

# PROFILE | THIRD QUARTER 2021 CORPORATE BOND OPPORTUNITIES STRATEGY

### **CORPORATE BOND OPPORTUNITIES**

- Style: Corporate Bond
- Approach: Active; Top Down/Bottom Up
- Style Benchmark: 60% Bloomberg High Yield Index 40% Bloomberg U.S. Credit Index
- Inception: 10/1/2007
- Strategy Assets: \$202 MM

#### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

We believe that by actively managing diversified portfolios of high yield and high grade corporate bonds, we can generate high total return over the long term while managing risk. Among high yield bonds, we target those rated BB and B as we believe they offer similar yield advantages relative to bonds with lower credit quality with less risk. We look to invest in companies that we believe offer the best risk-adjusted value.

## **ABOUT OUR FIRM**

GW&K is a dynamic investment management firm that offers active equity and fixed income investment solutions to meet the needs of a diverse client base. At our core is an entrepreneurial spirit of innovation, a desire to help educate our clients and a level of service that is hard to come by. Our founding principles of applying rigorous fundamental research, focusing on quality and maintaining a long-term view still guide our investment process today.

- Founded in 1974
- ■\$55 Billion Under Management
- Individually Managed Accounts
- Serving Individuals and Institutions

All data as of September 30, 2021

#### STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

**RESEARCH INTENSIVE** 

Combine quantitative screening tools with in-depth security specific fundamental research

RISK MANAGED APPROACH Diversified across bond sectors and focuses on "highest quality of high yield bonds"

SEASONED INVESTMENT TEAM

Expertise in corporate credit research

### **INVESTMENT PROCESS**



## **TOP-DOWN ANALYSIS**

- Analysis of business cycle, valuation trends and market technicals
- Analysis guides outlook on market, sector allocation

#### **BOTTOM-UP SELECTION**

■ Technical Analysis

- Quantitative and qualitative research techniques
- Prefer improved balance sheet strength and liquidity from BB and B issuers

## PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION

- Our assessment of macroeconomic conditions and relative valuations guides allocation between high yield and investment grade bonds
- Augment our proprietary credit analysis with independent research

## **RECOGNITION OF OPPORTUNITY**

- We seek companies that maintain sustainable competitive advantages and that may benefit from emerging cyclical or secular drivers
- We seek to identify companies that are undervalued due to temporary or discrete events
- We favor crossover bonds because they are supported by stronger and more liquid balance sheets, while they pose a lower risk of default



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## **INVESTMENT TEAM**

#### MARY F. KANE, CFA

Partner Portfolio Manager Investment Professional Since 1982 Joined GW&K 2005 AB, Wheaton College MBA, Boston University

#### STEPHEN J. REPOFF, CFA

Principal Portfolio Manager Investment Professional Since 2004 Joined GW&K 2013 BA/BS, Boston University MSF, Boston College

#### **NANCY G. ANGELL, CFA**

Partner Co-Director, Fixed Income Investment Professional Since 1984 Joined GW&K 1984 AB, Duke University MBA, Boston University

#### **JOHN B. FOX, CFA**

Partner Co-Director, Fixed Income Investment Professional Since 1990 Joined GW&K 1990 BA, Boston College MBA, Boston University

15 Taxable Bond Investment Professionals Averaging 18 Years Experience

## A DISCIPLINED APPROACH TO PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION & RISK MANAGEMENT

**RISK MANAGEMENT** 

- Monitor portfolio's duration, credit quality, sector over/underweightings relative to benchmark
- Monitor credits for changes in fundamentals, valuation and technicals

SECTOR ALLOCATION
GUIDELINES

Treasuries
Govt Related

0% - 20%

0% - 20%

0% - 20%

1nvestment Grade Corporates
High Yield Corporates

40% - 80%

Maximum Combined
Total = 20%

Total Corporate
Bonds: 80% - 100%

TYPICAL AVERAGE CREDIT
QUALITY

ВВ

**DURATION GUIDELINES** 

+ / - 20% of the Style Benchmark

**AVERAGE # OF HOLDINGS** 

50 - 90

### **COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH**

Comprehensive research by our seasoned team is central to our investment process and risk managed approach. While researching new securities, our team focuses on fundamentals, valuation, and technicals.

#### **Fundamentals**

Our research begins with an extensive review of financial trends, cash flow, liquidity, as well as customer and supplier relationships. Assessing the quality of management is also a key component of our research process. Competitor and market analysis yields important insights on industry growth trends, and keeps us informed of relevant regulatory, technological and environmental concerns. Our research includes a thorough examination of a bond's characteristics.

## **Valuation**

We study historical spreads relative to industry peer group, and similar quality credits to identify those that are trading cheap or rich. We estimate valuations based upon current fundamentals and technicals. The team utilizes Bloomberg Analytics throughout the research process.

#### **Technicals**

We assess factors such as M&A, shareholder friendly activities and supply considerations. We examine covenants to ensure protection of bondholder rights. The team also reviews the mortgage back security supply outlook and investor demand before making relevant decisions.