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In Pursuit of Value

December, 2015

Cash is Not Quite Trash

For many years I've included treasury bills among my personal investments. While utterly devoid of excitement, these holdings have nonetheless brought me a measure of comfort during times of market stress. In 2008 as all my other security holdings slumped, I regarded my t-bills the way others might a security blanket; whatever else was going down, these would always be there for me. We've become great friends over the years. They are undemanding companions since they require no investment research – but then they give nothing back in return either. However, that last point is probably about to change. It'll be almost imperceptible, but in some small fashion I should soon start to feel just a little love coming back my way once the Fed tightens short term rates.

Of course, the reason for holding t-bills (basically, cash) is to create risk-taking capacity for the rest of my portfolio. As readers of my 2013 book *Bonds Are Not Forever; The Crisis Facing Fixed Income Investors* already know, bonds offer "returnless risk", which is to say there's little hope they'll preserve your purchasing power after taxes and inflation. Consequently, more equity-like assets and more cash are needed to fill the void left by shunning an asset class which government policy (via ultra-low interest rates) has rendered uneconomic.

Readers may recall we've illustrated this point in the past – for example, in our October newsletter we noted that the after-tax return expected from $100 held to maturity in ten year treasury notes then yielding 2.15% could be replicated with only $24 invested in the S&P500. There were various assumptions involved, such as unchanged tax rates, 5% dividend growth, an unchanged yield on the S&P500 and, lastly, that the $76 not invested in stocks would sit in cash, earning 0%.

It's an elegant way to show how poor are the prospects for bonds. If you can replicate their return with less than a quarter of the money, you're able to withstand a pretty severe equity bear market. For a 50% collapse in stocks would harm the 24/76 portfolio by less than a quarter of that, or 12%. A 1.5% jump in ten year yields would inflict greater damage on the bond investor.

This structure requires holding $76 in cash at a 0% return for ten years, a fairly draconian assumption. Since the Fed is likely to raise rates for the first time since 2006, it's a good opportunity to see how this stocks/cash barbell looks with different assumptions.

There are a lot of moving parts here (the dividend yield on stocks, interest rate on cash, tax rates etc.) and the possible combinations are limitless. To make it manageable, we're going to examine one thing at a time. When contemplating the stocks/cash combination as a substitute for bonds, reasonable questions include: (1) what if cash rates move, (2) what if stocks move, and (3) what if tax rates move. We've also adopted the more realistic target of beating a 3% corporate bond yield rather than the ten year treasury, since that better reflects the choice of commercially driven bond buyers. Central banks and sovereign wealth funds are major holders of government bonds nowadays. So let's take a look at our initial assumptions:

Variable	Value
Starting S&P Yield	2.0% (equivalent to S&P500 2,100)
Dividend Growth	4%
Ending S&P Yield in Ten Years	2.0% (equivalent to S&P500 3,109, assuming 4% dividend growth)
Cash Return over Ten Years	0.25%
Ten Year Bond Yield	3%
Dividend/Capital Gains Tax Rate (for stocks)	20%
Income Tax Rate (for interest income)	35%

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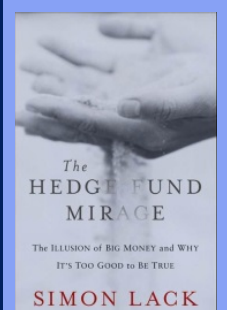

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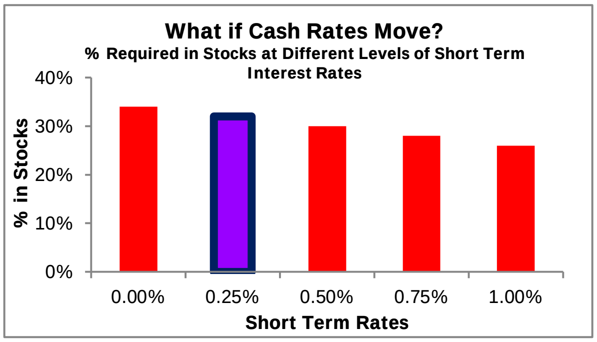
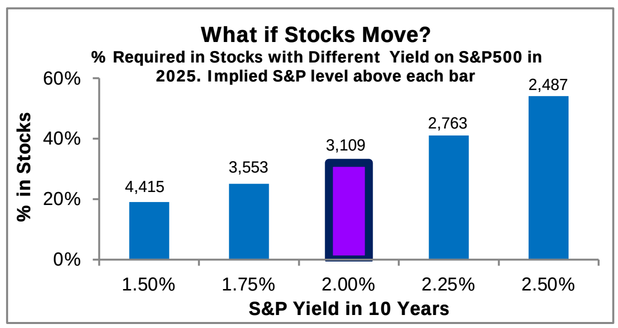
Dividend growth has averaged 5% over 50 years even while companies have roughly halved the portion of profits paid out in dividends in favor of stock buybacks (because it's a more tax-efficient way to return money to stockholders). Stocks in ten years have a range of outcomes and we'll see how that affects the result for the stocks/cash substitute for bonds. So in the three charts on this page, all the variables are as in the table except for the one whose sensitivity we're measuring. The purple bar in all three charts reflects the starting assumptions in the table above.



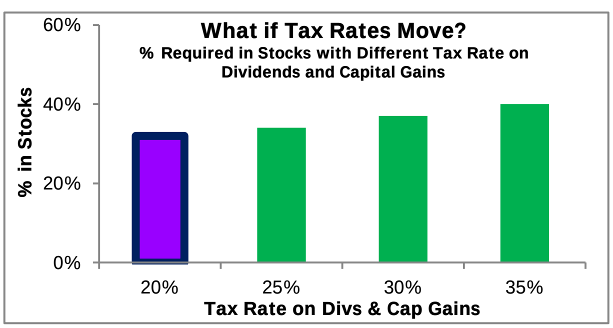
The first chart shows that as cash rates rise, the stocks/cash barbell requires less in stocks to equal the 3% bond yield we're trying to emulate. Personally, I think a 0.25% cash rate for ten years is a pretty low assumption. Cash will continue to be regarded as a drag on returns, although it provides you optionality because you can always decide to use it down the road when something's cheap. At least soon it'll be earning something, however modest.

The most obvious question for the barbell is, where will stocks be in ten years? At least with the 3% bond you know you'll get your original money back at maturity assuming no credit defaults. But estimates for where the S&P500 will be in 2025 vary widely. The chart below shows how much you'd need in equities based on liquidating at wherever the market is in ten years. If stocks still yield 2% in 2025 as they do today, the S&P500 will be at 3,109 (shown in the chart) since dividends will be 48% higher at that point (assuming 4% annual growth).



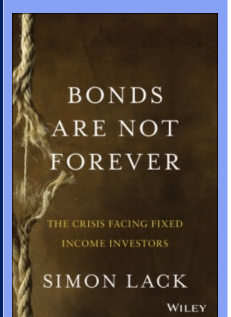
Finally, returns on stocks benefit from favorable tax treatment, since dividends and capital gains are taxed at 20% (Federal) versus 35% for interest income. Everybody's tax situation is its own adventure given the abominable tax code, but the point is you can see the sensitivity of this approach if tax rates on dividends and capital gains rise to those on ordinary income. We haven't included any outcomes with lower tax rates – that would be fantasy.

From our perspective, bonds are still a long way from where their yields would render them attractive. And rising rates on cash improve the stocks/cash outcome, requiring slightly less in stocks as the Fed tightens. As cash begins to earn a return again it makes bonds even less competitive with the stocks/cash barbell unless their yields rise.



Owning treasury bills will never be exciting, but I for one am looking forward to my affection for them being returned, albeit modestly. They're always there for me, but soon they'll be there with interest too.

Certain information herein has been obtained from third party sources and, although believed to be reliable, has not been independently verified and its accuracy or completeness cannot be guaranteed. References to indexes and benchmarks are hypothetical illustrations of aggregate returns and do not reflect the performance of any actual investment. Investors cannot invest in an index. There can be no assurance that current investments will be profitable. Actual realized returns will depend on, among other factors, the value of assets and market conditions at the time of disposition, any related transaction costs, and the timing of the purchase. Nothing herein is or should be construed as investment, legal or tax advice.



SL Advisors, LLC focuses on investment strategies that provide income

without relying on fixed income securities

Performance Tables (Net of fees)

MLP Strategy						Since Inception 126%				Index 69%		
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**YTD**
2008	**-0.6**	**3.1**	**-0.7**	**2.0**	**4.2**	**-10.6**	**-1.9**	**0.7**	**-14.9**	**-1.0**	**-22.0**	**2.9**	**-35.5**
Index	*-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*
2009	**15.5**	**-2.0**	**5.1**	**5.9**	**10.0**	**-1.0**	**10.2**	**0.2**	**1.1**	**2.3**	**6.3**	**5.1**	**75.0**
Index	*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*
2010	**0.8**	**5.5**	**2.1**	**2.5**	**-4.4**	**5.2**	**5.9**	**-1.5**	**5.1**	**2.1**	**3.3**	**2.8**	**33.0**
Index	*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*
2011	**1.3**	**5.2**	**0.1**	**2.7**	**-4.2**	**1.9**	**-2.4**	**-0.2**	**-3.3**	**9.2**	**0.2**	**6.9**	**17.6**
Index	*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*
2012	**1.7**	**5.3**	**-3.6**	**0.9**	**-7.0**	**3.3**	**5.8**	**3.2**	**2.3**	**-0.8**	**0.3**	**-3.0**	**7.8**
Index	*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*
2013	**12.9**	**1.8**	**5.8**	**-0.5**	**-1.1**	**2.7**	**0.3**	**-0.3**	**1.4**	**2.4**	**4.1**	**3.5**	**37.3**
Index	*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*
2014	**1.5**	**2.6**	**3.9**	**2.4**	**5.6**	**9.6**	**-4.0**	**7.5**	**-1.5**	**-4.0**	**0.4**	**-3.0**	**21.9**
Index	*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*
2015	**-3.0**	**5.8**	**-0.9**	**4.9**	**-2.5**	**-4.8**	**-4.9**	**-6.1**	**-17.4**	**6.1**	**-8.3**		**-29.0**
Index	*-3.1*	*2.1*	*-4.2*	*6.2*	*-3.6*	*-8.3*	*-3.2*	*-5.0*	*-15.3*	*9.7*	*-8.1*		*-30.1*

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.

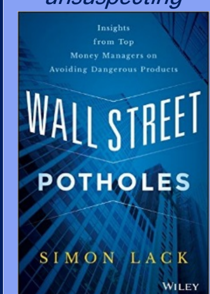
Hedged Dividend Capture Strategy ("DivCap")						Since Inception 25%				Index 6%			
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**YTD**
2011										**0.3**	**0.3**	**3.6**	**4.3**
Index										*0.6*	*-0.2*	*0.2*	*0.6*
2012	**-3.5**	**-2.0**	**1.2**	**1.7**	**1.2**	**2.2**	**1.1**	**-1.3**	**0.5**	**0.8**	**0.6**	**-0.6**	**1.8**
Index	*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*
2013	**2.9**	**3.5**	**4.1**	**0.9**	**-2.8**	**1.1**	**1.4**	**-3.0**	**-0.4**	**3.2**	**-0.7**	**-0.4**	**10.0**
Index	*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*
2014	**-1.6**	**0.0**	**1.9**	**2.4**	**0.3**	**0.0**	**-2.2**	**3.1**	**0.2**	**0.9**	**1.2**	**0.3**	**6.7**
Index	*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*
2015	**-0.1**	**-0.1**	**2.8**	**-2.0**	**-1.1**	**-1.0**	**2.0**	**-1.2**	**1.0**	**1.6**	**-1.9**		**-0.1**
Index	*0.1*	*0.5*	*1.0*	*-1.5*	*-0.4*	*1.1*	*1.4*	*0.2*	*2.0*	*1.1*	*-0.4*		*5.2*

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

Energy Infrastructure Strategy						Since Inception -18%				Index -21%			
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**YTD**
2013								**1.2**	**0.8**	**4.2**	**-0.3**	**6.2**	**12.5**
Index								*-0.5*	*2.3*	*2.7*	*0.9*	*1.6*	*5.3*
2014	**0.9**	**1.6**	**0.1**	**4.3**	**5.0**	**10.1**	**-2.6**	**6.7**	**-4.1**	**-2.2**	**-2.8**	**-1.1**	**16.1**
Index	*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*
2015	**-6.7**	**5.7**	**1.8**	**4.2**	**-5.3**	**-2.0**	**-6.8**	**-10.2**	**-15.5**	**5.4**	**-12.5**		**-36.3**
Index	*-3.1*	*2.1*	*-4.2*	*6.2*	*-3.6*	*-8.3*	*-3.2*	*-5.0*	*-15.3*	*9.7*	*-8.1*		*-30.1*

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)

High Dividend Low Beta Strategy ("HighDiv")							Since Inception		47%	Index		52%
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**YTD**
2012								**0.2**	**1.9**	**0.0**	**1.0**	**-0.2**	**2.9**
Index								*-0.9*	*1.7*	*-0.1*	*-0.2*	*-0.5*	*0.0*
2013	**5.8**	**4.0**	**5.7**	**1.9**	**-2.0**	**0.2**	**4.1**	**-4.3**	**1.0**	**5.4**	**0.8**	**1.1**	**25.9**
Index	*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*
2014	**-3.5**	**2.7**	**2.0**	**2.8**	**1.4**	**0.9**	**-2.5**	**5.1**	**-0.8**	**2.2**	**2.5**	**-0.1**	**13.3**
Index	*-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*
2015	**-1.4**	**2.9**	**1.8**	**-1.2**	**-0.6**	**-2.2**	**2.7**	**-4.4**	**-1.0**	**6.0**	**-2.1**		**0.2**
Index	*-0.4*	*1.5*	*-0.3*	*-2.0*	*0.9*	*-1.8*	*4.3*	*-4.9*	*-0.4*	*6.8*	*1.1*		*4.4*

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

Deep Value Strategy							Since Inception		113%	Index		141%
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**YTD**
2009								**1.1**	**11.3**	**0.5**	**3.5**	**9.9**	**28.8**
Index								*3.6*	*3.7*	*-1.9*	*6.0*	*1.9*	*14.0*
2010	**-1.2**	**4.0**	**4.1**	**3.1**	**-3.9**	**-4.4**	**5.1**	**7.3**	**7.9**	**2.1**	**0.1**	**2.8**	**29.5**
Index	*-3.6*	*3.1*	*6.0*	*1.6*	*-8.0*	*-5.2*	*7.0*	*-4.5*	*8.9*	*3.8*	*0.0*	*6.7*	*15.1*
2011	**0.3**	**2.3**	**2.0**	**2.5**	**-2.2**	**-2.8**	**0.5**	**-5.0**	**-9.0**	**12.1**	**-0.3**	**-0.4**	**-1.4**
Index	*2.4*	*3.4*	*0.0*	*3.0*	*-1.1*	*-1.7*	*-2.0*	*-5.4*	*-7.0*	*10.9*	*-0.2*	*1.0*	*2.1*
2012	**4.3**	**5.3**	**0.9**	**1.9**	**-8.7**	**3.9**	**0.7**	**3.6**	**3.3**	**-1.0**	**-2.5**	**1.1**	**12.7**
Index	*4.5*	*4.3*	*3.3*	*-0.6*	*-6.0*	*4.1*	*1.4*	*2.3*	*2.6*	*-1.8*	*0.6*	*0.9*	*16.0*
2013	**6.4**	**0.7**	**4.4**	**1.5**	**2.2**	**-1.5**	**4.2**	**-1.2**	**1.8**	**3.0**	**2.1**	**5.2**	**32.5**
Index	*5.2*	*1.4*	*3.8*	*1.9*	*2.3*	*-1.3*	*5.1*	*-2.9*	*3.1*	*4.6*	*3.0*	*2.5*	*32.3*
2014	**-4.8**	**5.3**	**0.3**	**2.2**	**1.4**	**4.7**	**-2.4**	**6.4**	**-5.5**	**-1.4**	**-0.6**	**-1.7**	**3.0**
Index	*-3.5*	*4.6*	*0.8*	*0.7*	*2.3*	*2.1*	*-1.4*	*4.0*	*-1.4*	*2.4*	*2.7*	*-0.3*	*13.7*
2015	**-6.1**	**9.1**	**1.2**	**0.6**	**-1.2**	**-2.6**	**-3.2**	**-4.8**	**-11.4**	**6.7**	**-4.1**		**-15.7**
Index	*-3.0*	*5.7*	*-1.6*	*1.0*	*1.3*	*-1.9*	*2.1*	*-6.0*	*-2.5*	*8.4*	*0.3*		*3.0*

Returns do not include cash balances prior to November 2009. The Index is the S&P 500 including dividends

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

Low Beta Long/Short Strategy ("LBLS")							Since Inception		86%	Index		-3%
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**YTD**
2011			**-3.6**	**19.4**	**6.5**	**4.6**	**0.1**	**9.2**	**-1.0**	**6.8**	**2.0**	**1.6**	**53.6**
Index			*-0.9*	*0.5*	*-1.4*	*-1.6*	*-0.1*	*-3.5*	*-3.0*	*0.8*	*-0.9*	*-0.4*	*-10.0*
2012	**-4.9**	**-1.5**	**5.8**	**3.4**	**1.2**	**2.5**	**3.3**	**-2.1**	**0.0**	**3.1**	**0.3**	**-1.2**	**9.8**
Index	*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*
2013	**7.9**	**6.6**	**6.6**	**3.3**	**-2.0**	**-0.6**	**3.9**	**-2.0**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**-2.7**	**2.1**	**25.7**
Index	*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*
2014	**-5.6**	**-0.5**	**1.3**	**2.9**	**-1.0**	**3.5**	**-0.7**	**5.2**	**-0.5**	**-0.9**	**2.3**	**1.5**	**7.4**
Index	*-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*
2015	**-1.2**	**-0.8**	**2.1**	**-1.2**	**-2.9**	**-2.8**	**0.3**	**-0.4**	**-2.7**	**-3.4**	**-6.6**		**-18.3**
Index	*-0.3*	*2.0*	*0.3*	*0.2*	*0.3*	*-1.3*	*0.0*	*-2.2*	*-2.1*	*1.5*	*-0.7*		*-2.3*

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

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 Hedged Dividend Capture Strategy
An alternative to bonds, 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. The long positions are hedged 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 High Dividend Low Beta Strategy
This is the long-only version of our Hedged Dividend Capture Strategy (Long/Short), which has been actively managed and deployed since October 2011. 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 Deep Value Equity Strategy
A portfolio of undervalued stocks of high quality businesses that aims to outperform the S&P500. Investments are in listed U.S. equities trading significantly below the intrinsic value of the underlying enterprise. Potential investments are identified both qualitatively and quantitatively following which detailed research is performed to assess fundamental value. Desired characteristics of businesses include pricing power, low leverage, low costs of production, and attractive valuation. Valuation is defined to us foremost as the net present value of cash one can extract from proportional ownership of the business, then relatively using peer multiples and finally liquidation value. The portfolio is reassessed constantly and all holdings are rated for return potential and risk against their peer group to rebalance into what we believe are the most attractive opportunities. This strategy is part of the equity allocation for balanced accounts for individuals, and is also appropriate as an alpha seeking equity strategy for institutional accounts.

SL Advisors Low Beta Long-Short Strategy
Low Beta Long-Short is more concentrated than Hedged Dividend Capture ("DivCap") with added leverage and is not restricted to dividend paying stocks. It includes our best ideas from DivCap 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.

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Wall Street Potholes: Insights from Top Money Managers on Avoiding Dangerous Products
is available at 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.

Hedged Dividend Capture Strategy ("DivCap")

Returns for the Hedged Dividend Capture 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 Hedged Dividend Capture 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 DivCap which seeks to generate returns while remaining uncorrelated with equities. Thie DJ Corporate Bond Index is presented as the manager believes DivCap 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.

High Dividend Low Beta Strategy ("HighDiv")

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 High Dividend Low Beta 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 High Dividend Low Beta strategy invests. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Deep Value Strategy

The objective of this strategy is to outperform the S&P500 Index with a similar level of volatility by investing in a portfolio of undervalued publically traded securities. Returns for the Deep Value 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 index is shown for comparison purposes only. The S&P 500 index is comprised of stocks of large U.S companies and is widely recognized as a benchmark of U.S. stock market performance. This index tracks securities which most closely correlate to the securities in which the Deep Value strategy invests. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Low Beta Long/Short Strategy ("LBLS")

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 Beta Long/Short 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 LBLS 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.