Focused On Providing Consistent Income With Upside Participation, Downside Managementt

Strategy overview

A multi-asset client solution that seeks to deliver consistent income and capital growth with less volatility than a stock-only portfolio through investments in global equities, global convertible securities and global high-yield corporate bonds.

Key takeaways

- Risk assets finished higher in the period, driven by a dovish shift in monetary policy.
- For the third quarter, the Fund underperformed the equity-only benchmark, MSCI World Index (the Index) on a net asset value (NAV) basis.
- Looking ahead, global equities could move higher on continued central bank easing, stabilizing global growth, secular drivers and accelerating earnings.
- A sustained broadening of the equity market could be a positive development for global convertibles, which offer an attractive asymmetric return profile.
- Default rate expectations are moderate, positioning global high-yield (HY) for equity-like returns but with less volatility.

Portfolio review

The Fund was positively impacted by strength across global equities, global convertible securities and global HY corporate bonds.

Top contributors included a Chinese ecommerce position that rallied on economic stimulus optimism, a technology holding capitalizing on secular trends around artificial intelligence (AI) and a clean energy company expected to profit from inflecting demand. The other top contributors were an industrial conglomerate that reported strength across all business segments and a software company benefiting from cloud momentum and margin expansion.

Top detractors during the period were select healthcare companies including a medical device manufacturer that reported declining procedure volumes and a diabetes management company that reduced guidance. An internet services provider was lower on margin concerns and an ecommerce company was pressured after missing sales estimates. A software provider that offered a conservative outlook also weighed on performance.

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Current strategy and outlook

Global economic growth could begin to stabilize as central banks worldwide reduce interest rates or implement stimulus to boost spending.

Apart from an accommodative shift in monetary policies, potential economic tailwinds include steady consumption, continued government spending, improving productivity, increasing capital expenditures and the proliferation of Al. Risk to the growth may increase if these trends weaken. Other potential headwinds include escalating geopolitical tensions, prolonged labor market softening, deteriorating consumer sentiment and continued manufacturing contraction.

In the short term, global equity volatility could increase due to foreign conflicts and U.S. labor disputes and elections. Over the intermediate term, markets could move higher on continued central bank easing, stabilizing global growth, secular drivers, such as Al and accelerating earnings or an earnings inflection from more companies. If economic growth or earnings growth fall short of expectations, the global equity market could be challenged.

Global convertible securities have an attractive asymmetric return profile, providing upside participation potential when stock prices rise and downside mitigation when stock prices fall. Higher debt financing costs have drawn issuers to the convertible market for coupon savings, resulting in accelerated new issuance at favorable terms and an expanded investment opportunity set with the desired risk to reward characteristics. While a change in market

leadership is not certain, a sustained broadening of the equity market could be a positive development for the asset class.

The global HY market, yielding over 7%¹, offers the potential for equity-like returns but with less volatility. The market's attractive total return potential is a function of its discount to face value and higher coupon, which also serves to cushion downside volatility. Credit fundamental factors are stable, near-term refinancing obligations remain low, and management teams continue to prioritize debt reduction. Given these factors, the default rate has been below the long-term average with expectations for it to trend toward the historical average in 2025. Regarding credits spreads, they can stay tight for many years. This was the case in the mid-1990s and 2000s—periods like today when HY balance sheets were healthy and defaults were low, the economy was stable and interest rates were elevated.

A covered call options strategy can be utilized to generate premium income. In periods of elevated or rising equity volatility, premiums collected may translate into more attractive annualized yields.

Collectively, these asset classes can provide a steady source of income and a compelling "participate and mitigate" return profile.

The Global Income and Growth strategy is a client solution designed to provide high monthly income, the potential for capital appreciation and less volatility than an equity-only fund.

¹Source: ICE Data Services; data as of September 2024.

The MSCI World Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries. With 1,410 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country. Investors cannot directly invest in an Index.

Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. All investing involves risks of fluctuating prices and the uncertainties of rates of return and yield inherent in investing. All security transactions involve substantial risk of loss. Please reference your client statement for a complete review of recent transactions and performance.

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