



# In Pursuit of Value

February, 2017

## Change and Uncertainty

As I watched President Trump's inauguration speech on January 20<sup>th</sup>, I was reminded of Paul Kennedy's 1987 book, *The Rise and Fall of the Powers*. Kennedy charts the arc of many great empires over the last couple of millennia. He finds a repeated cycle of geographic enlargement through technological and economic dominance followed eventually by what he calls "Imperial Overstretch", as maintaining control exceeds the resources available. It's a big topic well beyond the scope of a monthly newsletter to adequately address; many will challenge the notion of the U.S. as an empire, and will reject that decline in any form is imminent. But America's share of global GDP is shrinking simply because other countries are catching up. Greater geopolitical competition makes staying ahead ever more costly.

What prompted this thought was the vision of an America more ready to examine the payback from neighborly interactions. The post-World War II period began with America investing in rebuilding a broken Europe and Japan out of an unquestioned faith that benefits would accrue back. Perhaps we are now acknowledging that if the world doesn't bother us we'll leave it to its own devices; a more transactional approach will govern sovereign relations. Other countries have plenty of resources too. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan following 2001 have cost up to \$5TN by some estimates, echoing Kennedy's warning about foreign entanglements ultimately exhausting resources.

"We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example. We will shine for everyone to follow." If you focus on the words and not the speaker, this is not a radical statement. While not soaring rhetoric, many could agree with the sentiment. Support for a more inward-looking America is not a new phenomenon, and finds adherents across the political spectrum.

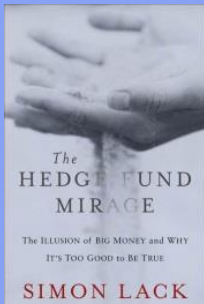
Public policy is likely to shift in ways that will impact investment returns, more so than in many years. The great challenge in writing on such topics is to be non-partisan. Following the most divisive election in living memory, strength of feeling on both sides has not obviously weakened. Considering the investment impact of, or even support for, Trump Administration policy moves doesn't imply endorsement of the candidate. We are just trying to allocate capital thoughtfully.

To pick one current example, on the first business day following his Inauguration Trump formally withdrew the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Obama had long pushed for the TPP as a way to bind the countries of Asia more closely together through trade and therefore shared prosperity. The European Union was originally conceived as the European Coal and Steel Community to end the string of three successive military defeats France had suffered against Germany by increasing trade links, making conflict prohibitively costly.

Trump's assessment of the TPP was that the U.S. should negotiate bilateral trade agreements with other TPP countries. It may not appear quite so visionary, but there's a certain industrial logic to a series of one-off deals. They're simpler to negotiate, and the U.S. must enjoy a stronger position in any one-on-one discussion than as the largest in a room of twelve.

More broadly, if you're looking for reasons to worry about the future there is plenty of material. Trump's negotiating style rests on making demands that invite failure before agreement; how else to ensure the best terms have been achieved? Uncertainty is fuelled by the absence of prior government experience and unpredictability. These are positives or negatives depending on how you

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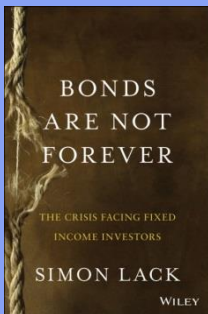
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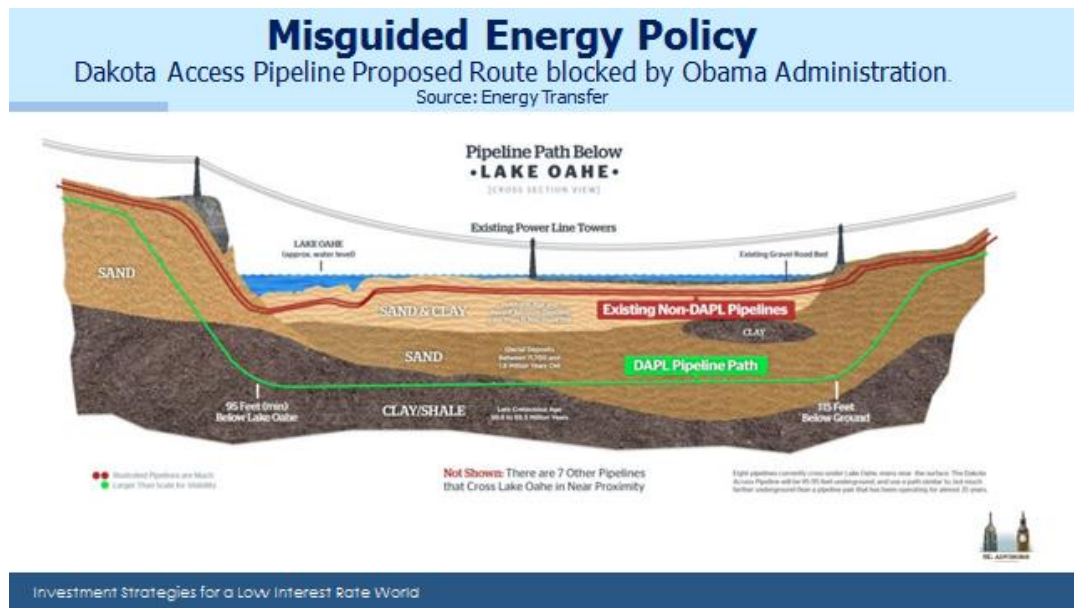
voted. Holding extra cash as protection against a negative surprise is understandable; it's a comfortable, highly defensible posture and if worst fears aren't realized the subsequent deployment of a lot of this cash will likely push stocks higher.

For investors in the energy sector, Trump has provided much to cheer and little of concern. Support for American Energy Independence and a renewed focus on infrastructure can only be good for the businesses that own the pipelines, storage facilities, fractionation plants and related properties that get hydrocarbons where they need to go. The sorry saga of the [Dakota Access Pipeline](#) (DAPL) built by Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) reflected poorly on President Obama's capricious decision making. Having been properly approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and virtually completed, this \$3.8BN project was delayed by the outgoing Administration, which in effect rescinded prior approvals without ever finding fault with the process ETP had followed.

The proposed pipeline under Lake Oahe in North Dakota passes below an existing pipeline. When completed, DAPL will move crude oil to market in the Midwest and reduce reliance on Crude by Rail (CBR), which is more expensive and more prone to accidents. The [Washington Post](#), not exactly a stridently Conservative mouthpiece, noted that crude spills were significantly more likely with CBR than by pipeline when adjusted for volumes and distance traveled. The 2013 disaster in Lac-Megantic, Quebec when a trainload of crude oil exploded and killed 47 people led some to refer to CBR as "[bomb trains](#)."



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Meanwhile, \$3.8BN in capital was kept waiting to produce a productive return while government policy was changed with little regard for the chilling impact on future projects or even basic fairness. This is a narrow issue and not an election-deciding one for most people. But few can be surprised at Energy Transfer Equity (ETE, ETP's General Partner) CEO Kelcy Warren's happiness at Obama's departure – a sentiment shared by many energy industry executives. Trump's swift approval of this project and the Keystone pipeline (another political hostage) were encouragingly pragmatic and certainly cheered MLP investors.

Most of the bad scenarios the concerned investor can imagine should not impact domestic energy infrastructure much at all. The likely thrust of policy will be supportive. Many equity sectors and individual stocks are close to all-time highs, exposed to the commensurate downside that can accompany lofty valuations. MLPs retain plenty of upside.

We are invested in ETE

## Performance Tables

### Midstream Energy Infrastructure

#### (General Partner Focused)

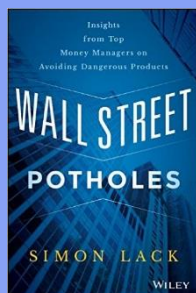
	MLP Strategy (K-1s)						Since Inception 175%				Index		102%
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
<b>2008</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-10.6</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-14.9</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-22.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>-35.5</b>
<i>Index</i>	-0.6	-0.5	-6.3	7.3	1.0	-4.9	-1.7	1.7	-17.2	-0.1	-17.1	-3.7	-36.9
<b>2009</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>75.0</b>
<i>Index</i>	15.3	-4.2	0.7	11.0	9.3	-1.7	12.4	-3.2	4.8	2.9	6.4	6.6	76.4
<b>2010</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>33.0</b>
<i>Index</i>	0.6	4.6	2.9	3.4	-5.4	5.6	7.5	-2.5	6.1	5.4	1.9	1.7	35.9
<b>2011</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>-4.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>17.6</b>
<i>Index</i>	3.0	3.5	-0.6	3.3	-5.0	1.1	-1.9	-1.1	-4.1	10.3	-0.2	5.8	13.9
<b>2012</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>7.8</b>
<i>Index</i>	1.9	4.2	-4.0	2.2	-7.5	3.3	5.1	1.6	2.0	0.5	-0.8	-3.1	4.8
<b>2013</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>37.3</b>
<i>Index</i>	12.6	0.9	5.4	0.9	-2.0	3.1	-0.5	-2.5	2.3	2.7	0.9	1.6	27.6
<b>2014</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>21.9</b>
<i>Index</i>	0.6	-0.2	1.5	4.3	3.4	5.9	-3.5	8.2	-1.6	-4.6	-2.6	-5.6	4.8
<b>2015</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-4.8</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>-6.1</b>	<b>-17.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>-8.2</b>	<b>-14.3</b>	<b>-39.0</b>
<i>Index</i>	-3.1	2.1	-4.2	6.2	-3.6	-8.3	-3.2	-5.0	-15.3	9.7	-8.1	-3.6	-32.6
<b>2016</b>	<b>-11.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>40.8</b>
<i>Index</i>	-11.1	-0.5	8.3	11.0	2.5	5.1	0.6	-1.3	1.9	-4.5	2.3	4.4	18.3
<b>2017</b>	<b>0.8</b>												<b>0.8</b>
<i>Index</i>	4.9												4.9

Returns do not include cash balances prior to May 2010. The Index is the Alerian MLP Index, AMZX. Past performance is not indicative of future returns.

	Energy Infrastructure Strategy (1099s)						Since Inception				Index		-6%
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
<b>2013</b>								<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>12.5</b>
<i>Index</i>								-0.5	2.3	2.7	0.9	1.6	5.3
<b>2014</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>16.1</b>
<i>Index</i>	0.6	-0.2	1.5	4.3	3.4	5.9	-3.5	8.2	-1.6	-4.6	-2.6	-5.6	4.8
<b>2015</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>-10.2</b>	<b>-15.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>-12.8</b>	<b>-18.3</b>	<b>-48.3</b>
<i>Index</i>	-3.1	2.1	-4.2	6.2	-3.6	-8.3	-3.2	-5.0	-15.3	9.7	-8.1	-3.6	-32.6
<b>2016</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>60.5</b>
<i>Index</i>	-11.1	-0.5	8.3	11.0	2.5	5.1	0.6	-1.3	1.9	-4.5	2.3	4.4	18.3
<b>2017</b>	<b>-1.5</b>												<b>-1.5</b>
<i>Index</i>	4.9												4.9

The Index is the Alerian MLP Index, AMZX. August 2013 was a partial month. Past performance is not indicative of future returns

*A book written by Wall Street insiders that reveals how unsuspecting individual investors are often steered towards high-fee investment products that deliver poor*



*results.*

*Everyone who relies on others for financial advice should read this book so they can ask the tough questions that will help them achieve better investment results at less cost.*

**Performance Tables (Continued)**  
**Low Volatility Strategies**

Low Vol Long Only							Since Inception				76%	Index			68%
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD		
<b>2012</b>								<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>		
<i>Index</i>								-0.9	1.7	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	0.0		
<b>2013</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>25.9</b>		
<i>Index</i>	5.0	2.7	4.9	3.8	-3.4	0.6	4.2	-4.8	2.0	4.6	1.2	1.1	23.6		
<b>2014</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>13.3</b>		
<i>Index</i>	-2.5	3.7	2.1	1.9	1.0	2.2	-3.8	3.8	-0.9	4.9	3.2	0.9	17.5		
<b>2015</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>		
<i>Index</i>	-0.4	1.5	-0.3	-2.0	0.9	-1.8	4.3	-4.9	-0.4	6.8	1.1	-0.1	4.3		
<b>2016</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>19.1</b>		
<i>Index</i>	-1.7	1.0	6.0	-0.7	1.7	5.7	0.3	-1.9	-1.0	-2.2	0.5	2.6	10.4		
<b>2017</b>	<b>1.0</b>												<b>1.0</b>		
<i>Index</i>	0.7												0.7		

The Index is the S&P 500 Low Volatility Index including dividends. Past performance is not indicative of future returns

Low Vol Hedged						Since Inception				38%	Index 2%		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
<b>2011</b>										<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<i>Index</i>										0.6	-0.2	0.2	0.6
<b>2012</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<i>Index</i>	0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.5	-0.4	-1.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	-4.7
<b>2013</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>10.0</b>
<i>Index</i>	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.2	-0.6	0.6	-1.6	-0.1	1.4	0.6	0.2	1.7
<b>2014</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<i>Index</i>	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	-1.8	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.3	1.0	-0.1	0.0	3.6
<b>2015</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<i>Index</i>	0.1	0.5	1.0	-1.5	-0.4	1.1	1.4	0.2	2.0	1.1	-0.5	0.3	5.5
<b>2016</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<i>Index</i>	-0.2	-1.5	-0.8	-1.9	0.4	-1.0	1.2	-0.4	0.4	-0.1	0.0	-1.1	-5.1
<b>2017</b>	<b>-0.3</b>												<b>-0.3</b>
<i>Index</i>	0.8												0.8

The Index is the HFRX Equity Market Neutral Index. Past performance is not indicative of future returns.

Low Vol Best Ideas							Since Inception				120%	Index			-2%
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD		
<b>2011</b>			<b>-3.6</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>53.6</b>		
<i>Index</i>			-0.9	0.5	-1.4	-1.6	-0.1	-3.5	-3.0	0.8	-0.9	-0.4	-10.0		
<b>2012</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>9.8</b>		
<i>Index</i>	1.7	1.4	0.0	0.1	-1.7	-0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	-0.5	0.4	0.9	3.5		
<b>2013</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>25.7</b>		
<i>Index</i>	2.0	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	-1.3	1.0	-0.9	1.0	1.2	0.6	0.4	6.5		
<b>2014</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>7.4</b>		
<i>Index</i>	-0.1	1.6	-0.2	-0.7	0.5	0.9	-0.9	1.1	-0.8	-1.3	0.3	-0.8	-0.4		
<b>2015</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-6.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-17.7</b>		
<i>Index</i>	-0.3	2.0	0.3	0.2	0.3	-1.3	0.0	-2.2	-2.1	1.5	-0.7	-1.3	-3.6		
<b>2016</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>16.5</b>		
<i>Index</i>	-2.8	-0.3	1.8	-0.1	0.5	0.2	1.5	0.2	0.6	-0.6	0.9	0.9	2.5		
<b>2017</b>	<b>0.4</b>												<b>0.4</b>		
<i>Index</i>	0.7												0.7		

The Index is the HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index. Returns are net of fees. Past performance is not indicative of future returns.

*SL Advisors runs a variety of strategies focused on generating attractive risk-adjusted returns using public equities in long-only and long-short format. Contact us for more information, or go to our website: [www.sl-advisors.com](http://www.sl-advisors.com)*

SL Advisors offers separately managed accounts for individuals, family offices and institutions across various investment strategies. Client assets are held with Charles Schwab, the largest provider of custody services for independent registered investment advisors in the U.S. with client assets of \$1.1 trillion (as of December 31, 2014). Client portfolios are completely transparent via Schwab's extensive website which provides real-time access to accounts and all supporting information. Detailed monthly statements are mailed directly to clients from Schwab.

#### **SL Advisors MLP Strategy**

This portfolio consists of approximately 15 investments in Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) and publicly traded companies in energy infrastructure and related assets to receive a healthy and growing tax deferred income stream. MLPs are publicly traded interests primarily invested in energy infrastructure and related assets. They represent direct proportional ownership stakes in the underlying assets rather than securities in a corporation. Historically they have paid regular distributions which have steadily grown, and as such they can be suitable for investors seeking income generating investments with a tolerance for equity market exposure.

#### **SL Energy Infrastructure Strategy**

This strategy seeks to achieve its investment objective by primarily investing in the equity securities of the general partners of master limited partnerships ("MLPs") and the parent companies of general partners of MLPs (collectively, "GPs"). It holds some of the same names that are in the MLP Strategy but only invests in securities that generate 1099s for tax-reporting. As such, it may be appropriate for tax-deferred, tax-exempt and non-U.S. investors.

#### **SL Advisors Low Vol Long Only Strategy**

This strategy utilizes stocks of stable companies with high dividend yields to generate income with capital appreciation by investing in a diverse, unleveraged, hedged portfolio of U.S. equities. Companies are selected that possess a history of steady earnings growth, attractive dividend yields and are less volatile than the overall market. Academic research has shown the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) fails to explain risk-adjusted returns. Over long periods of time, high beta stocks tend to under-perform and low beta stocks tend to out-perform, on a risk-adjusted basis, which is inconsistent with predicted performance by the CAPM. This strategy attempts to take advantage of this persistent anomaly.

#### **SL Advisors Low Vol Hedged Strategy**

An alternative to bonds, this strategy combines the Low Vol Long Only Strategy with a short S&P500 position with the objective of making the portfolio beta neutral while still maintaining a net long equity exposure. Historically this strategy has exhibited monthly swings comparable to corporate bonds, and given the relative attractiveness of equities compared with investment grade bonds we believe it has a more attractive return outlook. This strategy may be considered as a substitute for a portion of an investor's fixed income allocation.

#### **SL Advisors Low Vol Best Ideas Strategy**

Low Beta Long-Short is more concentrated than Low Vol Hedged with added leverage and is not restricted to dividend paying stocks. It includes our best ideas from Low Vol weighted according to conviction rather than diversified, equal weight allocations. It is managed to be beta neutral and returns are driven very largely by individual stock selection. Interactive Brokers is custodian for assets in this strategy only.

***Wall Street Potholes: Insights from Top Money Managers on Avoiding Dangerous Products***  
is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

Our blog, *In Pursuit of Value*, is at: <http://www.sl-advisors.com/blog/>

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#### **DISCLOSURES**

### **MLP Strategy**

Returns for the MLP Strategy reflect the performance of the composite of all discretionary accounts invested in this strategy. The returns shown reflect the deduction of an annual advisory fee, as well as other charges incurred by the accounts, including brokerage and custodian fees. The returns shown also include reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. The performance of the Alerian MLP index is shown for comparison purposes only. The Alerian MLP is a float-adjusted, capitalization-weighted index, which tracks 50 large- and mid-cap energy Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs), capturing 75% of available market capitalization. This index tracks securities which most closely correlate to the securities in which the MLP strategy invests. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

### **Energy Infrastructure Strategy**

The Energy Infrastructure Strategy seeks to invest in the General Partners (GPs) of Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) and other energy infrastructure businesses solely through C-corps rather than partnerships. Consequently, the tax reporting consists of 1099s rather than the K-1s common with MLPs. Returns for the Energy Infrastructure Strategy reflect the performance of a composite comprised of all fee-paying discretionary accounts invested in this strategy. The returns shown reflect the deduction of an annual advisory fee, as well as other charges incurred by the accounts, including brokerage and custodian fees. The returns shown also include reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. The performance of the Alerian MLP Index is shown for comparison purposes only. The Alerian MLP Index is a float-adjusted, market-capitalization weighted index of publicly traded MLPs. This index best reflects the universe of stocks from which the Energy Infrastructure Strategy seeks to invest. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

### **Low Vol Long Only Strategy**

The objective of this strategy is to: (1) generate equity market returns over full market cycle with lower volatility (2) outperform S&P500 during periods of significant stock market underperformance (3) generate higher dividend income than the S&P500. Returns for the Low Vol Long Only Strategy reflect the performance of a composite comprised of all fee-paying discretionary accounts invested in this strategy. The returns shown reflect the deduction of a 1% annual advisory fee, as well as other charges incurred by the accounts, including brokerage and custodian fees. The returns shown also include reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. The performance of the S&P 500 Low Volatility index is shown for comparison purposes only. The S&P 500 Low Volatility index measures performance of the 100 least volatile stocks in the S&P500. The index benchmarks low volatility or low variance strategies for the U.S Stocks market. This index tracks securities which most closely correlate to the securities in which the Low Vol Long Only strategy invests. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

### **Low Vol Hedged Strategy**

Returns for the Low Vol Hedged Strategy reflects the performance of the composite of all discretionary accounts invested in this strategy. The returns shown reflect the deduction of an annual advisory fee, as well as other charges incurred by the accounts, including brokerage and custodian fees. The returns shown also include reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. As stated above, part of the objective of the Low Vol Hedged Strategy is to outperform the HFRX EM Neutral Index. The performance of the HFRX EM Neutral Index and the DJ Corporate Bond Index are shown for comparison purposes only. The HFRX EM Neutral Index consists of hedge funds that employ quantitative techniques to construct portfolios which are intended to be uncorrelated with equity markets. The DJ Corporate Bond Index is an equally weighted index of investment-grade corporate bonds. HFRX EM Neutral Index is presented as it is a reasonable comparison for Low Vol Hedged which seeks to generate returns while remaining uncorrelated with equities. The DJ Corporate Bond Index is presented as the manager believes Low Vol Hedged can be an acceptable substitute for corporate bonds given its income generating objective. index You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

### **Low Vol Best Ideas**

The objective of this strategy is to deliver absolute returns that are uncorrelated to traditional asset classes. It aims to generate capital appreciation while remaining Beta neutral by maintaining a net long position in low beta equities hedged with the S&P500 (using SPY) to deliver uncorrelated returns. It deploys gross leverage of typically < 2:1 and targets volatility similar to the S&P500. Returns for the Low Vol Best Ideas Strategy reflect the performance of a composite comprised of all fee-paying discretionary accounts invested in this strategy. The returns shown reflect the deduction of a 1% annual advisory fee, as well as other charges incurred by the accounts, including brokerage and custodian fees. The returns shown also include reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. The performance of the HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index is shown for comparison purposes only. The HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index is designed to be representative of the overall composition of the hedge fund universe. It is comprised of all eligible hedge fund strategies. The Strategies are asset weighted based on the distribution of assets in the hedge fund industry. HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index is presented as it is a reasonable comparison for Low Vol Best Ideas which seeks to generate absolute returns while remaining uncorrelated with equities. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.