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# First Eagle Small Cap Opportunity Fund

**Seeks Long-Term Growth of Capital**

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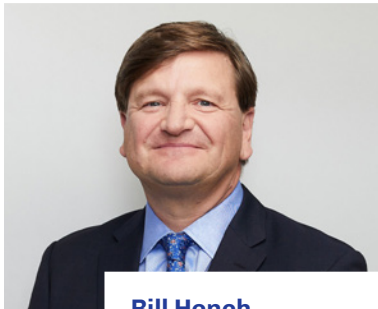
## Highlights

- **Opportunistic small cap value fund** investing in companies with inefficiently valued assets, turnarounds, accelerating growth and overlooked leaders
- **Targets companies with attractive valuations and future earnings growth potential from catalysts** such as new management, a more favorable business cycle, product innovation, and/or margin improvement
- **High active share portfolio** with opportunistic exposure to micro-cap stocks

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Number of Holdings (approximate) | 180–300  |
| Approach                         | Bottom-Up Fundamental  |
| Anticipated Portfolio Turnover   | 35–45%   |
| Benchmarks                       | Russell 2000 Value Index and Russell 2000 Index <sup>1</sup> |

## Catalyst-Driven Value Approach Led by True Small Cap Specialists

### The Team at a Glance



**Bill Hench**

Head of Small Cap Team,  
Portfolio Manager

Industry Start: 1992  
Year Joined: 2021



**Suzanne Franks**

Associate Portfolio  
Manager

Industry Start: 2004  
Year Joined: 2021



**Rob Kosowsky, CFA**

Associate Portfolio  
Manager

Industry Start: 2002  
Year Joined: 2021

### Small Cap Team—Depth and Rigor

- An experienced team with the temperament and discipline needed for small cap investing.
- A diversified portfolio that is intended to primarily have a weighted average market cap of under \$1.5 billion; the portfolio team utilized its time tested process to redeploy capital consciously .

Bill Hench's personal investments in the Small Cap Opportunity Fund place him in the top tier of manager ownership as tracked by Morningstar<sup>2</sup>

1. Primary benchmark.

2. As of March 31, 2024. Most recent data available.

Diversification does not guarantee investment returns and does not eliminate the risk of loss.

# Investment Philosophy

The team focuses on small and micro cap companies with characteristics such as inefficiently valued assets, turnarounds, accelerating growth and overlooked leaders, that can potentially benefit from catalysts such as new management, a more favorable business cycle, product innovation, and/or margin improvement.

The Fund aims to provide these through its three pillar approach:

## Investment Process

### Narrow the Universe

- Universe of approximately 3,000 US small cap stocks
- Ideas sourced from management meetings, industry data, conferences, historical investment experience
- Seek companies with low price/book and price/sales

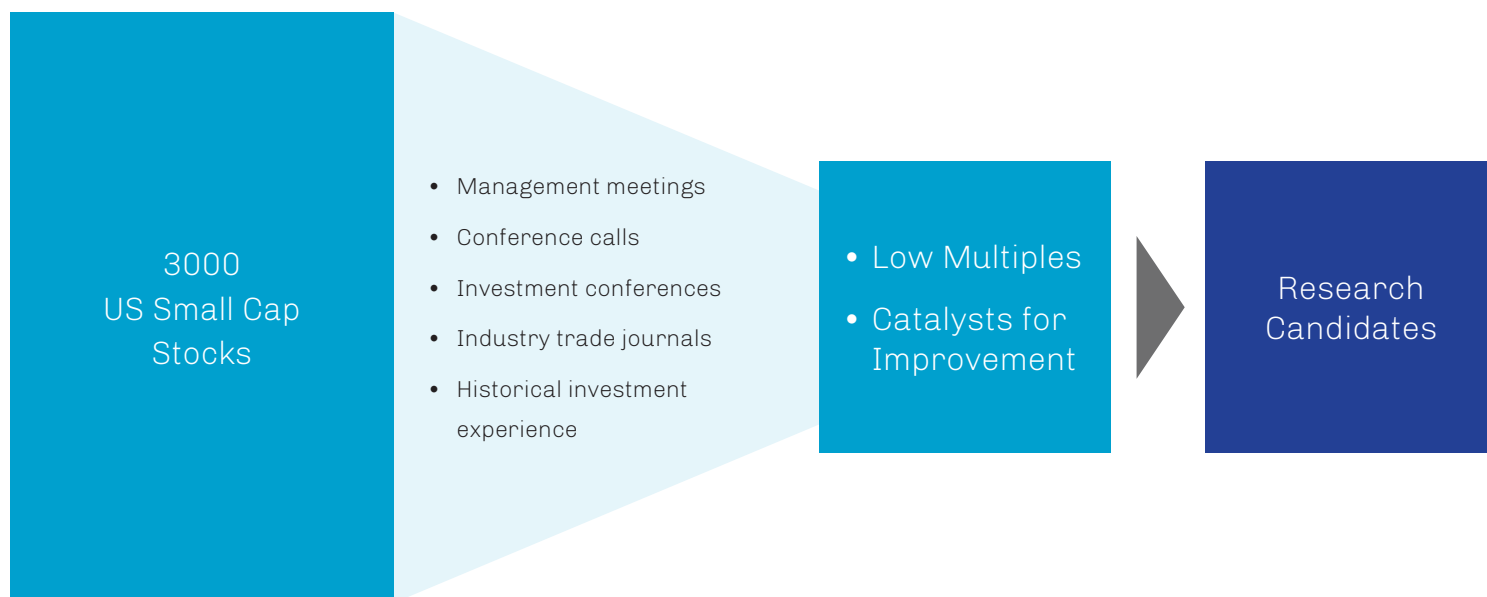
### Fundamental Research

- Identify companies facing transitory or fixable issues
- Determine Catalyst (including but not limited to):
  - New management
  - More favorable business cycle
  - Product innovation
  - Margin improvement

### Portfolio Construction

- Diversified with approximately 180-300 holdings
- Typical holdings under \$3B market cap (at purchase)
- Annual turnover expected to be 35-45%

## 1. Narrow the Universe



Actual portfolio characteristics may differ. The portfolio is actively managed and is subject to change. The above are not investment guidelines or restrictions.

## 2. Fundamental Research

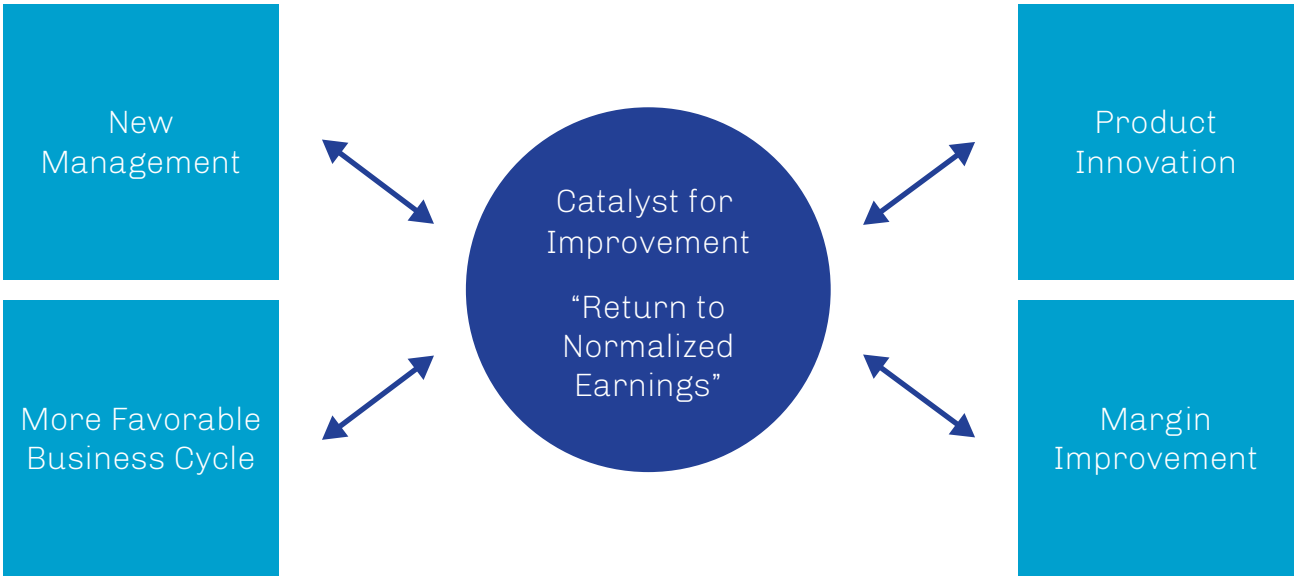
### Aim to Find Cheap Price/Book and Price/Sales Companies

- Seek to identify companies that have, what the team believes, a low price/ book price/sales ratio
- Holdings typically fall into at least one of the below categories:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Inefficiently Valued Assets | Companies whose stock is trading below, what the team believes, to be probable liquidation value, physical asset replacement value, or sum-of-the-parts value.                       |
| Turnarounds                 | Companies whose management is making changes to operations in order to restore, what the team believes to be, normalized levels of profitability.                                    |
| Accelerating Growth         | Companies that the team believes can provide potential double-digit growth rates and whose market valuation does not reflect this potential growth relative to comparable companies. |
| Overlooked Leaders          | Companies with a preeminent market position that investors have overlooked due to temporary factors.   |

### Catalyst for Improvement

- Analyze business strategy to determine likelihood of execution success
- Deep institutional knowledge of competitors, industry and existing holdings used for comparisons



Not all companies held in this Fund will meet the criteria listed.

### 3. Portfolio Construction

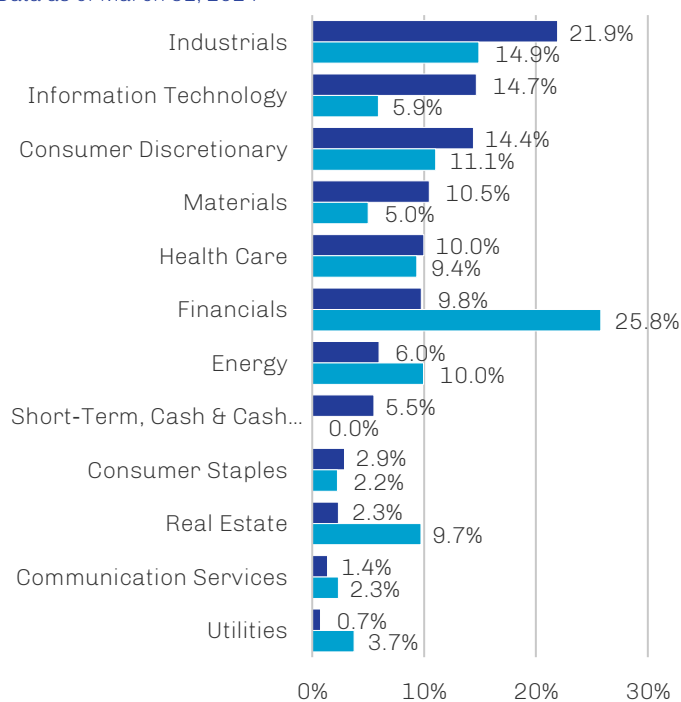
- The Fund typically holds 180–300 positions
- Cash is a residual of the investment process, typically <5%

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| Position Weightings            |
| Sector and Industry Weightings |

- Target 35–50 bps positions
- Positions typically built and exited patiently over time
- Trim positions when weightings reach approximately 1.25% of portfolio assets
- Sector weightings determined by stock-specific opportunities
- Sector exposure typically less than 30% of portfolio
- Industry exposure (subsets of sectors) limited to 25% of portfolio

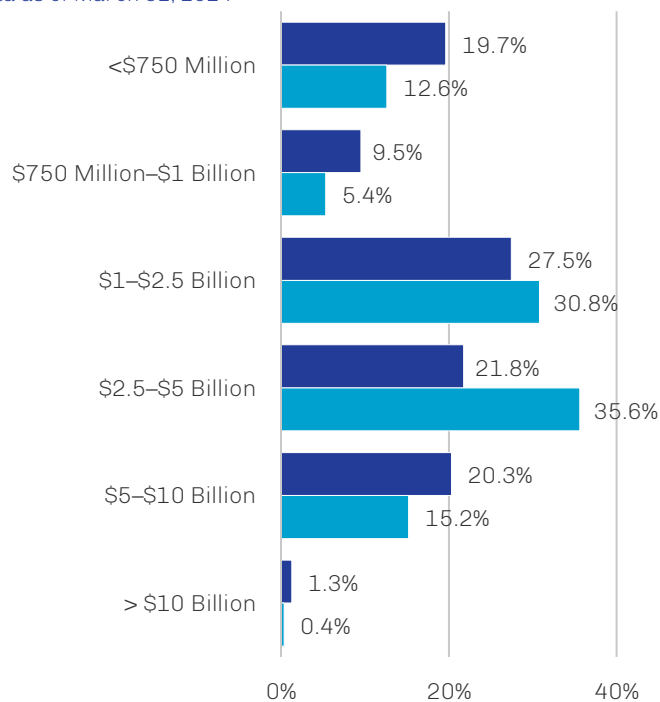
#### Equity Sector Breakdown\*

Data as of March 31, 2024



#### Equity Market Capitalization Breakdown\*

Data as of March 31, 2024



■ Small Cap Opportunity Fund ■ Russell 2000 Value Index

\*Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

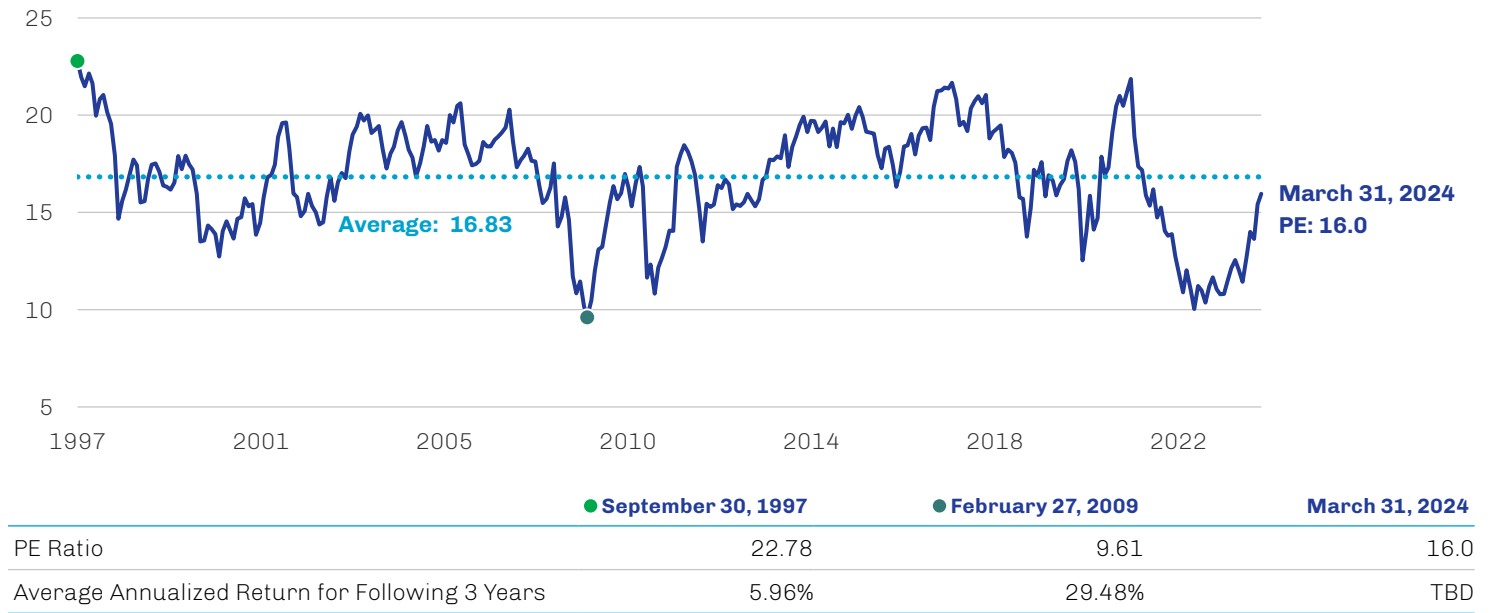
The inception date of the portfolio is 27-Apr-2021. The portfolio is actively managed and subject to change. The above are not investment guidelines or restrictions. The inclusion of the securities mentioned above is not to be interpreted as recommendations to buy, hold or sell.

# Small Cap—Why Now?

In the current market environment, small cap is relatively less expensive when we compare the current price to the 20-year average price. The First Eagle Small Cap Team sees this as an opportunity to find attractively valued companies that they believe have the potential to benefit from catalysts for future earnings recovery.

## Small Caps are Inexpensive Compared to Historical Valuations.

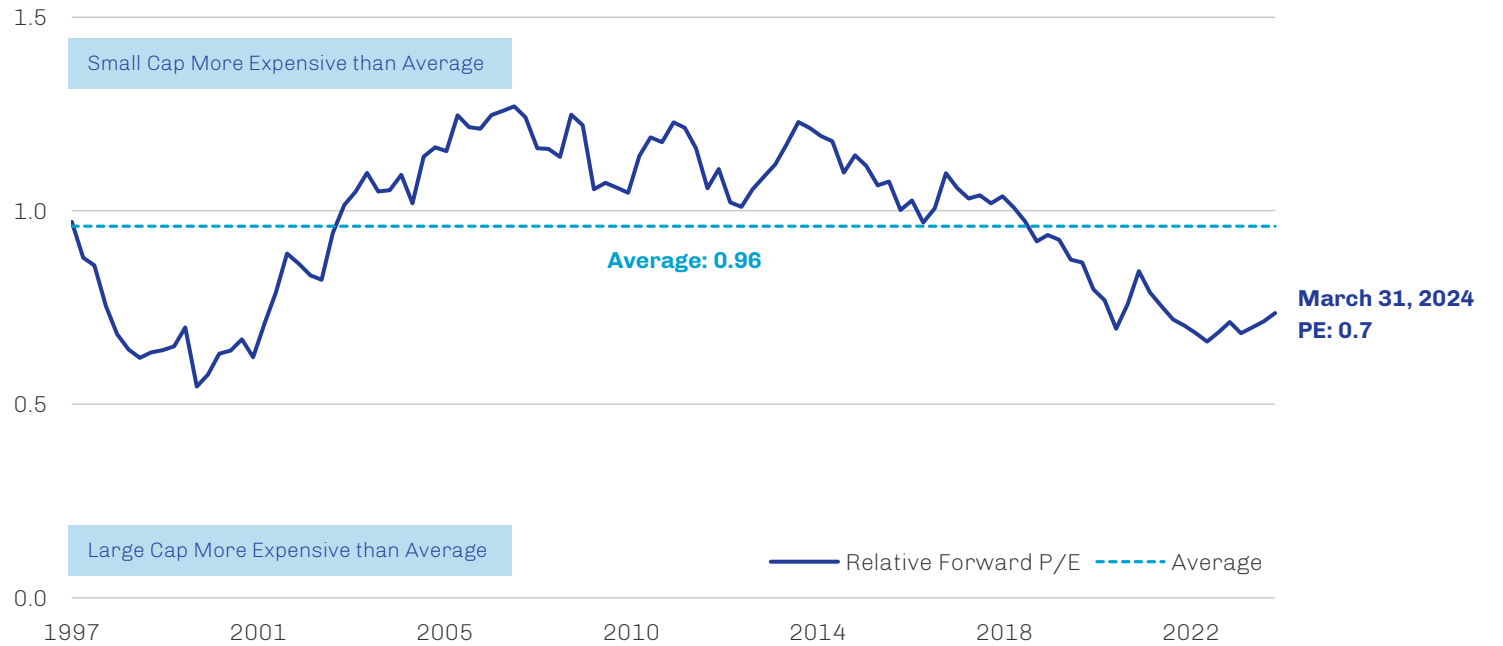
Price/Earnings Ratio of Russell 2000 Index



Source: FactSet; data as of March 31, 2024.

## Relative Valuations Favor the Small Cap Universe

Relative Forward 12-Month Price/Earnings Ratio, Russell 2000 Index versus Russell 1000 Index



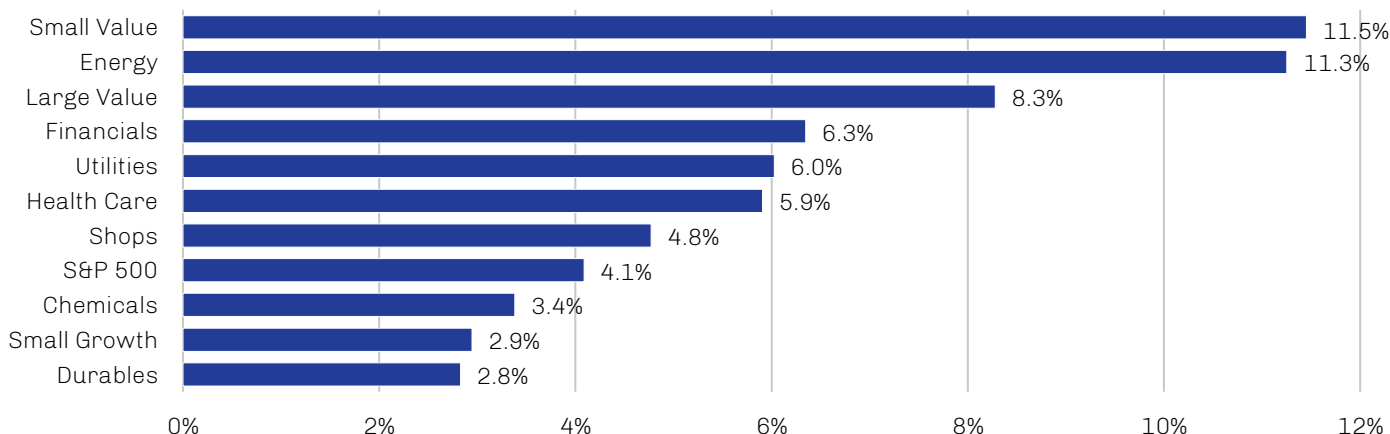
Source: FactSet; data as of December 31, 2023.

## Small Cap Value Has Historically Outperformed in Inflationary Environments

While financial markets have struggled with inflation at elevated levels of late, inflationary periods historically have not been detrimental to equity performance. Notably, small cap value stocks have outperformed other asset classes when inflation has run above the long-term average.

### Asset Class Returns During High Inflation Periods

1927–2022



Note: Market sectors, capitalizations and styles depicted above are based on the Fama/French classification system.

Source: Bloomberg; Kenneth R. French data library; data as of February 21, 2023.

**Past performance is not indicative of future results.**

While recently we've experienced much volatility as markets digest high inflation, rising interest rates, and geopolitical tensions, this provides our small cap investment team ample opportunities to find companies at prices that we believe are unmoored to their fundamentals.

## Small Cap Opportunity Fund Performance

### Average Annual Returns

Data as of 31-Mar-2024

|   | Calendar<br>YTD | 1<br>Year | Inception | Gross Expense<br>Ratio <sup>1</sup> | Net Expense<br>Ratio | Fund Inception<br>Date |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| First Eagle Small Cap Opportunity Fund Class A (FESAX) w/o load | 5.08%           | 15.27%    | 0.95%     | 1.33%                               | 1.26%                | Jul 1, 2021            |
| First Eagle Small Cap Opportunity Fund Class A (FESAX) w/ load  | -0.19%          | 9.56%     | -0.91%    | 1.33%                               | 1.26%                | Jul 1, 2021            |
| First Eagle Small Cap Opportunity Fund Class I (FESCX)          | 5.17%           | 15.59%    | 2.16%     | 1.10%                               | 1.01%                | Apr 27, 2021           |
| First Eagle Small Cap Opportunity Fund Class R6 (FESRX)         | 5.17%           | 15.57%    | 1.20%     | 1.03%                               | 1.01%                | Jul 1, 2021            |
| Russell 2000 Value Index <sup>2</sup>                           | 2.90%           | 18.75%    | 1.34%     |                                     |                      |                        |
| Russell 2000 Index  | 5.18%           | 19.71%    | -1.27%    |                                     |                      |                        |

1. The annual expense ratio is based on expenses incurred by the fund, as stated in the most recent prospectus. These are the actual fund operating expenses prior to the application of fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements. First Eagle Investment Management, LLC (the "Adviser") has contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse certain fees and expenses of Classes A, I and R6 so that the total annual operating expenses (excluding interest, taxes, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses, dividend and interest expenses relating to short sales, and extraordinary expenses, if any) ("annual operating expenses") of each class are limited to 1.25%, 1.00% and 1.00% of average net assets, respectively. Each of these undertakings lasts until 28-Feb-2025 and may not be terminated during its term without the consent of the Board of Trustees. The Fund has agreed that each of Classes A, I and R6 will repay the Adviser for fees and expenses waived or reimbursed for the class provided that repayment does not cause annual operating expenses (after the repayment is taken into account) to exceed the lesser of: (1) 1.25%, 1.00% and 1.00% of the class' average net assets, respectively; or (2) if applicable, the then-current expense limitations. Any such repayment must be made within three years after the year in which the Adviser incurred the expense.

2. Primary index.

**The performance data quoted herein represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Market volatility can dramatically impact the fund's short term performance. Current performance may be lower or higher than figures shown. The investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed may be worth more or less than their original cost. Past performance data through the most recent month end is available at [www.firsteagle.com](http://www.firsteagle.com) or by calling 800 334 2143. "With load" performance for Class A Shares gives effect to the deduction of the maximum sales charge of 5.00%. Class I Shares require \$1mm minimum investment, and are offered without sales charge. Class R6 is offered without sales charge.**

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**Risk Disclosures:**

The value and liquidity of portfolio holdings may fluctuate in response to events specific to the companies or markets, as well as economic, political or social events in the United States or abroad. During periods of market volatility, the value of individual securities and other investments at times may decline significantly and rapidly. The securities of small and micro-size companies can be more volatile in price than those of larger companies and may be more difficult or expensive to trade.

The principal risk of investing in value stocks is that the price of the security may not approach its anticipated value or may decline in value.

All investments involve the risk of loss of principal.

**P/E Ratio:** Price-to-earnings ratio; the ratio for valuing a company that measures its current share price relative to its per-share earnings.

**Russell 2000® Value Index** measures the performance of the large cap value segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell, 2000 companies with relatively lower price to book ratios, lower I/B/E/S, forecast medium term (2 year) growth and lower sales per share historical.

**Russell 2000® Index** measures the performance of the small cap segment of the US equity universe. The Russell 2000® Index is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index representing approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 2000® is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased small cap barometer and is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small cap opportunity set.

Indices are unmanaged and do not incur management fees or other operating expenses. One cannot invest directly in an index.

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**Investors should consider investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this and other information about the Funds and may be obtained by visiting our website at [www.firsteagle.com](http://www.firsteagle.com) or calling us at 800 334 2143. Please read our prospectus carefully before investing. Investments are not FDIC insured or bank guaranteed, and may lose value.**

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