INVESTMENT COMMENTARY

This third quarter was a rough one on several fronts. Yet in the face of escalating tensions with North Korea, muted Fed economic optimism, another failed pass at ACA repeal, and three hurricanes hitting the US and its territories, the ever-optimistic investors chose to focus on the prospect of tax cuts; however, we believe passage of any meaningful legislation also appears doubtful. Against this background, the 2-year treasury yield climbed 10 basis points in the third quarter, while the 10-year yield rose 3 basis points. We continue to remain skeptical that we have the correct fiscal and monetary policies to sustain future economic growth. The Fed announced that they will gradually reduce the size of their balance sheet by not reinvesting the paydowns of mortgage-backed securities. However, with the reported unemployment rate below the 5% Fed target and inflation under control, market expectations are for the Federal Reserve to either continue or even accelerate the pace of rate hikes. We believe that the fragility of the financial system and the massive amounts of debt caused by years of zero interest rate policy and multiple rounds of quantitative easing cannot be simply undone without caution. As a result, we expect a more measured pace of rate hikes for 2017 and beyond, coupled with a slow decrease in the size of the Fed balance sheet.

We believe the rate trajectory uncertainty, along with all the other factors that have created more bond market volatility should persist for some time. This volatility continues to create opportunities in several high quality corporate names. We are invested in several credits that are undervalued on a risk-adjusted basis and should continue to provide value added as markets normalize and investors become more selective and risk-reward sensitive. Any future rate hikes by the Federal Reserve should cause spreads to tighten even further and provide investors with excess returns, although not without the occasional reversals.

Our strategy remains more defensive, electing to add value to our portfolios by investing in high quality corporate bonds, while maintaining the risk of our portfolios at acceptable levels. Because our process emphasizes risk-adjusted yields, our portfolios tend to have more yield than their respective benchmarks, which should also benefit returns.

We have shifted our portfolio duration from short to neutral relative to our respective benchmarks, while we also maintained our barbell yield curve positioning with greater emphasis on longer corporate bonds and shorter government securities. Over the next few quarters we anticipate a further flattening of the credit curve and expect our longer maturity corporate bonds will continue to outperform their shorter maturity counterparts.

We maintain our overweight in industrial bonds, which provide our portfolios with additional yield. We continue to selectively invest in Financials where yields more than fairly compensate for their risk, as we believe the spreads offered by the overall sector still only fairly compensate for the sector volatility. We are modestly overweight agency mortgage backed securities, as sector valuations remained at fair values on a risk-adjusted basis.

Evangelos Karagiannis
Managing Director,
Senior Portfolio Manager

KEY **RATES**

	9/30/17	6/30/17	12/31/16
Fed Funds Target Rate	1.0 - 1.25%	1.0 - 1.25%	0.5-0.75%
3 Month LIBOR	1.33	1.30	1.00
On-the-run Treasuries:			
3 Months	1.04	1.01	0.50
6 Months	1.19	1.13	0.61
2 Years	1.48	1.38	1.19
5 Years	1.94	1.89	1.93
10 Years	2.33	2.30	2.44
30 Years	2.86	2.84	3.07

Source: Bloomberg

KEY **ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

as of	9/30/17	9/30/16
U.S. $ (DXY)	93.08	95.46
Oil	51.67	48.24
Gold	1,280.15	1,315.75
CRB	183.09	186.32
GDP	3.1	1.4
CPI	1.9	1.1
Core (Ex - Food & Energy)	1.3	1.7
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.9
Consumer Confidence	119.80	104.10
S&P/Case-Shiller – Comp-20	5.81	5.02

Source: Bloomberg

INDEX **RETURNS**

	3Q'17	YTD	1-Year
Bloomberg Barclays –			
Universal	1.01%	3.67%	0.96%
Aggregate	0.85	3.14	0.07
Aggregate ex-credit	0.63	2.29	-0.75
Gov-Credit	0.81	3.49	-0.01
Int. Gov-Credit	0.60	2.34	0.23
Corporate	1.34	5.19	2.21
Treasury only	0.38	2.26	-1.67
1-3 year Gov	0.24	0.72	0.27
BofA Merrill – 1-yr T-Note	0.24	0.55	0.60
High Yield	1.98	7.00	8.88
International Debt	2.48	8.74	-2.42
Emerging Markets Debt	2.27	7.50	4.70
S&P 500	4.48	14.24	18.60
DJIA	5.58	15.45	25.45
NASDAQ 100	6.17	23.99	24.08
MSCI EAFE	5.47	20.47	19.73

Source: Bloomberg Barclays

SECTOR **RETURNS**

3Q'17	Total Return	Excess Return
U.S. Treasuries	0.38%	0.00%
Government-related U.S. Agency	1.14	0.73
Government-related Credit	1.40	0.98
Corporate	1.34	0.87
Corporate Financials	1.30	0.86
Corporate Industrials	1.33	0.85
Corporate Utilities	1.57	1.05
Corporate AAA-rated	1.55	1.02
Corporate AA-rated	1.08	0.64
Corporate A-rated	1.24	0.77
Corporate BBB-rated	1.46	0.98
Corporate High-Yield	1.98	1.60
Mortgage-backed Securities-FR	0.96	0.47
Mortgage-backed Securities-Hybrid	0.00	0.00
CMBS	0.79	0.34
ABS	0.42	0.14

Source: Bloomberg Barclays

Pacific Income Advisers, Inc. (PIA) is an autonomous investment management firm registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. PIA manages a variety of fixed income, equity, and balanced assets for primarily United States clients.

BENCHMARK DESCRIPTION

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Universal Index represents the union of the U.S. Aggregate Index, U.S. Corporate High-Yield Index, Investment-Grade 144A Index, Eurodollar Index, U.S. Emerging Markets Index, and the non-ERISA eligible portion of the CMBS Index. The index covers USD-denominated, taxable bonds that are rated either investment-grade or below investment-grade. Some U.S. Universal Index constituents may be eligible for one or more of its contributing subcomponents that are not mutually exclusive. These securities are not double-counted in the index. You can not invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index that covers the investment grade fixed rate bond market with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. The issues must be rated investment grade, be publicly traded, and meet certain maturity and issue size requirements. You can not invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Ex-Credit Index (LB Agg (Ex-Credit)) The index covers the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. These major sectors are subdivided into more specific indices that are calculated and reported on a regular basis. You can not invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index includes securities in the Government and Credit Indices. The Government Index includes treasuries (i.e., public obligations of the U.S. Treasury that have remaining maturities of more than one year) and agencies (i.e., publicly issued debt of U.S. Government agencies, quasi-federal corporations, and corporate or foreign debt guaranteed by the U.S. Government). The Credit Index includes publicly issued U.S. corporate and foreign debentures and secured notes that meet specified maturity, liquidity, and quality requirements. You can not invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Intermediate Government/Credit Bond Index is the Intermediate component of the U.S. Government/Credit index. The Government/Credit Index includes securities in the Government and Credit Indices. The Government Index includes treasuries (i.e., public obligations of the U.S. Treasury that have remaining maturities of more than one year) and agencies (i.e., publicly issued debt of U.S. Government agencies, quasi-federal corporations, and corporate or foreign debt guaranteed by the U.S. Government). The Credit Index includes publicly issued U.S. corporate and foreign debentures and secured notes that meet specified maturity, liquidity, and quality requirements. You can not invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. 1-3 Year Government Bond Index consist of securities in the U.S. Government Index with a maturity from 1 up to (but not including) 3 years. Securities issued by the U.S. Government (i.e., securities in the Treasury and Agency Indices). Inclusions: Public obligations of the U.S. Treasury with a remaining maturity of one year or more. Publicly issued debt of U.S. Government agencies, quasi-federal corporations, and corporate or foreign debt guaranteed by the U.S. Government. You can not invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury Index includes public obligations of the U.S. Treasury. Treasury bills are excluded by the maturity constraint but are part of a separate Short Treasury Index. In addition, certain special issues, such as state and local government series bonds (SLGs), as well as U.S. Treasury TIPS, are excluded. STRIPS are excluded from the index because their inclusion would result in double-counting. Securities in the Index roll up to the U.S. Aggregate, U.S. Universal, and Global Aggregate Indices. You can not invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Bond Index covers USD-denominated, investment-grade, fixed-rate, taxable securities sold by industrial, utility, and financial issuers. It includes publicly issued U.S. corporate debentures and secured notes that meet specific maturity, liquidity, and quality requirements. Securities in the index roll up to the U.S. Credit and U.S. Aggregate indices. The U.S. Corporate Index was launched on January 1, 1973. You can not invest directly in an index.

BofA Merrill Lynch 1-Year US Treasury Note Index is comprised of a single issue purchased at the beginning of the month and held for a full month. At the end of the month that issue is sold and rolled into a newly selected issue. The issue selected at each month-end rebalancing is the outstanding Treasury note that matures closest to, but not beyond, one year from the rebalancing date. To qualify for selection, an issue must have settled on or before the month-end rebalancing date. You can not invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays Corporate U.S. High Yield Index - covers the universe of fixed rate, non-investment grade debt. Eurobonds and debt issues from countries designated as emerging markets (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, etc.) are excluded, but Canadian and global bonds (SEC registered) of issuers in non-EMG countries are included. Original issue zeroes, step-up coupon structures, 144-As and pay-in-kind bonds (PIKs, as of October 1, 2009) are also included. The index includes both corporate and non-corporate sectors. The corporate sectors are Industrial, Utility, and Finance, which include both U.S. and non-U.S. corporations. The Yankee sector has been discontinued as of 7/1/00. The bonds in the former Yankee sector have not been removed from the index, but have been reclassified into other sectors. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index provides a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade fixed-rate debt markets. The Global Aggregate Index contains three major components: the U.S. Aggregate Index (USD 300 million), the Pan-European Aggregate Index (EUR 300 million), and the Asian-Pacific Aggregate Index (JPY 35 billion). In addition to securities from these three benchmarks (94.4% of the overall Global Aggregate market value), the Global Aggregate Index includes Global Treasury, Eurodollar (USD 300 million), Euro-Yen (JPY 35 billion), Canadian (CAD 300 million), and Investment-Grade 144A (USD 300 million) index-eligible securities not already in the three regional aggregate indices. The Global Aggregate Index family includes a wide range of standard and customized subindices by liquidity constraint, sector, quality, and maturity. The Global Aggregate Index is a component of the Multiverse Index. You can not invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays Global Emerging Markets Index consists of the fixed and floating-rate USD-denominated U.S. Emerging Markets Index and the primarily EUR and GBP-denominated fixed-rate Pan-European Emerging Markets Index and includes emerging markets debt from the following regions: Americas, Europe, Asia, Middle East, and Africa. For the index, an emerging market is defined as any country that has a long term foreign currency debt sovereign rating of Baa1/BBB+/BBB+ or below using the middle rating of Moody's, S&P, and Fitch. The index does not overlap with the U.S. Corporate High-Yield Index or the Pan Euro Corporate High-Yield Index, but may overlap with other investment-grade Aggregate Indices if the securities meet their index eligibility rules. You can not invest directly in an index.

S&P 500 Index – The S&P 500 index includes 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The S&P 500 is designed to be a leading indicator of U.S. equities and is meant to reflect the risk/return characteristics of the large cap universe. You can not invest directly in an index.

The NASDAQ-100 Index is a modified capitalization-weighted index of the 100 largest and most active non-financial domestic and international issues listed on the NASDAQ. No security can have more than a 24% weighting. The index was developed with a base value of 125 as of February1, 1985. Prior to December 21, 1998 the Nasdaq 100 was a cap-weighted index. You can not invest directly in an index.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is an index used to measure the performance of the U.S. financial markets. Introduced on May 26, 1896 by Charles H. Dow, it is the oldest stock price measure in continuous use. Over the past century "the Dow" has become the most widely recognized stock market indication in the U.S. and probably in the entire world. Most of the stocks included in the index are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and are all large blue-chip companies that reflect the health of the U.S. economy. All but a handful of these have major business operations throughout the world, thus providing some insight into the economic well-being of the global economy. You can not invest directly in an index.

MSCI EAFE Index is a capitalization weighted index that monitors the performance of stocks from Europe, Australiasia, and the Far East. You can not invest directly in an index.

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