decrease in value. The segregation requirement can result in the Fund maintaining securities positions it would otherwise liquidate or segregating assets at a time when it might be disadvantageous to do so.

### **Portfolio Turnover**

The investment policies of the Fund may lead to frequent changes in investments, particularly in periods of rapidly fluctuating interest or currency exchange rates. The portfolio turnover may be higher than that of other investment companies. While it is impossible to predict with certainty the portfolio turnover, the Adviser expects that the annual turnover rate of the Fund will not exceed 75%. Portfolio turnover generally involves some expense to the Fund, including brokerage commissions or dealer mark-ups and other transaction costs on the sale of securities and reinvestment in other securities. The portfolio turnover rate is computed by dividing the lesser of the amount of the securities purchased or securities sold by the average monthly value of securities owned during the year (excluding securities whose maturities at acquisition were one year or less). Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year, as well as within a year. For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007, and 2008, the turnover rates were 10% and 12%, respectively.

### **INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The Fund's investment objective and the following investment restrictions are fundamental and cannot be changed without the approval of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") as the lesser of (1) 67% of the Fund's voting securities present at a meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities are represented in person or by proxy or (2) more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding voting securities. All other investment policies or practices are considered not to be fundamental and accordingly may be changed without shareholder approval. If a percentage holdings restriction on investment or the use of assets set forth below is adhered to at the time the transaction is effected, later changes in percentage resulting from changing market values or total assets of the Fund will not be considered a deviation from policy. Under such restrictions, the Fund may not:

- (1) issue senior securities, except that the Fund may borrow money from a bank, including on margin if margin securities are owned, in an amount up to 33 1/3% of its total assets (including the amount of such enumerated senior securities issued but excluding any liabilities and indebtedness not constituting senior securities) and except that the Fund may borrow up to an additional 5% of its total assets for temporary purposes; or pledge its assets other than to secure such issuances or in connection with hedging transactions, short sales, when-issued and forward commitment transactions and similar investment strategies;
- (2) make loans of money or property to any person, except through loans of portfolio securities, the purchase of fixed income securities or the acquisition of securities subject to repurchase agreements;
- (3) underwrite the securities of other issuers, except to the extent that in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities or the sale of its own shares the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter;
- (4) invest for the purpose of exercising control over management of any company;

(5) purchase real estate or interests therein, including limited partnerships that invest primarily in real estate equity interests, other than publicly traded real estate investment trusts and publicly traded master limited partnership interests; or

(6) purchase or sell commodities or commodity contracts except for certain bona fide hedging, yield enhancement and risk management purposes or invest in any oil, gas, or mineral interests, provided that the Fund may invest in bullion.

In addition, as a diversified investment company, the Fund is subject to the following limitations as to 75% of its total assets: (a) the Fund may not invest more than 5% of its total assets in the securities of any one issuer, except obligations of the U.S. government and its agencies and instrumentalities, and (b) the Fund may not own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer.

### **PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION**

Employees of the Adviser and its affiliates will often have access to information concerning the portfolio holdings of the Fund. The Fund and the Adviser have adopted policies and procedures that require all employees to safeguard proprietary information of the Fund, which includes information relating to the Fund's portfolio holdings as well as portfolio trading activity of the Adviser with respect to the Fund (collectively, "Portfolio Holdings Information"). In addition, the Fund and the Adviser have adopted policies and procedures providing that Portfolio Holdings Information may not be disclosed except to the extent that it is (a) made available to the general public by posting on the Fund's website or filed as part of a required filing on Form N-Q or N-CSR or (b) provided to a third party for legitimate business purposes or regulatory purposes, which has agreed to keep such data confidential under terms approved by the Adviser's legal department or outside counsel, as described below. The Adviser will examine each situation under (b) with a view to determine that release of the information is in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders and, if a potential conflict between the Adviser's interests and the Fund's interests arises, to have such conflict resolved by the Chief Compliance Officer or those Directors who are not considered to be "interested persons," as defined in the 1940 Act (the "Independent Directors"). These policies further provide that no officer of the Fund or employee of the Adviser shall communicate with the media about the Fund without obtaining the advance consent of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, or General Counsel of the Adviser.

Under the foregoing policies, the Fund currently may disclose Portfolio Holdings Information in the circumstances outlined below. Disclosure generally may be either on a monthly or quarterly basis with no time lag in some cases and with a time lag of up to 60 days in other cases (with the exception of proxy voting services which require a regular download of data):

(1) To regulatory authorities in response to requests for such information and with the approval of the Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund;

(2) To mutual fund rating and statistical agencies and to persons performing similar functions where there is a legitimate business purpose for such disclosure and such entity has agreed to keep such data confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser;

(3) To service providers of the Fund, as necessary for the performance of their services to the Fund and to the Board, where such entity has agreed to keep such data confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser. The Fund's current service providers that may receive

such information are its administrator, sub-administrator, custodian, independent registered public accounting firm, legal counsel, and financial printers;

(4) To firms providing proxy voting and other proxy services provided such entity has agreed to keep such data confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser;

(5) To certain broker-dealers, investment advisers, and other financial intermediaries for purposes of their performing due diligence on the Fund and not for dissemination of this information to their clients or use of this information to conduct trading for their clients. Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings Information in these circumstances requires the broker, dealer, investment adviser, or financial intermediary to agree to keep such information confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser and is further subject to prior approval of the Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund and shall be reported to the Board at the next quarterly meeting; and

(6) To consultants for purposes of performing analysis of the Fund, which analysis may be used by the consultant with its clients or disseminated to the public, provided that such entity shall have agreed to keep such information confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser.

As of the date of this SAI, the Fund makes information about its portfolio securities available to its administrator, sub-administrator, custodian, and proxy voting services on a daily basis, with no time lag, to its typesetter on a quarterly basis with a ten day time lag, to its financial printers on a quarterly basis with a forty five day time lag, and to its independent registered public accounting firm and legal counsel on an as needed basis with no time lag. The names of the Fund's administrator, custodian, independent registered public accounting firm, and legal counsel are set forth in this SAI. The Fund's proxy voting service is Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. Bowne & Co., Inc. provides typesetting services for the Fund, and the Fund selects from a number of financial printers who have agreed to keep such information confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser.

Other than these arrangements with the Fund's service providers and proxy voting service, the Fund has no ongoing arrangements to make available information about the Fund's portfolio securities prior to such information being disclosed in a publicly available filing with the SEC that is required to include the information.

Disclosures made pursuant to a confidentiality agreement are subject to periodic confirmation by the Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund that the recipient has utilized such information solely in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Neither the Fund, nor the Adviser, nor any of the Adviser's affiliates, will accept on behalf of themselves, their affiliates, or the Fund any compensation or other consideration in connection with the disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Fund. The Board will review such arrangements annually with the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer.

## **DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

Under Maryland law, the Fund's Board is responsible for establishing the Fund's policies and for overseeing the management of the Fund. The Board also elects the Fund's officers who conduct the daily business of the Fund. Information pertaining to the Directors and executive officers of the Fund is set forth below.

<b>Name, Position(s) Address<sup>1</sup> And Age</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Director<sup>3</sup></b>
<b><u>INTERESTED DIRECTORS<sup>4</sup>:</u></b>				
<b>Mario J. Gabelli</b> Chairman of the Board and Director Age: 66	Since 1994	26	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GAMCO Investors, Inc. and Chief Investment Officer – Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc.; Director/Trustee or Chief Investment Officer of other registered Investment Companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GGCP, Inc.	Director of Morgan Group Holdings, Inc. (holding company); Chairman of the Board of LICT Corp. (multimedia and communication services company); Director of CIBL, Inc. (broadcasting and wireless communications)
<b><u>INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS<sup>5</sup>:</u></b>				
<b>E. Val Cerutti</b> Director Age: 69	Since 1994	7	Chief Executive Officer of Cerutti Consultants, Inc.	Director of The LGL Group, Inc. (diversified manufacturing)
<b>Anthony J. Colavita</b> Director Age: 73	Since 1994	36	President of the law firm of Anthony J. Colavita, P.C.	—
<b>Werner J. Roeder, MD</b> Director Age: 68	Since 1994	22	Medical Director of Lawrence Hospital and practicing private physician	—
<b>Anthonie C. van Ekris</b> Director Age: 74	Since 1994	20	Chairman of BALMAC International, Inc. (commodities and futures trading)	—

<b>Name, Position(s) Address<sup>1</sup> And Age</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Director<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Salvatore J. Zizza</b> Director Age: 63	Since 2004	28	Chairman of Zizza & Company Ltd. (consulting)	Director of Hollis-Eden Pharmaceuticals (biotechnology) and Earl Scheib Inc. (automotive services)
<b>Daniel E. Zucchi</b> Director Age: 68	Since 1994	1	President of Daniel E. Zucchi Associates (consulting); Formerly Senior Vice President and Director of Consumer Marketing of Hearst Magazine (multimedia communications) (through 1995)	—

<b>Name, Position(s) Address<sup>1</sup> And Age</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</b>
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**OFFICERS:**

<b>Caesar M.P. Bryan</b> Chief Investment Officer Age: 54	Since 1994	Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager of GAMCO Asset Management Inc.
<b>Bruce N. Alpert</b> President and Secretary Age: 57	Since 1994	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 1988 and an officer of all of the registered investment companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds complex; President of Teton Advisors, Inc. (formerly Gabelli Advisers, Inc.), 1998 through 2008; Chairman of Teton Advisors, Inc., since 2008; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2008.
<b>Agnes Mullady</b> Treasurer Age: 50	Since 2006	Vice President of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 2007; Officer of all of the registered investment companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds complex; Senior Vice President of U.S. Trust Company, N.A. and Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of Excelsior Funds from 2004 through 2005; Chief Financial Officer of AMIC Distribution Partners from 2002 through 2004.

<b>Name, Position(s) Address<sup>1</sup> And Age</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>2</sup></b>	<b><u>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</u></b>
<b>Peter D. Goldstein</b> Chief Compliance Officer Age: 56	Since 2004	Director of Regulatory Affairs at GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2004; Chief Compliance Officer of all of the registered investment companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds complex; Vice President of Goldman Sachs Asset Management from 2000 through 2004.

<sup>1</sup> Address: One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup> Each Director will hold office for an indefinite term until the earliest of (i) the next meeting of shareholders, if any, called for the purpose of considering the election or re-election of such Director and until the election and qualification of his or her successor, if any, elected at such meeting, or (ii) the date a Director resigns or retires, or a Director is removed by the Board or shareholders, in accordance with the Fund's By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation. Each officer will hold office for an indefinite term or until the date he or she resigns or retires or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

<sup>3</sup> This column includes only directorships of companies required to report to the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (*i.e.*, public companies), or other investment companies registered under the 1940 Act.

<sup>4</sup> "Interested person" of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act. Mr. Gabelli is considered to be an "interested person" because of his affiliation with the Adviser.

<sup>5</sup> Those Directors who are not considered to be "interested persons", as defined in the 1940 Act.

## **Standing Board Committees**

The Board has established three standing committees in connection with their governance of the Fund - Audit, Nominating and Proxy Voting. The Fund does not have a standing compensation committee.

The Fund's Audit Committee consists of three members: Messrs. Colavita (Chairman), Roeder and Zizza, who are Independent Directors of the Fund. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a Charter that was most recently reviewed and approved by the Board of the Fund on February 25, 2009. As set forth in the Charter, the function of the Audit Committee is oversight; it is management's responsibility to maintain appropriate systems for accounting and internal control and it is the independent registered public accounting firm's responsibility to plan and carry out a proper audit. The Audit Committee is generally responsible for reviewing and evaluating issues related to the accounting and financial reporting policies and practices of the Fund, its internal controls, and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers, overseeing the quality and objectivity of the Fund's financial statements and the audit thereof and to act as a liaison between the Board and the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Audit Committee met twice.

The Fund's Nominating Committee consists of two members: Messrs. Colavita (Chairman) and Roeder, who are both Independent Directors of the Fund. The Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting and recommending qualified candidates to the full Board in the event that a position is vacated or created. The Nominating Committee would consider, under procedures adopted by the Board, recommendations by shareholders if a vacancy were to exist. Such recommendations should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Fund. The Nominating Committee did not meet during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

The Proxy Voting Committee consists of three members: Messrs. Roeder (Chairman), Colavita, and van Ekris, who are Independent Directors of the Fund. Under certain circumstances and pursuant to specific procedures and guidelines, the Proxy Voting Committee will, in place of the Fund's Adviser, exercise complete control and discretion over the exercise of all rights to vote or consent with respect to certain

securities owned by the Fund. The Proxy Voting Committee meets periodically on an as needed basis to consider such matters and did not meet during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

### Director Ownership of Fund Shares

Set forth in the table below is the dollar range of equity securities in the Fund beneficially owned by each Director and the aggregate dollar range of equity securities in the Fund complex beneficially owned by each Director as of December 31, 2008.

<u>Name of Director</u>	<u>Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held in the Fund*</u>	<u>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held in Fund Complex*</u>
<b><u>Interested Directors:</u></b>		
Mario J. Gabelli	E	E
<b><u>Independent Directors:</u></b>		
E. Val Cerutti**	A	E
Anthony J. Colavita**	C	E
Werner J. Roeder	A	E
Anthonie C. van Ekris**	C	E
Salvatore J. Zizza	A	E
Daniel E. Zucchi	A	E

\* Key to Dollar Ranges- Information as of December 31, 2008

- A. None
- B. \$1 – \$10,000
- C. \$10,001 – \$50,000
- D. \$50,001 – \$100,000
- E. Over \$100,000

\*\* Messrs. E. Val Cerutti, Anthony J. Colavita and Anthonie C. van Ekris each beneficially own less than 1% of the common stock of The LGL Group, Inc, having a value of \$3,481, \$2,601 and \$3,120, respectively, as of December 31, 2008. Anthonie C. van Ekris beneficially owns less than 1% of the common stock of LICT Corp. having a value of \$60,624 as of December 31, 2008. Mr. van Ekris beneficially owns 24 shares of CIBL Inc. having no stated value as of December 31, 2008. The LGL Group, Inc., LICT Corp., and CIBL Inc. may be deemed to be controlled by Mario J. Gabelli and affiliated persons and in that event would be deemed to be under common control with the Fund’s Adviser.

### Director And Officer Compensation

No director, officer, or employee of Gabelli & Company, Inc., the Fund’s distributor (the “Distributor”) or the Adviser receives any compensation from the Fund for serving as an officer or Director of the Fund. If total net assets of the Fund are in excess of \$100,000,000, the Fund pays each of its Directors who are not a director, officer, or employee of the Adviser or any of its affiliates, \$6,000 per annum plus \$1,000 per meeting attended in person and \$500 per meeting attended by telephone. If total net assets of the Fund are below \$100,000,000, the Fund pays each of its Directors who is not a director, officer, or employee of the Adviser or any of its affiliates, \$1,000 per annum plus \$500 per meeting attended in person and \$250 per meeting attended by telephone. Each member of the Audit Committee, Nominating Committee and

Proxy Voting Committee is paid \$500 per meeting attended in person or by telephone. The Audit Committee Chairman and the Lead Director each receive \$1,000 per annum. A Director may receive a single meeting fee, allocated among the participating funds, for participation in certain special meetings or committee meetings on behalf of multiple funds. Directors are reimbursed for related travel and other out-of-pocket expenses regardless of the amount of total net assets held in the Fund.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the compensation of the Fund's Directors. No executive officer or person affiliated with the Fund received compensation in excess of \$60,000 from the Fund for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

## COMPENSATION TABLE

### Aggregate Compensation from Registrant (Fiscal Year)

Name of Person and Position	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund	Total Compensation from the Fund and Fund Complex*
<b>Interested Directors:</b>		
Mario J. Gabelli Chairman of the Board	\$0	\$0 (26)
<b>Independent Directors:</b>		
E. Val Cerutti Director	\$7,500	\$30,500 (7)
Anthony J. Colavita Director	\$9,500	\$251,034 (36)
Werner J. Roeder, M.D. Director	\$8,500	\$109,500 (23)
Anthonie C. van Ekris Director	\$7,500	\$114,500 (20)
Salvatore J. Zizza Director	\$9,063	\$187,326 (27)
Daniel E. Zucchi Director	\$7,500	\$7,500 (1)

\* Represents the total compensation paid to such persons during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. The parenthetical number represents the number of investment companies (including the Fund) or portfolios thereof from which such person receives compensation and which are considered part of the same "fund complex" as the Fund because they have common or affiliated investment advisers.

### Code Of Ethics

The Fund, its Adviser and the Distributor have adopted a code of ethics (the "Code of Ethics") under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. The Code of Ethics permits personnel, subject to the Code of Ethics and its restrictive provisions, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund.

### Proxy Voting Policies

The Fund has delegated the voting of portfolio securities to the Adviser. The Adviser has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures (the "Proxy Voting Policy") for the voting of proxies on behalf of client accounts for which the Adviser has voting discretion, including the Fund. Under the Proxy Voting Policy, portfolio securities held by the Fund are to be voted in the best interests of the Fund.

Normally, the Adviser exercises proxy voting discretion on particular types of proposals in accordance with guidelines (the "Proxy Guidelines") set forth in the Proxy Voting Policy. The Proxy Guidelines address, for example, proposals to elect the board of directors, to classify the board of directors, to select the independent registered public accounting firm, to issue blank check preferred stock, to use confidential ballots, to eliminate cumulative voting, to require shareholder ratification of poison pills, to support fair price provisions, to require a supermajority shareholder vote for charter or bylaw amendments, to provide for director and officer indemnification and liability protection, to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock, to allow greenmail, to limit shareholders' rights to call special meetings, to consider the non-financial effects of a merger, to limit shareholders' right to act by written consent, to approve executive and director compensation plans (including golden parachutes), to limit executive and director pay, to approve stock option plans, to opt in or out of state takeover statutes, and to approve mergers, acquisitions, corporate restructuring, spin-offs, buyouts, assets sales, or liquidations.

A Proxy Voting Committee comprised of senior representatives of the Adviser and its affiliated investment advisers has the responsibility for the content, interpretation and application of the Proxy Guidelines. In general, the Director of Proxy Voting Services using the Proxy Guidelines, recommendations of Institutional Shareholder Services' Corporate Governance Services, Inc. ("ISS"), and its Corporate Governance Services, other third-party services and the analysts of the Distributor, will determine how to vote on each issue. For non-controversial matters, the Director of Proxy Voting Services may vote the proxy if the vote is (1) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer's board of directors and not contrary to the Proxy Guidelines; (2) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer's board of directors and is a non-controversial issue not covered by the Proxy Guidelines; or (3) the vote is contrary to the recommendations of the issuer's board of directors but is consistent with the Proxy Guidelines.

All matters identified by the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services, or the Adviser's Legal Department as controversial, taking into account the recommendations of ISS or other third party services and the analysts of the Distributor, Inc., will be presented to the Proxy Voting Committee. If the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Adviser's Legal Department has identified the matter as one that: (1) is controversial; (2) would benefit from deliberation by the Proxy Voting Committee; or (3) may give rise to a conflict of interest between the Adviser and its clients, the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee will initially determine what vote to recommend that the Adviser should cast and the matter will go before the Proxy Voting Committee.

For matters submitted to the Proxy Voting Committee, each member of the Proxy Voting Committee will receive, prior to the meeting, a copy of the proxy statement, any relevant third party research, a summary of any views provided by the Chief Investment Officer and any recommendations by the Distributor's analysts. The Chief Investment Officer or the Distributor's analysts may be invited to present their viewpoints. If the Adviser's Legal Department believes that the matter before the Proxy Voting Committee is one with respect to which a conflict of interest may exist between the Adviser and its clients, legal counsel will provide an opinion to the Proxy Voting Committee concerning the conflict. If legal counsel advises that the matter is one in which the interests of the clients of the Adviser may diverge, the Proxy Voting Committee may make different recommendations as to different clients. For any matters where the recommendation may trigger appraisal rights, counsel will advise concerning the likely risks and merits of such an appraisal action.

Where a proxy proposal raises a material conflict between the interests of the Fund's shareholders on the one hand, and those of the Fund's Adviser and/or the principal underwriters, on the other hand, the conflict will be brought to the Proxy Voting Committee of the Fund to determine a resolution. The Proxy

Voting Committee may determine to resolve any such conflict itself, may ask the Independent Directors of the Fund to vote the proxies, which would include the Proxy Voting Committee, or may delegate the voting of such proxies to an independent person.

Each matter submitted to the Proxy Voting Committee will be determined by the vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting. Should the vote concerning one or more recommendations be tied in a vote of the Proxy Voting Committee, the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee will break the tie. The Proxy Voting Committee will notify the proxy department of its decisions and the proxies will be voted accordingly.

The Fund filed Form N-PX with the Fund's complete proxy voting record for the 12 months ended June 30, 2008. This filing for the Fund is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free (800) 422-3554 and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

As of April 8, 2009, the following persons owned of record or beneficially 5% or more of the Fund's outstanding shares:

NAME AND ADDRESS	% OF CLASS	NATURE OF OWNERSHIP
<b>CLASS AAA</b>		
National Financial Serv. Corp. For the Exclusive Benefit of our Customers Millburn, NJ 07041-1631	36.12%*	Beneficial
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Special Custody Acct. FBO Exclusive Benefit of Customers San Francisco, CA 94104-4151	25.08%*	Beneficial
Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. New York, NY 10001-2402	6.10%	Beneficial
<b>CLASS A</b>		
Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. Owings Mills, MD 21117-3256	35.71%*	Beneficial
NFS LLC. Merrill, WI 54452-8780	19.69%	Beneficial
MS & Co. JPBC Associates, LLC. Greenwich, CT 06830-4830	8.27%	Beneficial
<b>CLASS B</b>		
UBS Financial Services, Inc. South Burlington, VT 05403-5604	5.52%*	Beneficial

## CLASS C

Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. Owings Mills, MD 21117-3256	20.57%	Beneficial
Charles Schwab & Co Inc. Special Custody Account FBO Customers San Francisco, CA 94104-4151	12.38%	Beneficial

## CLASS I

Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. Owings Mills, MD 21117-3256	52.01%*	Beneficial
Bisys Retirement Services FBO Gabelli Funds 401(K) Profit Sharing Denver, CO 80202-3531	36.71%*	Record
Bisys Retirement Services FBO Central Utah Telephone, Inc 401(K) Profit Sharing Denver, CO 80202-3531	8.67%	Record

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\* Beneficial ownership is disclaimed. Beneficial ownership of the shares representing 25% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund may be deemed to represent control, as that term is defined in the 1940 Act.

As of April 8, 2009, as a group, the Directors and officers of the Fund owned 1.43% of the Fund's equity securities.

## INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

### Investment Adviser

The Adviser is a New York limited liability company with principal offices located at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422. The Adviser was organized in 1999 and is the successor to Gabelli Funds, Inc., which was organized in 1980. The Adviser is a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Mr. Mario J. Gabelli may be deemed a "controlling person" of the Adviser based on his controlling interest in GAMCO Investors, Inc. ("GBL"), the parent company of the Adviser. The Adviser and several of its affiliates provide investment advisory services. As of December 31, 2008, the Adviser acted as registered investment adviser to 26 management investment companies with aggregate net assets of \$11.4 billion. The Adviser, together with the other affiliated investment advisers noted below had assets under management totaling approximately \$20.7 billion as of December 31, 2008. GAMCO Asset Management Inc. ("GAMCO"), an affiliate of the Adviser, acts as investment adviser for individuals, pension trusts, profit sharing trusts and endowments, and as a sub adviser to management investment companies, having aggregate assets of \$8.5 billion under management as of December 31, 2008. Gabelli Securities, Inc., an affiliate of the Adviser, acts as investment adviser for investment partnerships and entities having aggregate assets of approximately

\$295 million as of December 31, 2008. Gabelli Fixed Income LLC, an affiliate of the Adviser, acts as investment adviser for separate accounts having aggregate assets of approximately \$22 million under management as of December 31, 2008. Teton Advisors, Inc., an affiliate of the Adviser, acts as investment manager to The GAMCO Westwood Funds having aggregate assets of approximately \$450 million under management as of December 31, 2008. Each of the foregoing companies is a subsidiary of GBL.

Affiliates of the Adviser may, in the ordinary course of their business, acquire for their own account or for the accounts of their advisory clients, significant (and possibly controlling) positions in the securities of companies that may also be suitable for investment by the Fund. The securities in which the Fund might invest may thereby be limited to some extent. For instance, many companies in the past several years have adopted so-called “poison pill” or other defensive measures designed to discourage or prevent the completion of non-negotiated offers for control of the company. Such defensive measures may have the effect of limiting the shares of the company which might otherwise be acquired by the Fund if the affiliates of the Adviser or their advisory accounts have or acquire a significant position in the same securities. However, the Adviser does not believe that the investment activities of its affiliates will have a material adverse effect upon the Fund in seeking to achieve its investment objectives. Securities purchased or sold pursuant to contemporaneous orders entered on behalf of the investment company accounts of the Adviser or the advisory accounts managed by its affiliates for their unaffiliated clients are allocated pursuant to principles believed to be fair and not disadvantageous to any such accounts. In addition, all such orders are accorded priority of execution over orders entered on behalf of accounts in which the Adviser or its affiliates have a substantial pecuniary interest. The Adviser may on occasion give advice or take action with respect to other clients that differs from the actions taken with respect to the Fund. The Fund may invest in the securities of companies which are investment management clients of GAMCO. In addition, portfolio companies or their officers or directors may be minority shareholders of the Adviser or its affiliates.

The Adviser currently serves as an investment adviser to the Fund pursuant to an Investment Advisory Contract (the “Contract”), which was initially approved by the Fund’s sole shareholder on June 15, 1994. Pursuant to the Contract, the Adviser furnishes a continuous investment program for the Fund’s portfolio, makes the day-to-day investment decisions for the Fund, arranges the portfolio transactions of the Fund, and generally manages the Fund’s investments in accordance with the stated policies of the Fund, subject to the general supervision of the Board.

Under the Contract, the Adviser also (i) provides the Fund with the services of persons competent to perform such supervisory, administrative, and clerical functions as are necessary to provide effective administration of the Fund, including maintaining certain books and records and overseeing the activities of the Fund’s Custodian and Transfer Agent; (ii) oversees the performance of administrative and professional services to the Fund by others, including PFPC Inc., the Fund’s Custodian, Transfer Agent, and Dividend Disbursing Agent, as well as accounting, auditing and other services performed for the Fund; (iii) provides the Fund with adequate office space and facilities; (iv) prepares, but does not pay for, the periodic updating of the Fund’s registration statement, Prospectuses and SAI, including the printing of such documents for the purpose of filings with the SEC and state securities administrators, the Fund’s tax returns, and reports to the Fund’s shareholders and the SEC; (v) supervises the calculation of the NAV of each class of shares in the Fund; (vi) supervises the preparation of, but does not pay for, all filings under the securities or “Blue Sky” laws of such states or countries as are designated by the Distributor, which may be required to register or qualify, or continue the registration or qualification, of the Fund and/or its shares under such laws; and (vii) prepares notices and agendas for meetings of the Fund’s Board and minutes of such meetings in all matters required by applicable law to be acted upon by the Board.

The cost of calculating the Fund’s NAV is an expense payable by the Fund pursuant to the Contract. To the extent that a portion of the sub-administration fee is used to pay for personnel and equipment related to calculating the NAV, the Fund will reimburse the Adviser for such expense up to \$45,000. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Fund reimbursed the Adviser \$45,000 in connection with the cost of computing the Fund’s NAV.

The Contract provides that absent willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of its duty, the Adviser and its employees, officers, directors, and controlling persons are not liable to the Fund or any of its investors for any act or omission by the Adviser or for any error of judgment or for losses sustained by the Fund. However, the Contract provides that the Fund is not waiving any rights it may have with respect to any violation of law which cannot be waived. The Contract also provides indemnification for the Adviser and each of these persons for any conduct for which they are not liable to the Fund. The Contract in no way restricts the Adviser from acting as adviser to others. The Fund has agreed by the terms of the Contract that the word “Gabelli” in its name is derived from the name of the Adviser which in turn is derived from the name of Mario J. Gabelli; that such name is the property of the Adviser for copyright and/or other purposes; and that, therefore, such name may freely be used by the Adviser for other investment companies, entities, or products. The Fund has further agreed that in the event that for any reason the Adviser ceases to be its investment adviser, the Fund will, unless the Adviser otherwise consents in writing, promptly take all steps necessary to change its name to one which does not include “Gabelli”.

By its terms, the Contract will remain in effect from year to year, provided each such annual continuance is specifically approved by the Fund's Board or by a “majority” (as defined in the 1940 Act) vote of its shareholders and, in either case, by a majority vote of the Independent Directors, cast in person at a meeting called specifically for the purpose of voting on the continuance of the Contract. The Contract is terminable without penalty by the Fund on sixty days’ written notice when authorized either by a majority vote of its outstanding voting shares or by a vote of a majority of its Board, or by the Adviser on sixty days’ written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its “assignment” as defined by the 1940 Act.

As compensation for its services and the related expenses borne by the Adviser, the Fund pays the Adviser a fee, computed daily and payable monthly in an amount equal on an annualized basis to 1.00% of the Fund’s average daily net assets.

<b>Advisory Fees Paid to Adviser by the Fund</b>	
(Fiscal years ended December 31)	
2008	\$4,985,547
2007	\$4,589,224
2006	\$4,227,260

## **Portfolio Manager Information**

### **Other Accounts Managed**

The table that follows provides summary information regarding other accounts for which the portfolio manager was primarily responsible for the day-to-day management during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

<u>Name of Portfolio Manager or Team Member</u>	<u>Type of Accounts</u>	<u>Total # of Accounts Managed</u>	<u>Total Assets</u>	<u># of Accounts Managed with Advisory Fee Based on Performance</u>	<u>Total Assets with Advisory Fee Based on Performance</u>
Caesar M.P. Bryan	Registered Investment Companies:	4	\$1.4B	1	\$1.1B
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	2	\$6.0M	2	\$6.0M
	Other Accounts:	8	\$36.0M	0	0

### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when the portfolio manager also has day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to one or more other accounts. These potential conflicts include:

*Allocation of Limited Time and Attention.* Because the portfolio manager manages more than one account, he may not be able to formulate as complete a strategy or identify equally attractive investment opportunities for each of those accounts as if he were to devote substantially more attention to the management of only the Fund.

*Allocation of Limited Investment Opportunities.* If the portfolio manager identifies an investment opportunity that may be suitable for multiple accounts, the Fund may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity because the opportunity may need to be allocated among these accounts or other accounts managed primarily by other portfolio managers of the Adviser and its affiliates.

*Pursuit of Differing Strategies.* At times, the portfolio manager may determine that an investment opportunity may be appropriate for only some of the accounts for which he exercises investment responsibility, or may decide that certain of these accounts should take differing positions with respect to a particular security. In these cases, the portfolio manager may execute differing or opposite transactions for one or more accounts which may affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transactions, or both, to the detriment of one or more other accounts.

*Selection of Broker/Dealers.* A portfolio manager may be able to select or influence the selection of the brokers and dealers that are used to execute securities transactions for the funds or accounts that they supervise. In addition to providing execution of trades, some brokers and dealers provide portfolio managers with brokerage and research services which may result in the payment of higher brokerage fees than might otherwise be available. These services may be more beneficial to certain funds or accounts of the Adviser and its affiliates than to others. Although the payment of brokerage commissions is subject to the requirement that the Adviser determines in good faith that the commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided to the Fund, a portfolio manager's decision as to the selection of brokers and dealers could yield disproportionate costs and benefits among the funds or other accounts that the Adviser and its affiliates manage. In addition, with respect to certain types of accounts (such as pooled investment vehicles and other accounts managed for organizations and individuals) the Adviser may be limited by the client concerning the selection of brokers or may be instructed to direct trades to particular brokers. In these cases, the Adviser or its affiliates may place separate, non-simultaneous transactions in the same security for a Fund and another account that may

temporarily affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of the Fund or the other account.

*Variation in Compensation.* A conflict of interest may arise where the financial or other benefits available to the portfolio manager differ among the accounts that he manages. If the structure of the Adviser's management fee or the portfolio manager's compensation differs among accounts (such as where certain accounts pay higher management fees or performance-based management fees), the portfolio manager may be motivated to favor certain accounts over others. The portfolio manager also may be motivated to favor accounts in which he has an investment interest, or in which the Adviser or its affiliates have investment interests. Similarly, the desire to maintain assets under management or to enhance a portfolio manager's performance record or to derive other rewards, financial or otherwise, could influence the portfolio manager in affording preferential treatment to those accounts that could most significantly benefit the portfolio manager.

The Adviser and the Fund have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are designed to address the various conflicts of interest that may arise for the Adviser and its staff members. However, there is no guarantee that such policies and procedures will be able to detect and address every situation in which an actual or potential conflict may arise.

### **Compensation Structure**

The compensation of portfolio managers in the Gabelli organization is structured to enable it to attract and retain highly qualified professionals in a competitive environment. Mr. Bryan receives a compensation package that includes a minimum draw or base salary, equity-based incentive compensation via awards of stock options, and incentive-based variable compensation based on a percentage of net revenues received by the Adviser for managing the Fund to the extent that the amount exceeds a minimum level of compensation. Net revenues are determined by deducting from gross investment management fees certain of the firm's expenses (other than Mr. Bryan's compensation) allocable to the Fund. This method of compensation is based on the premise that superior long-term performance in managing a portfolio should be rewarded with higher compensation as a result of growth of assets through appreciation and net investment activity. Equity-based incentive compensation is based on an evaluation by the Adviser's parent, GAMCO Investors, Inc., of quantitative and qualitative performance evaluation criteria.

Mr. Bryan's compensation for managing other accounts is based on a percentage of net revenues received by the Adviser for managing the account. Compensation for managing accounts that have a performance-based fee will have two components. One component is based on a percentage of net revenues received by the Adviser for managing the account. The second component is based on absolute performance of the account, with respect to which a percentage of the performance fee is paid to the portfolio manager.

### **Ownership of Shares in the Fund**

Set forth in the table below is the dollar range of equity securities in the Fund beneficially owned by the Fund's portfolio manager:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held in the Fund*</u></b>
Caesar M.P. Bryan	E

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\* Key to Dollar Ranges- Information as of December 31, 2008

- A. None
- B. \$1 – \$10,000
- C. \$10,001 – \$50,000
- D. \$50,001 – \$100,000
- E. \$100,001 - \$500,000
- F. \$500,001 – \$1,000,000
- G. over \$1,000,000

### **Sub-Administrator**

The Adviser has entered into an agreement (the “Sub-Administration Agreement”) with PNC Global Investment Servicing (U.S.) Inc. (the “Sub-Administrator”), which is located at 760 Moore Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406. Under the Sub-Administration Agreement, the Sub-Administrator (a) assists in supervising all aspects of the Fund’s operations except those performed by the Adviser under its advisory agreement with the Fund; (b) supplies the Fund with office facilities (which may be in the Sub-Administrator’s own offices), statistical and research data, data processing services, clerical, accounting and bookkeeping services, including, but not limited to, the calculation of the NAV of each class of the Fund, internal auditing and regulatory administration services, internal executive and administrative services, and stationery and office supplies; (c) prepares and distributes materials for all Fund Board meetings, including the mailing of all Board materials, and collates the same materials into the Board books, and assists in the drafting of minutes of the Board meetings; (d) prepares reports to Fund shareholders, tax returns, and reports to and filings with the SEC and state “Blue Sky” authorities; (e) provides any equipment or services necessary for the purpose of pricing shares or valuing the Fund’s investment portfolio; (f) provides compliance testing of all Fund activities against applicable requirements of the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder, the Code, and the Fund’s investment restrictions; (g) furnishes to the Adviser such statistical and other factual information and information regarding economic factors and trends as the Adviser from time to time may require; and (h) generally provides all administrative services that may be required for the ongoing operation of the Fund in a manner consistent with the requirements of the 1940 Act.

For the services it provides, the Adviser pays the Sub-Administrator an annual fee based on the value of the aggregate average daily net assets of all funds under its administration managed by the Adviser as follows: up to \$10 billion – 0.0275%; \$10 billion to \$15 billion - 0.0125%; over \$15 billion - 0.01%. The Sub-Administrator’s fee is paid by the Adviser and will result in no additional expense to the Fund.

### **Counsel**

Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, 75 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10022, serves as the Fund’s legal counsel.

### **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Ernst & Young LLP (“E&Y”), 2001 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, independent registered public accounting firm, has been selected to audit the Fund’s annual financial statements.

### **Custodian, Transfer Agent, and Dividend Disbursing Agent**

State Street Bank and Trust Company (“State Street”), 225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, is the Custodian for the Fund’s cash and securities. Boston Financial Data Services, Inc. (“BFDS”), an affiliate of State Street located at The BFDS Building, 30 Dan Road, Canton, Massachusetts 02021-2809, performs the shareholder services on behalf of State Street and acts as the Fund’s transfer agent and dividend disbursing agent. Neither BFDS nor State Street assists in or is responsible for investment decisions involving assets of the Fund.

### Distributor

To implement the Fund’s Rule 12b-1 Plans, the Fund has entered into an Amended and Restated Distribution Agreement with Gabelli & Company, Inc. (the “Distributor”), a New York corporation which is an indirect majority owned subsidiary of GBL, having principal offices located at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422. The Distributor acts as agent of the Fund for the continuous offering of its shares on a best efforts basis.

Set forth in the table below are the amounts of sales commissions and underwriting fees on Class A Shares and contingent deferred sales charges (“CDSC”) for Class A, Class B, and Class C Shares received and retained by the Distributor during 2008.

Sales Commissions for the Years Ended December 31, 2008

Gold  Share Class	2006		2007		2008	
	Commissions	Retained by Distributor	Commissions	Retained by Distributor	Commissions	Retained by Distributor
Class A Sales Commissions	\$241,795	\$28,357	\$94,925	\$11,895	\$190,397	\$30,057
Class A CDSCs	Not Applicable	\$0	Not Applicable	\$20	Not Applicable	\$55
Class B CDSCs	Not Applicable	\$10,116	Not Applicable	\$1,650	Not Applicable	\$6,880
Class C CDSCs	Not Applicable	\$4,102	Not Applicable	\$10,579	Not Applicable	\$16,697

Set forth in the table below are the amounts of brokerage commissions and other compensation received by the Distributor during 2008:

Net Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Compensation on Redemptions and Repurchases	Brokerage Commissions	Other Compensation
\$30,057	\$23,632	\$0	\$0

## DISTRIBUTION PLANS

The Fund has adopted separate distribution and service plans (each a “Plan” and collectively the “Plans”) pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act on behalf of each of the Class AAA, Class A, Class B, and Class C Shares. Payments may be made by the Fund under each Plan for the purpose of financing any activity primarily intended to result in the sales of shares of the class to which such Plan relates as determined by the Board. Such activities typically include advertising; compensation for sales and marketing activities of the Distributor and other banks, broker-dealers, and service providers; shareholder account servicing; production and dissemination of prospectuses and sales and marketing materials; and capital or other expenses of associated equipment, rent, salaries, bonuses, interest, and other overhead. To the extent any activity is one which the Fund may finance without a distribution plan, the Fund may also make payments to finance such activity outside of the Plans and not be subject to its limitations. Payments under Plans are not dependent on distribution expenses incurred by the Distributor. The Plans compensate the Distributor regardless of expense, and accordingly, a portion of the payments by the Fund may be used indirectly to finance distribution activities on behalf of other Gabelli/GAMCO funds and a portion of the payments by such other funds may be used to finance distribution activities on behalf of the Fund. The Plans are intended to benefit the Fund, among other things, by supporting the Fund’s distribution, which may increase its assets and thereby reduce the Fund’s expense ratio.

Under its terms, each Plan remains in effect so long as its continuance is specifically approved at least annually by vote of the Fund’s Board, including a majority of the Independent Directors. No Plan may be amended to materially increase the amount to be spent for services provided by the Distributor thereunder without shareholder approval, and all material amendments of any Plan must also be approved by the Board in the manner described above. Each Plan may be terminated at any time, without penalty, by vote of a majority of the Independent Directors, or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act). Under each Plan, the Distributor will provide the Directors with periodic reports of amounts expended under such Plan and the purpose for which such expenditures were made.

Pursuant to each Plan, the Board will review at least quarterly a written report of the distribution expenses incurred on behalf of each class of shares of the Fund by the Distributor. The report includes an itemization of the distribution expenses and the purposes of such expenditures. In addition, as long as the Plans remain in effect, the selection and nomination of Independent Directors shall be limited to the Independent Directors.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Fund incurred distribution costs for Class AAA, Class A, Class B, and Class C Shares of \$1,320,481 payable to the Distributor. The Plans compensate the Distributor regardless of its expense.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Distributor identified expenditures for the Fund of approximately \$4,200 for advertising and promotion, \$28,400 for printing, postage, and stationery, \$5,600 for overhead support expenses, \$140,600 for salaries of personnel of the Distributor, \$26,600 for advanced commissions and \$1,050,900 for third party servicing fees.

Pursuant to the Plans, the Fund paid the Distributor 0.25% of its average daily net assets of Class AAA Shares and Class A Shares and 1.00% of its average daily net assets of Class B Shares and Class C Shares. Due to the possible continuing nature of Rule 12b-1 payments, long-term investors may pay more than the economic equivalent of the maximum front-end sales charge permitted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”). Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, the Fund appoints the Distributor as its general distributor and exclusive agent for the sale of the Fund’s shares. The Fund has

agreed to indemnify the Distributor to the extent permitted by applicable law against certain liabilities under federal securities laws. The Distribution Agreement shall remain in effect from year to year provided that continuance of such agreement shall be approved at least annually by the Fund's Board, including a vote of a majority of the Independent Directors cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Distribution Agreement may be terminated by either party thereto upon 60 days' written notice.

The amounts included in a prior paragraph as third party servicing fees include amounts paid to the providers of various programs that make shares available to their customers. Subject to tax limitations and approvals by the Board, the Fund also makes payments to the providers of these programs, out of its assets other than Rule 12b-1 payments, in amounts not greater than savings of expenses the Fund would incur in maintaining shareholder accounts for those who invest in the Fund directly rather than through these programs. The Adviser and its affiliates may also pay for all or a portion of these program's charges out of their financial resources other than Rule 12b-1 fees.

Class AAA Shares were first offered to the public on July 11, 1994. Class A, Class B, and Class C Shares were first offered to the public on December 27, 2002. Class I Shares were first offered to the public on January 11, 2008.

Shares of the Fund may also be purchased through shareholder agents that are not affiliated with the Fund or the Distributor. There is no sales or service charge imposed by the Fund other than as described in the Prospectus for Class A, Class B, and Class C Shares under the "Classes of Shares" section, but agents who do not receive distribution payments or sales charges may impose a charge to the investor for their services. Such fees may vary among agents, and such agents may impose higher initial or subsequent investment requirements than those established by the Fund. Services provided by broker-dealers may include allowing the investor to establish a margin account and to borrow on the value of the Fund's shares in that account. It is the responsibility of the shareholder's agent to establish procedures which would assure that upon receipt of an order to purchase shares of the Fund the order will be transmitted so that it will be received by the Distributor before the time when the price applicable to the buy order expires.

No Independent Director of the Fund had a direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of any Plan or related agreements. Those interested persons who beneficially own stock in affiliates of the Adviser or the Distributor or are employed by one of the Gabelli companies may be deemed to have an indirect financial interest.

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE**

The Adviser and its affiliates currently serve as investment adviser to a number of investment companies and private account clients and may in the future act as adviser to others. It is the policy of the Adviser and its affiliates to allocate investments suitable and appropriate for each such client in a manner believed by the Adviser to be equitable to each client. In making such allocations among the Fund and other client accounts, the main factors considered are the respective investment objectives, the relative size of portfolio holdings of the same or comparable securities, the availability of cash for investment, the size of investment commitments generally held and the opinions of the persons responsible for managing the portfolios of the Fund and other client accounts.

Under the Contract, the Adviser is authorized on behalf of the Fund to employ brokers to effect the purchase or sale of portfolio securities with the objective of obtaining prompt, efficient, and reliable execution and clearance of such transactions at the most favorable price obtainable ("best execution") at a

reasonable expense. The Adviser is permitted to (1) direct Fund portfolio brokerage to the Distributor, a broker-dealer member of FINRA and an affiliate of the Adviser; and (2) pay commissions to brokers other than the Distributor which are higher than what might be charged by another qualified broker to obtain brokerage and/or research services considered by the Adviser to be useful or desirable for its investment management of the Fund and/or other advisory accounts under the management of the Adviser and any investment adviser affiliated with it. The Adviser does not consider the sales of shares of the Fund or other investment funds managed by the Adviser and its affiliates by brokers, including the Distributor, as a factor in its selection of brokers or dealers for the Fund's portfolio transactions and has adopted compliance policies and procedures for itself and its affiliates to prevent any such transactions on that basis.

Transactions on U.S. stock exchanges involve the payment of negotiated brokerage commissions, which may vary among brokers. Transactions in securities other than those for which a securities exchange is the principal market are generally executed through a principal market maker. However, such transactions may be effected through a brokerage firm and a commission is paid whenever it appears that the broker can obtain a price that is at least as favorable taking into account its commissions. In general, there may be no stated commission on principal transactions in over-the-counter securities, but the prices of such securities usually may include undisclosed commissions or markups. Option transactions will usually be effected through a broker and a commission will be charged. The Fund also expects that securities will be purchased at times in underwritten offerings where the price includes a fixed amount of compensation generally referred to as a concession or discount.

The policy of the Fund regarding purchases and sales of securities and options for its portfolio is that primary consideration will be given to obtaining the most favorable prices and efficient execution of transactions. In seeking to implement the Fund's policies, the Adviser effects transactions with those brokers and dealers who the Adviser believes can obtain the most favorable prices and are capable of providing efficient executions. If the Adviser believes such price and execution are obtainable from more than one broker or dealer, it may give consideration to placing portfolio transactions with those brokers or dealers who also furnish research and other services to the Fund or the Adviser of the type described in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. In doing so, the Fund may also pay higher commission rates than the lowest available when the Adviser believes it is reasonable to do so in light of the value of the brokerage and research services provided by the broker effecting the transaction. Such services may include, but are not limited to, any one or more of the following: information as to the availability of securities for purchase or sale; statistical or factual information or opinions pertaining to investments; wire services; and appraisals or evaluations of potential and existing investments.

Research services furnished by brokers or dealers through which the Fund effects securities transactions are used by the Adviser and its advisory affiliates in carrying out their responsibilities with respect to all of their accounts over which they exercise investment discretion. Such investment information may be useful only to one or more of such other accounts. The purpose of this sharing of research information is to avoid duplicative charges for research provided by brokers and dealers. Neither the Fund nor the Adviser has any agreement or legally binding understanding with any broker or dealer regarding any specific amount of brokerage commissions which will be paid in recognition of such services. However, in determining the amount of portfolio commissions directed to such brokers or dealers, the Adviser does consider the level of services provided and, based on such determinations, has allocated brokerage commissions of \$228,326 on portfolio transactions in the principal amount of \$105,658,513 during 2008. The average commission on these transactions was \$0.01 per share.

Investment research obtained by allocations of Fund brokerage is used to augment the scope and supplement the internal research and investment strategy capabilities of the Adviser but does not reduce the overall expenses of the Adviser to any material extent. Such investment research may be in written

form or through direct contact with individuals and includes information on particular companies and industries as well as market, economic, or institutional activity areas. Research services furnished by brokers through which the Fund effects securities transactions are used by the Adviser and its advisory affiliates in carrying out their responsibilities with respect to all of their accounts over which they exercise investment discretion. Such investment information may be useful only to one or more of the other accounts of the Adviser and its advisory affiliates, and research information received for the commissions of those particular accounts may be useful both to the Fund and one or more of such other accounts.

The Adviser may also place orders for the purchase or sale of portfolio securities with the Distributor when it appears that, as an introducing broker or otherwise, the Distributor can obtain a price, execution, and commission, which is at least as favorable as that obtainable by other qualified brokers and at a commission rate at least as favorable as it provides to its best customers for similar transactions. As required by Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act, the Board has adopted procedures which provide that the commissions paid to the Distributor on brokerage transactions must not exceed those which would have been charged by another qualified broker or member firm able to effect the same or a comparable transaction at an equally favorable price or those the Distributor charges its most favored customers on similar transactions. Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act and the Fund’s procedures contain requirements that the Board, including the Independent Directors, review such commissions and transactions quarterly and procedures at least annually to determine their continuing appropriateness. The Adviser is also required to furnish reports and maintain records in connection with the reviews.

To obtain the best execution of portfolio trades on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”), the Distributor controls and monitors the execution of such transactions on the floor of the NYSE through independent “floor brokers” or the Designated Order Turnaround System of the NYSE. Such transactions are then cleared, confirmed to the Fund for the account of the Distributor, and settled directly with the Custodian of the Fund by a clearing house member firm which remits the commission less its clearing charges to the Distributor. The Distributor may also effect Fund portfolio transactions in the same manner and pursuant to the same arrangements on other national securities exchanges which adopt direct access rules similar to those of the NYSE. In addition, the Distributor may directly execute transactions for the Fund on the floor of any exchange, provided: (i) the Fund’s Board has expressly authorized the Distributor to effect such transactions; and (ii) the Distributor annually advises the Fund of the aggregate compensation it earned on such transactions.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the Fund’s payment of brokerage commissions for fiscal years ended December 31 as indicated:

	Fiscal Year Ended <u>December 31,</u>	Commissions <u>Paid</u>
Total Brokerage Commissions	2006	\$194,684
	2007	\$249,851
	2008	\$273,896
Commissions paid to the Distributor	2006	\$0
	2007	\$0
	2008	\$0
% of Total Brokerage Commissions paid to the Distributor	2008	0%

% of Total Transactions involving Commissions paid to the Distributor	2008	0%
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As of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Fund did not hold securities of its regular broker-dealers or their parents.

### **REDEMPTION OF SHARES**

Payment of the redemption price for shares redeemed may be made either in cash or in portfolio securities (selected at the discretion of the Board of the Fund and taken at their value used in determining the Fund's NAV as described under "Determination of Net Asset Value"), or partly in cash and partly in portfolio securities. However, payments will be made wholly in cash unless the shareholder has redeemed more than \$250,000 over the preceding three months and the Adviser believes that economic conditions exist which would make payments in cash detrimental to the best interests of the Fund. If payment for shares redeemed is made wholly or partly in portfolio securities, brokerage costs may be incurred by the investor in converting the securities to cash. The Fund will not distribute in-kind portfolio securities that are not readily marketable.

Cancellation of purchase orders for Fund shares (as, for example, when checks submitted to purchase shares are returned unpaid) causes a loss to be incurred when the NAV of the Fund shares on the date of cancellation is less than on the original date of purchase. The investor is responsible for such loss, and the Fund may reimburse itself or the Distributor for such loss by automatically redeeming shares from any account registered at any time in that shareholder's name, or by seeking other redress. If the Fund is unable to recover any loss to itself, it is the position of the SEC that the Distributor will be immediately obligated to make the Fund whole.

The Fund imposes a redemption fee of 2.00% of the total redemption amount if you sell or exchange any of your shares within seven (7) days or less after the date of a purchase. The fee, its manner of calculation and exceptions to its applicability are discussed in the Fund's Prospectuses. The fee is not a sales charge (load) and is paid directly to the respective Fund and not the Adviser or Distributor.

### **DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The NAV is calculated separately for each class of the Fund. The NAV of Class B and Class C Shares of the Fund, as applicable, will generally be lower than the NAV of Class A, Class I, or Class AAA Shares, as applicable, as a result of the higher service and distribution-related fees to which Class B and Class C Shares are subject. It is expected, however, that the NAV of each class will tend to converge immediately after the recording of dividends, if any, which will differ by approximately the amount of the distribution and/or service fee expense accrual differential among the classes.

For purposes of determining the Fund's NAV, portfolio securities listed or traded on a nationally recognized securities exchange or traded in the over-the-counter market for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last quoted sale price or a market's official closing price as of the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. If there were no sales that day, the security is valued at the average of the closing bid and asked prices, or, if there were no asked prices quoted on such day, the security is valued at the most recently available bid price on that day. If no bid or asked prices are quoted on such day, the security is valued at the most recently available price, or, if the Board so determines, by such other method as the Board shall determine in good faith, to reflect its fair market value. Portfolio securities traded on more than one national securities exchange or market are valued according to the broadest and most representative market, as determined by the Adviser.

Portfolio securities primarily traded on a foreign market are generally valued at the preceding closing values of such securities on the relevant market, but may be fair valued pursuant to procedures established by the Board if market conditions change significantly after the close of the foreign market but prior to the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. Debt instruments with remaining maturities of 60 days or less that are not credit impaired are valued at amortized cost, unless the Board determines such amount does not reflect the securities fair value, in which case these securities will be valued at their fair value as determined by the Board. Debt instruments having a maturity greater than 60 days for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the average of the latest bid and asked prices. If there were no asked prices quoted on such day, the security is valued using the closing bid price. Futures contracts are valued at the official closing settlement price of the exchange or board of trade on which the applicable contract is traded.

Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available are valued at their fair value as determined in good faith under procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Board. Fair valuation methodologies and procedures may include, but are not limited to: analysis and review of available financial and non-financial information about the company, comparisons to the valuation and changes in valuation of similar securities, including a comparison of foreign securities to the equivalent U.S. dollar value American Depositary Receipts securities at the close of the U.S. exchanges; and evaluation of any other information that could be indicative of the value of the security.

The Fund may obtain valuations on the basis of prices provided by a pricing service approved by the Board. All other investment assets, including restricted and not readily marketable securities, are valued in good faith at fair value under procedures established by and under the general supervision and responsibility of the Fund's Board. Further information on fair valuation is provided in the Fund's Prospectuses under "Pricing of Fund Shares".

In addition, whenever developments in one or more securities markets after the close of the principal markets for one or more portfolio securities and before the time as of which the Fund determines its NAV would, if such developments had been reflected in such principal markets, likely have more than a minimal effect on the Fund's NAV, the Fund may fair value such portfolio securities based on available market information as of the time the Fund determines its NAV.

**NYSE Closings.** The holidays (as observed) on which the NYSE is closed, and therefore days upon which shareholders cannot redeem shares, currently are: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day and on the preceding Friday or subsequent Monday when a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, respectively.

## **DIVIDENDS, DISTRIBUTIONS, AND TAXES**

The following is a summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax considerations regarding the purchase, ownership and disposition of shares of the Fund by U.S. persons. This summary does not address all of the potential U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be applicable to the Fund or to all categories of investors, some of which may be subject to special tax rules. Current and prospective shareholders are urged to consult their own tax adviser with respect to the specific federal, state, local, and foreign tax consequences of investing in the Fund. The summary is based on the laws in effect on the date of this SAI and existing judicial and administrative interpretations thereof, all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect.

### **General**

The Fund has elected to qualify and intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. To so qualify, the Fund must, among other things: (a) derive at least 90% of its gross income in each taxable year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from option, futures, or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities, or currencies and net income derived from interests in "qualified publicly traded partnerships" (*i.e.*, partnerships that are traded on an established securities market or tradable on a secondary market, other than partnerships that derive 90% of their income from interest, dividends, capital gains, and other traditional permitted mutual fund income); and (b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of the Fund's taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's assets is represented by cash, securities of other regulated investment companies, U.S. government securities and other securities, with such other securities limited, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the Fund's assets and not greater than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its assets is invested in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or securities of other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer, any two or more issuers of which 20% or more of the voting securities are held by the Fund and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or in the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships. Any gains realized upon the sale of bullion will not count towards the 90% gross income test described above and any bullion owned by the Fund will not count towards the asset diversification requirement described above.

Fund investments in partnerships, including in qualified publicly traded partnerships, may result in the Fund being subject to state, local or foreign income, franchise, or withholding tax liabilities.

As a regulated investment company, the Fund will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the portion of its taxable investment income and capital gains that it distributes to its shareholders, provided that the Fund distributes to its shareholders at least the sum of (i) 90% of its "investment company taxable income" (*i.e.*, taxable income other than its net realized long-term capital gain over its net realized short-term capital loss), plus or minus certain adjustments, and (ii) 90% of its net tax-exempt income for the taxable year. The Fund will be subject to income tax at regular corporate rates on any taxable income or gains that it does not distribute to its shareholders.

The Fund will determine either to distribute, or to retain for reinvestment, all or part of any net long-term capital gains. If any such gains are retained, the Fund will be subject to a U.S. federal income tax (currently at a maximum rate of 35%) on the amount retained. In that event, the Fund expects to designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gain in a notice to its shareholders, each of whom (1) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes as long-term capital gain its share of the undistributed amount, (2) will be entitled to credit its proportionate share of the tax paid by the Fund against its own U.S. federal income tax liability and to claim a refund to the extent the credit exceeds such liability, and (3) will increase its basis in its shares of the Fund by an amount equal to 65% of the amount of undistributed capital gain included in such shareholder's gross income. Organizations or persons not subject to U.S. federal income tax on such capital gain will be entitled to a refund of their pro rata share of such taxes paid by the Fund upon filing appropriate returns or claims for refund with the IRS.

Under the Code, amounts not distributed by the Fund on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar-year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax. To avoid this excise tax, the Fund must distribute during each calendar year an amount equal to at least the sum of (1) 98% of its ordinary income (not taking into account any capital gains or losses) for the calendar year, (2) 98% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for the twelve-month period

generally ending on October 31 of the calendar year (unless an election is made by the Fund to use the Fund's December fiscal year end), and (3) all ordinary income and capital gain income for previous years that were not previously distributed. For this purpose, however, any ordinary income or net capital gain retained by the Fund that is subject to corporate income tax will be considered to have been distributed by year-end. The Fund anticipates that it will pay such dividends and will make such distributions as are necessary in order to avoid the application of this excise tax.

On December 31, 2008 the Fund had no remaining unused capital loss carryforwards.

If, in any taxable year, the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Code or fails to meet the distribution requirement, it will be taxed in the same manner as an ordinary corporation and distributions to its shareholders will not be deductible by the Fund in computing its taxable income. In addition, in the event of a failure to qualify, the Fund's distributions, to the extent derived from the Fund's current or accumulated earnings and profits, including any distributions of net long-term capital gains, will be taxable to shareholders as dividend income. Provided that certain holding period and other requirements are met, such dividends will be eligible (i) to be treated as qualified dividend income in the case of shareholders taxed as individuals and (ii) for the dividends received deduction in the case of corporate shareholders. Moreover, if the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company in any year, it must pay out its earnings and profits accumulated in that year in order to qualify again as a regulated investment company. If the Fund failed to qualify as a regulated investment company for a period greater than two taxable years, the Fund may be required to recognize any net built-in gains with respect to certain of its assets (*i.e.*, the excess of the aggregate gains, including items of income, over aggregate losses that would have been realized with respect to such assets if the Fund had been liquidated) in order to qualify as a regulated investment company in a subsequent year.

Gains or losses on sales of securities by the Fund will generally be long-term capital gains or losses if the securities have been held by the Fund for more than one year. Gains or losses on sales of securities held by the Fund for one year or less will generally be short-term capital gains or losses.

The Fund's transactions in foreign currencies, forward contracts, options, and futures contracts (including options and futures contracts on foreign currencies) will be subject to special provisions of the Code (including provisions relating to "hedging transactions" and "straddles") that, among other things, may affect the character of gains and losses realized by the Fund (*i.e.*, may affect whether gains or losses are ordinary or capital), accelerate recognition of income to the Fund and defer Fund losses. These rules could therefore affect the character, amount and timing of distributions to shareholders. These provisions also (a) will require the Fund to mark-to-market certain types of the positions in its portfolio (*i.e.*, treat them as if they were closed out at the end of each year) and (b) may cause the Fund to recognize income without receiving cash with which to pay dividends or make distributions in amounts necessary to satisfy the distribution requirements for avoiding income and excise taxes. The Fund will monitor its transactions, will make the appropriate tax elections and will make the appropriate entries in its books and records when it acquires any foreign currency, forward contract, option, futures contract, or hedged investment in order to mitigate the effect of these rules and prevent disqualification of the Fund as a regulated investment company.

The Fund's investment in so-called "Section 1256 contracts," such as regulated futures contracts, most foreign currency forward contracts traded in the interbank market and options on most stock indices, are subject to special tax rules. All Section 1256 contracts held by the Fund at the end of its taxable year are required to be marked to their market value, and any unrealized gain or loss on those positions will be included in the Fund's income as if each position had been sold for its fair market value at the end of the taxable year. The resulting gain or loss will be combined with any gain or loss realized by the Fund from positions in Section 1256 contracts closed during the taxable year. Provided such positions were held as

capital assets and were not part of a "hedging transaction" nor part of a "straddle," 60% of the resulting net gain or loss will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss, and 40% of such net gain or loss will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss, regardless of the period of time the positions were actually held by the Fund.

The Fund may be required to treat amounts as taxable income or gain, subject to the distribution requirements referred to above, even though no corresponding amounts of cash are received concurrently, as a result of (1) mark-to-market, constructive sale or rules applicable to PFICs (as defined below) or partnerships or trusts in which the Fund invests or to certain options, futures or forward contracts, or "appreciated financial positions"; (2) the inability to obtain cash distributions or other amounts due to currency controls or restrictions on repatriation imposed by a foreign country with respect to the Fund's investments (including through depositary receipts) in issuers in such country; or (3) tax rules applicable to debt obligations acquired with "original issue discount," including zero-coupon or deferred payment bonds and pay-in-kind debt obligations, or to market discount if an election is made with respect to such market discount. The Fund may therefore be required to obtain cash to be used to satisfy these distribution requirements by selling securities at times that it might not otherwise be desirable to do so or borrowing the necessary cash, thereby incurring interest expenses.

The diversification requirements applicable to the Fund's assets may limit the extent to which the Fund will be able to engage in transactions in options, futures contracts and options on futures contracts and will limit the extent to which the Fund will be able to hold bullion.

As a result of entering into swap contracts, the Fund may make or receive periodic net payments. The Fund may also make or receive a payment when a swap is terminated prior to maturity through an assignment of the swap or other closing transaction. Periodic net payments will generally constitute ordinary income or deductions, while termination of a swap will generally result in capital gain or loss (which will be a long-term capital gain or loss if the Fund has been a party to the swap for more than one year). The tax treatment of many types of credit default swaps is uncertain.

In general, gain or loss on a short sale is recognized when the Fund closes the sale by delivering the borrowed property to the lender, not when the borrowed property is sold. Gain or loss from a short sale is generally considered as capital gain or loss to the extent that the property used to close the short sale constitutes a capital asset in the Fund's hands. Except with respect to certain situations where the property used by the Fund to close a short sale has a long-term holding period on the date of the short sale, special rules would generally treat the gains on short sales as short-term capital gains. These rules may also terminate the running of the holding period of "substantially identical property" held by the Fund. Moreover, a loss on a short sale will be treated as a long-term capital loss if, on the date of the short sale, "substantially identical property" has been held by the Fund for more than one year. In general, the Fund will not be permitted to deduct payments made to reimburse the lender of securities for dividends paid on borrowed stock if the short sale is closed on or before the 45th day after the short sale is entered into.

## **Foreign Investments**

Dividends or other income (including, in some cases, capital gains) received by the Fund from investments in foreign securities may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by foreign countries. Tax conventions between certain countries and the United States may reduce or eliminate such taxes in some cases. If more than 50% of the value of the Fund's assets at the close of a taxable year consists of stocks or securities of foreign corporations, the Fund may elect to treat those foreign income taxes paid by the Fund that can be treated as income taxes under U.S. federal income tax principles as paid by its shareholders. If the Fund were to make an election, an amount equal to the foreign income

taxes paid by the Fund would be included in the income of its shareholders and the shareholders would be entitled to credit their eligible portions of this amount against their U.S. income tax liability or to deduct those portions from their U.S. taxable income. Holding period requirements restrict the ability of the Fund to make, and the shareholders to enjoy the benefits of, such an election. No deduction for foreign taxes may be claimed by a shareholder that does not itemize deductions. Certain limitations may be imposed on the extent to which the credit (but not the deduction) for foreign taxes may be claimed.

Under Section 988 of the Code, gains or losses attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the time the Fund accrues income or receivables or expenses or other liabilities denominated in a foreign currency and the time the Fund actually collects such income or pays such liabilities are generally treated as ordinary income or ordinary loss. Similarly, gains or losses on foreign currency, foreign currency forward contracts, certain foreign currency options or futures contracts, and the disposition of debt securities denominated in foreign currency, to the extent attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the acquisition and disposition dates, are also treated as ordinary income or loss unless the Fund were to elect otherwise.

### **Passive Foreign Investment Companies**

If the Fund purchases shares in certain foreign investment entities, called "passive foreign investment companies" ("PFICs"), it may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a portion of any "excess distribution" or gain from the disposition of such shares even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by the Fund to its shareholders. Additional charges in the nature of interest may be imposed on the Fund in respect of deferred taxes arising from such distributions or gains. Generally, a non-US corporation is treated as a PFIC if either 75% or more of its gross income is passive income or 50% or more of its assets produce passive income or are held for the production of passive income.

If the Fund were to invest in a PFIC and elect to treat the PFIC as a "qualified electing fund" under the Code, in lieu of the foregoing requirements, the Fund might be required to include in income each year a portion of the ordinary earnings and net capital gains of the qualified electing fund, even if not distributed to the Fund, and such amounts would be subject to the 90% and excise tax distribution requirements described above. In order to make this election, the Fund would be required to obtain certain annual information from the PFICs in which it invests, which may be difficult or impossible to obtain.

Alternatively, the Fund may make a mark-to-market election that will result in the Fund being treated as if it had sold and repurchased all of its PFIC stock at the end of each year. In such case, the Fund would report any such gains as ordinary income and would deduct any such losses as ordinary losses to the extent of previously recognized gains. The election must be made separately for each PFIC owned by the Fund and, once made, would be effective for all subsequent taxable years of the Fund, unless revoked with the consent of the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"). By making the election, the Fund could potentially ameliorate the adverse tax consequences with respect to its ownership of shares in a PFIC, but in any particular year may be required to recognize income in excess of the distributions it receives from PFICs and its proceeds from dispositions of PFIC stock. The Fund may have to distribute this "phantom" income and gain to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement and to avoid imposition of the 4% excise tax.

The Fund will make the appropriate tax elections, if possible, and take any additional steps that are necessary to mitigate the effect of these rules.

### **Distributions**

Dividends and other distributions by the Fund are generally treated under the Code as received by the shareholders at the time the dividend or distribution is made. However, any dividend or distribution

declared by the Fund in October, November, or December of any calendar year and payable to shareholders of record on a specified date in such a month shall be deemed to have been made and received by each shareholder on December 31 of such calendar year, provided such dividend is actually paid by the Fund during January of the following calendar year.

Distributions of net realized long-term capital gains, if any, that the Fund designates as capital gains dividends are taxable as long-term capital gains, whether paid in cash or in shares and regardless of how long a shareholder has held shares of the Fund. All other dividends of the Fund (including dividends from short-term capital gains) from its net investment company taxable income ("regular dividends") are generally subject to tax as ordinary income.

Special rules apply, however, to regular dividends paid to individuals. Such a dividend, with respect to taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2010, may be subject to tax at the rates generally applicable to long-term capital gains for individuals (currently at a maximum rate of 15%), provided that the individual receiving the dividend satisfies certain holding period and other requirements. Dividends subject to these special rules are not actually treated as capital gains, however, and thus are not included in the computation of an individual's net capital gain and generally cannot be used to offset capital losses. The long-term capital gains rates will apply to: (i) 100% of the regular dividends paid by the Fund to an individual in a particular taxable year if 95% or more of the Fund's gross income (ignoring gains attributable to the sale of stocks and securities except to the extent net short-term capital gain from such sales exceeds net long-term capital loss from such sales) in that taxable year is attributable to qualified dividend income received by the Fund; or (ii) the portion of the regular dividends paid by the Fund to an individual in a particular taxable year that is attributable to qualified dividend income received by the Fund in that taxable year if such qualified dividend income accounts for less than 95% of the Fund's gross income (ignoring gains attributable to the sale of stocks and securities except to the extent net short-term capital gain from such sales exceeds net long-term capital loss from such sales) for that taxable year. For this purpose, "qualified dividend income" generally means income from dividends received by the Fund from U.S. corporations and qualified foreign corporations, provided that the Fund satisfies certain holding period requirements in respect of the stock of such corporations and has not hedged its position in the stock in certain ways. However, qualified dividend income does not include any dividends received from tax-exempt organizations. Also, dividends received by the Fund from a real estate investment trust or another regulated investment company generally are qualified dividend income only to the extent the dividend distributions are made out of qualified dividend income received by such real estate investment trust or other regulated investment company. In the case of securities lending transactions, payments in lieu of dividends are not qualified dividend income. If a shareholder elects to treat Fund dividends as investment income for purposes of the limitation on the deductibility of investment interest, such dividends would not be qualified dividend income.

We will send you information after the end of each year setting forth the amount of dividends paid by us that are eligible for the reduced rates.

If an individual receives a regular dividend qualifying for the long-term capital gains rates and such dividend constitutes an "extraordinary dividend," and the individual subsequently recognizes a loss on the sale or exchange of stock in respect of which the extraordinary dividend was paid, then the loss will be long-term capital loss to the extent of such extraordinary dividend. An "extraordinary dividend" on common stock for this purpose is generally a dividend (i) in an amount greater than or equal to 10% of the taxpayer's tax basis (or trading value) in a share of stock, aggregating dividends with ex-dividend dates within an 85-day period or (ii) in an amount greater than 20% of the taxpayer's tax basis (or trading value) in a share of stock, aggregating dividends with ex-dividend dates within a 365-day period.

Distributions in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits will, as to each shareholder, be treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of a shareholder's basis in its shares of the Fund, and as a capital gain thereafter (if the shareholder holds its shares of the Fund as capital assets). Dividends paid by the Fund that are attributable to dividends received by the Fund from domestic corporations may qualify for the federal dividends-received deduction for corporations, provided certain holding period and other requirements are met.

Shareholders receiving distributions in the form of shares should have a basis in such shares of the Fund equal to the amount of cash that the shareholders would have received had they elected to receive cash instead of shares. If the NAV of shares is reduced below a shareholder's cost as a result of a distribution by the Fund, such distribution may be taxable even though it represents a return of invested capital. The price of shares purchased at any time may reflect the amount of a forthcoming distribution. Those purchasing shares just prior to a distribution will receive a distribution which will be taxable to them, even though the distribution represents in part a return of invested capital.

If the Fund is the holder of record of any stock on the record date for any dividends payable with respect to such stock, such dividends are included in the Fund's gross income not as of the date received but as of the later of (a) the date such stock became ex-dividend with respect to such dividends (*i.e.*, the date on which a buyer of the stock would not be entitled to receive the declared, but unpaid, dividends) or (b) the date the Fund acquired such stock. Accordingly, in order to satisfy its income distribution requirements, the Fund may be required to pay dividends based on anticipated earnings, and shareholders may receive dividends in an earlier year than would otherwise be the case. Under current law, the Fund serves to block unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") from being realized by its tax-exempt shareholders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a tax-exempt shareholder could realize UBTI by virtue of its investment in the Fund if shares in the Fund constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholder within the meaning of Code Section 514(b). Certain types of income received by the Fund from real estate investment trusts, real estate mortgage investment conduits, taxable mortgage pools or other investments may cause the Fund to designate some or all of its distributions as "excess inclusion income." To Fund shareholders such excess inclusion income may (1) constitute taxable income, as UBTI for those shareholders who would otherwise be tax-exempt such as individual retirement accounts, 401(k) accounts, Keogh plans, pension plans and certain charitable entities; (2) not be offset against net operating losses for tax purposes; (3) not be eligible for reduced US withholding for non-US shareholders even from tax treaty countries; and (4) cause the fund to be subject to tax if certain "disqualified organizations" as defined by the Code are Fund shareholders.

## **Sales of Shares**

Upon a taxable sale or exchange of shares, a shareholder will realize a taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and the shareholder's basis in the shares. A redemption of shares by the Fund will be treated as a sale for this purpose. Such gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss if the shares are held as capital assets and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares are held for more than one year and short-term capital gain or loss if the shares are held for one year or less. Any loss realized on a sale or exchange will be disallowed to the extent the shares disposed of are replaced, including replacement through the reinvesting of dividends and capital gains distributions in the Fund, within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the date the shares are disposed of. In such case, the basis of the shares acquired will be increased to reflect the disallowed loss. Any loss realized by a shareholder on the sale of Fund shares held by the shareholder for six months or less will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any distributions (or deemed distributions) of net long-term capital gain received by the shareholder with respect to such shares.

An exchange from one share class within the Fund to another share class within the Fund is not a taxable transaction, provided that such classes have identical rights with respect to the Fund's assets.

If a shareholder incurs a sales charge in acquiring shares of the Fund, disposes of those shares within 90 days and then acquires shares in a mutual fund for which the otherwise applicable sales charge is reduced by reason of a reinvestment right (*e.g.*, an exchange privilege), the original sales charge will not be taken into account in computing gain/loss on the original shares to the extent the subsequent sales charge is reduced. Instead, the disregarded portion of the original sales charge will be added to the tax basis of the newly acquired shares. Furthermore, the same rule also applies to a disposition of the newly acquired shares made within 90 days of the second acquisition. This provision prevents a shareholder from immediately deducting the sales charge by shifting his or her investment within a family of mutual funds.

### **Backup Withholding**

The Fund may be required to withhold, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a portion (currently 28%) of the dividends, distributions, and redemption proceeds payable to shareholders who fail to provide their correct taxpayer identification number or to make required certifications, or who have been notified by the IRS that they are subject to backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability.

### **Notices**

Shareholders will receive, if appropriate, various written notices after the close of the Fund's taxable year regarding the U.S. federal income tax status of certain dividends, distributions, and deemed distributions that were paid (or that are treated as having been paid) by the Fund to its shareholders during the preceding taxable year.

### **Other Taxes**

Dividends, distributions, and redemption proceeds may also be subject to additional state, local and foreign taxes depending on each shareholder's particular situation. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors regarding their investment in the Fund.

If a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to the Fund's shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder, the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a regulated investment company are not excepted. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

## **Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders**

Dividends paid by the Fund to non-U.S. shareholders are generally subject to withholding tax at a 30% rate or a reduced rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty. In order to obtain a reduced rate of withholding, a non-U.S. shareholder will be required to provide an IRS Form W-8BEN certifying its entitlement to benefits under a treaty. The withholding tax does not apply to regular dividends paid to a non-U.S. shareholder who provides a Form W-8ECI, certifying that the dividends are effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States. Instead, the effectively connected dividends will be subject to regular U.S. federal income tax as if the non-U.S. shareholder were a U.S. shareholder. A non-U.S. corporation receiving effectively connected dividends may also be subject to additional "branch profits tax" imposed at a rate of 30% (or lower treaty rate). A non-U.S. shareholder who fails to provide an IRS Form W-8BEN or other applicable form may be subject to backup withholding at the appropriate rate.

A distribution from the Fund to foreign shareholders who have held more than 5% of the Fund at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of distribution is treated as real property gain subject to 35% withholding tax and treated as income effectively connected to a U.S. trade or business with certain tax filing requirements applicable, if such distribution is attributable to a distribution of real property gain received by the Fund from a REIT and if 50% or more of the value of the Fund's assets are invested in REITs and other U.S. real property holding corporations.

**THE FOREGOING IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF CERTAIN MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES AFFECTING THE FUND AND ITS SHAREHOLDERS. CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS ARE ADVISED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISERS WITH RESPECT TO THE PARTICULAR TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUND.**

## **Fund Matters**

The Fund reserves the right to create and issue a number of portfolios, in which case the shares of each portfolio would participate equally in the earnings, dividends, and assets of the particular portfolio and would vote separately to approve management agreements or changes in investment policies, but shares of all portfolios would vote together in the election or selection of Directors, principal underwriters and auditors and, generally, on any proposed amendment to the Fund's Articles of Incorporation.

Upon liquidation of the Fund or any portfolio, shareholders of the affected portfolio would be entitled to share pro rata in the net assets of their respective portfolio available for distribution to such shareholders.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND'S SHARES**

### **Description Of Shares, Voting Rights, And Liabilities**

The Fund is an open-end management investment company that was organized as a Maryland corporation on May 13, 1994. Its authorized capital stock consists of one billion shares of stock having a par value of one tenth of one cent (\$.001) per share. The Fund is not required, and does not intend, to hold regular annual shareholder meetings, but may hold special meetings for consideration of proposals requiring shareholder approval, such as changing fundamental policies, or upon the written request of 10% of the Fund's shares. The Fund's Board is authorized to divide the unissued shares into separate portfolios of stock, each portfolio representing a separate, additional portfolio.

There are no conversion or preemptive rights in connection with any shares of the Fund, except that the Class B Shares may convert into Class A Shares as described in the Prospectus. All shares, when issued in accordance with the terms of the offering, will be fully paid and nonassessable. Shares will be redeemed at NAV, at the option of the shareholder.

The Fund sends semi-annual and audited annual reports to all shareholders which include lists of portfolio securities and the Fund's financial statements, which shall be audited annually. Unless a shareholder otherwise specifically requests in writing, the Fund may send a single copy of Prospectuses and reports to shareholders to all accounts at the same address.

The shares of the Fund have noncumulative voting rights which means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares can elect 100% of the Directors if the holders choose to do so, and, in that event, the holders of the remaining shares will not be able to elect any person or persons to the Board. Unless specifically requested by an investor who is a shareholder of record, the Fund does not issue certificates evidencing Fund shares.

### **Shareholder Approval**

Other than elections of Directors, which is by plurality, any matter for which shareholder approval is required by the 1940 Act requires the affirmative vote of at least a "majority" (as defined by the 1940 Act) of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such approval. A majority of the Fund's outstanding securities is the lesser of (1) 67% of the shares represented at a meeting at which more than 50% of the outstanding shares are present in person or by proxy or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding shares. Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each full share held and fractional votes for fractional shares held. Shareholders will vote in the aggregate except where otherwise required by law and except that each class will vote separately on certain matters pertaining to its distribution and shareholder servicing arrangements.

### **Information For Shareholders**

All shareholder inquiries regarding administrative procedures including the purchase and redemption of shares should be directed to Gabelli & Company, Inc., One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422. For assistance, call 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554) or through the Internet at [www.gabelli.com](http://www.gabelli.com).

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Fund's Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, including the Report of E&Y, are incorporated herein by reference to the Fund's Annual Report. The Fund's Annual Report is available upon request and without charge by calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554) or through the Internet at [www.gabelli.com](http://www.gabelli.com). E&Y provides audit services, tax return preparation and assistance and consultation in connection with certain SEC filings.

## APPENDIX A

### DESCRIPTION OF MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE, INC.'S ("MOODY'S") CORPORATE BOND RATINGS

Aaa: Bonds which are rated Aaa are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edge." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

Aa: Bonds which are rated Aa are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the Aaa group they comprise what are generally known as high grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which made the long term risks appear somewhat larger than in Aaa securities.

A: Bonds which are rated A possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper medium grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future.

Baa: Bonds which are rated Baa are considered as medium grade obligations, *i.e.*, they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured. Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

Ba: Bonds which are rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.

B: Bonds which are rated B generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.

Caa: Bonds which are rated Caa are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

Ca: Bonds which are rated Ca represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.

C: Bonds which are rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

Note: Moody's may apply numerical modifiers, 1, 2 and 3 in each generic rating classification from Aa through B in its corporate bond rating system. The modifier 1 indicates that the security ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates that the issue ranks in the lower end of its generic rating category.

## **DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD & POOR'S CORPORATION'S ("S&P'S") CORPORATE DEBT RATINGS**

AAA: Debt rated AAA has the highest rating assigned by S&P's. Capacity to pay interest and repay principal is extremely strong.

AA: Debt rated AA has a very strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal and differs from the highest rated issues only in small degree.

A: Debt rated A has a strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal although it is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than debt in higher rated categories.

BBB: Debt rated BBB is regarded as having adequate capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Whereas it normally exhibits protection parameters, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to pay interest and repay principal for debt in this category than for debt in higher rated categories.

BB, B, CCC, CC, C: Debt rated BB, B, CCC, CC and C is regarded, on balance, as predominantly speculative with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. BB indicates the lowest degree of speculation and C the highest degree of speculation. While such debt will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions.

C1: The rating C1 is reserved for income bonds on which no interest is being paid.

D: Debt rated D is in payment default. The D rating category is used when interest payments or principal payments are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P's believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The D rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition if debt service payments are jeopardized.

Plus (+) or Minus (-): The ratings from "AA" to "CCC" may be modified by the addition of a plus or minus sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

## **DESCRIPTION OF MOODY'S PREFERRED STOCK RATINGS**

aaa: An issue which is rated aaa is considered to be a top-quality preferred stock. This rating indicates good asset protection and the least risk of dividend impairment within the universe of preferred stocks.

aa: An issue which is rated aa is considered a high-grade preferred stock. This rating indicates that there is reasonable assurance that earnings and asset protection will remain relatively well maintained in the foreseeable future.

a: An issue which is rated a is considered to be an upper medium grade preferred stock. While risks are judged to be somewhat greater than in the aaa and aa classifications, earnings and asset protection are, nevertheless expected to be maintained at adequate levels.

baa: An issue which is rated baa is considered to be medium grade, neither highly protected nor poorly secured. Earnings and asset protection appear adequate at present but may be questionable over any great length of time.

ba: An issue which is rated ba is considered to have speculative elements and its future cannot be considered well assured. Earnings and asset protection may be very moderate and not well safeguarded during adverse periods. Uncertainty of position characterizes preferred stocks in this class.

b: An issue which is rated b generally lacks the characteristics of a desirable investment. Assurance of dividend payments and maintenance of other terms of the issue over any long period of time may be small.

caa: An issue which is rated caa is likely to be in arrears on dividend payments. This rating designation does not purport to indicate the future status of payment.

ca: An issue which is rated ca is speculative in a high degree and is likely to be in arrears on dividends with little likelihood of eventual payment.

c: This is the lowest rated class of preferred or preference stock. Issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

Note: Moody's may apply numerical modifiers 1, 2 and 3 in each rating classification from "aa" through "b" in its preferred stock rating system. The modifier 1 indicates that the security ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates that the issue ranks in the lower end of its generic rating category.

## **DESCRIPTION OF S&P'S PREFERRED STOCK RATINGS**

AAA: This is the highest rating that may be assigned by S&P's to a preferred stock issue and indicates an extremely strong capacity to pay the preferred stock obligations.

AA: A preferred stock issue rated AA also qualifies as a high-quality fixed income security. The capacity to pay preferred stock obligations is very strong, although not as overwhelming as for issues rated AAA.

A: An issue rated A is backed by a sound capacity to pay the preferred stock obligations, although it is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effect of changes in circumstances and economic conditions.

BBB: An issue rated BBB is regarded as backed by an adequate capacity to pay the preferred stock obligations. Whereas it normally exhibits adequate protection parameters, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to make payments for a preferred stock in this category than for issues in the A category.

BB, B, CCC: Preferred stock rated BB, B, and CCC are regarded, on balance, as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay preferred stock obligations. BB indicates the lowest degree of speculation and CCC the highest degree of speculation. While such issues will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions.

CC: The rating CC is reserved for a preferred stock in arrears on dividends or sinking fund payments but that is currently paying.

C: A preferred stock rated C is a non-paying issue.

D: A preferred stock rated D is a non-paying issue with the issuer in default on debt instruments.

Plus (+) or Minus (-): The ratings from "AA" to "B" may be modified by the addition of a plus or minus sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.