

# **PROFILE** | THIRD QUARTER 2021 SMALL CAP GROWTH STRATEGY

## **SMALL CAP GROWTH**

Style: Small Cap Growth

Approach: Active: Bottom Up

Benchmark: Russell 2000 Growth Index

Inception: 4/1/2008

Strategy Assets: \$739 MM

#### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

We believe that a company's ability to generate consistent, long-term, aboveaverage and sustainable earnings growth will drive enhanced stock price performance over time, due to both the higher level of future earnings and the higher valuation placed on these earnings by the market. Given the tendency of money managers to focus on short-term fundamentals and stock price performance, this sustainability of earnings growth is often overlooked and not properly recognized by the market.

# 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

Stock selection emphasizes well managed companies with sustainable above-average earnings growth

**FOCUS ON QUALITY** 

Aim to hold stocks for long term and protect returns when markets decline

TEAM APPROACH

Seasoned team with small cap research expertise

# **INVESTMENT PROCESS**

**Small Cap Growth Universe** Russell 2000 Growth Index

Focused Research Approach 300 - 400 Stocks

# Fundamental Research



**Portfolio** Construction

Interest List 50 Stocks Risk Management **Parameters** 

#### COMPANY MANAGEMENT

- Visionary leadership, high-quality management
- Committed to long-term enhancement of shareholder value

## **GROWTH PROFILE**

- Business models that deliver consistent long-term growth
- Resilient through economic cycles

# MARKET POSITIONING

 Leading companies in attractive and defensible niche markets

# **FINANCIAL STRENGTH**

- Strong financial characteristics
- Strong cash flow
- Prudent use of debt

# VALUATION

 Attractive valuation metrics in relation to industry peers and own company history

# **SMALL CAP GROWTH PORTFOLIO**

Stock

65 - 95 Holdings

# A FOCUS ON QUALITY

- Low turnover strategy allows us to focus on the quality of our research rather than quantity
- Assessing the quality of the management team is a key component of our research process
- Conversations with management, suppliers, and customers help to determine the quality of the business



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# **INVESTMENT TEAM**

#### **JOSEPH C. CRAIGEN, CFA**

Partner Portfolio Manager Investment Professional Since 1999 Joined GW&K 2008 AB, Harvard College

#### **DANIEL L. MILLER, CFA**

Partner Director, Equities Investment Professional Since 1979 Joined GW&K 2008 BS, University of California, Berkeley MBA, Stanford University

11 Domestic Small Cap Equity Investment Professionals Averaging 23 Years Experience

## A DISCIPLINED APPROACH TO PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION

**DIVERSIFICATION** • Growth Profile of Stocks - steady, moderate and high growth

Sector Neutral

MARKET CAP RANGE Initial: \$250 million - \$4 billion or within the range of the Russell 2000 Growth Index

Maximum: \$7 billion or within the range of the Russell 2000 Growth Index

SECTOR WEIGHTINGS No more than +/- 10% of the Russell 2000 Growth Index

CASH POSITION Portfolios are fully invested

0% - 5% average cash position

**QUANTITATIVE RISK ANALYSIS** Portfolio Risk Characteristics - beta, absolute risk, tracking error

Fundamental Factor Exposure - volatility, relative strength, size, growth, value, leverage, etc.

Sector and Industry Exposure

Stock Specific Risk

#### **FOCUSED RESEARCH**

Bottom-up fundamental research is the key driver of our equity investment process and is the prime determinant of our success. Each of our equity analysts has a strong belief in our investment philosophy and they devote an extraordinary amount of time to developing original investment ideas and to gaining a deep understanding of each company's business.

Before purchasing any stock, we insist on speaking directly with company management. In most cases this is a personal visit. We want to hear management tell their company story to learn firsthand about their business strategies, current market conditions, competitive positioning, business outlook, and plans for sustaining future growth.

High quality management is one of the most important attributes we seek for the companies in which we invest. Proven experience, leadership talent, high integrity and possessing a strategic vision are some of the qualities we scrutinize. Especially among smaller companies, we find that appropriate leadership from the top has a greater direct impact on all aspects of a business: its growth profile, valuation, market positioning and financial strength. When it comes to assessing the quality of management teams, we believe we set the bar higher than other managers.